



THE PATRIOT



439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING
WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE, MASSACHUSETTS

Vol. III, No. 1

January 1976

439TH GAINS 914TH TAG (Story Page 3)



HAPPINESS IS MANY THINGS to many people. To a youngster at Newington Children's Hospital, it's a brand new toy car. To Maj. Jean P. Oslin, 74th AES, it's his smile and his appreciation for an early Christmas gift given by 439th personnel. (see story of the 439th's trip to Newington and the Shriners' Hospital on page 5.)

58th APS Shares Christmas Spirit

Christmas is a time for sharing. Members of the 58th APS have followed this philosophy for the second year in a row with their sponsorship of a Christmas party on Sunday, Dec. 14th for 17 children from the Children's Study Home in Springfield and 23 residents of Our Lady of Providence Children's Home in West Springfield.

The squadron first shared their facilities as the visitors toured the base and a C-130.

The reservists, and employers of some squadron members, then shared over \$200 worth of gifts, ice cream and cake in the base dining hall, complete with Christmas tree and holiday music.

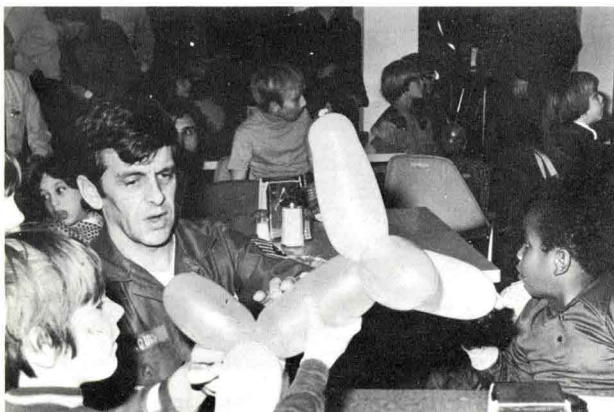
Santa Claus (also known as TSgt. John Valli) shared his lap with each child and gave out candy canes and gifts.

Decked out in a clown's costume and face makeup, SSgt. Tim Nolan shared his talents by entertaining everyone.

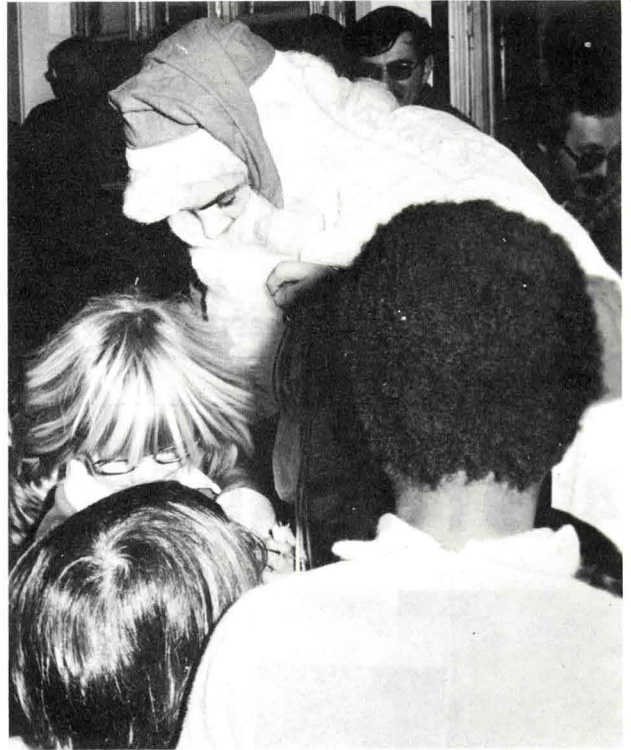
The children also offered something to the day's festivities. They shared their love.



UNDER THE CLOWN'S COSTUME is SSgt. Tim Nolan. But don't tell anyone!



BALLOON MAN . . . An unidentified creature is created by SSgt. Paul Marquis, much to the fascination of a new found friend.



SANTA CLAUS (TSgt. John Valli) is quickly surrounded by eager youngsters correctly anticipating a special gift.

UTA SCHEDULE

7 - 8 Feb. 13 - 14 Aug. (Fri-one period 1900-2300)
 13 - 14 Mar. 15 - 29 Aug. **TWO WEEK ENCAMPMENT**
 10 - 11 Apr. 11 - 12 Sept. (Fri-one period 1900-2300)
 15 - 16 May 16 - 17 Oct.
 12 - 13 Jun. 13 - 14 Nov.
 10 - 11 July 11 - 12 Dec.

THE PATRIOT is an Official Class II U.S. Air Force newspaper published monthly for the personnel of the 439th Tactical Airlift Wing (AFRES) at Westover AFB, MA 01022. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily represent those of the U.S. Air Force.

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Base Commander's Message

By Lt. Col. Jack P. Ferguson

When you made your New Year's resolutions, did you take into consideration what you as a reservist plan for 1976? Now's the time to set your goals and aim to reach and maintain them.

No one of us would be here unless we were convinced joining The Reserves was the right thing to do. And once we're in the program, we want to "get with the program."

Don't be afraid to speak up when you have a good idea. Don't be afraid to bring forth your complaints—bring them to the Junior Officers Council or to the Enlisted Advisory Council. It's your forum for good or for bad. The panacea may not be there, but it won't be for lack of trying.

Most of all, ask yourself where you're going. Are you doing the best you can to add your part to the Total Force? When it comes time for you to be promoted, can your supervisor recommend you with no hesitation? If you can answer Yes to both of these questions, you're a member of the Air Force Reserve of whom we can be proud.

439th Gains 914th

Less than 20 months after its own formation, the 439th TAW will assume responsibility for the 914th Tactical Airlift Group, located at Niagara Falls International Airport, Niagara Falls, New York. The transfer, effective in January 1976, is due to recent AFRES reorganization decisions.

The 914th TAG, a 1,000 member unit, was formerly assigned to the 403rd TAW at Selfridge AFB, Mich. Its 328th TAS flies eight C-130 (A model) aircraft.

Previously, the 914th or its predecessor organizations, flew F-51 Mustangs, T-33s, F-80s, F-81s and starting in 1957, C-119 Flying Boxcars. In 1962, the 328th TAS was activated during the Cuban crisis. Nine years later, the unit received its first C-130s.

The new 439th's addition will involve some extra effort and responsibility for certain offices and personnel such as training, operations and command and control functions, yet no changes within the parent unit or transfer of unit personnel is expected.

Organizationally, the 914th's commander, Lt. Col. William W. Bassett, Jr., will directly report to Colonel Knowles, 439th commander.

Even though the announced acquisition has not yet been implemented, plans for joint training between the 328th and the 439th's 337th TAS are already set for January and February. The two squadrons will travel to the other's base and participate in combined tactical exercises.

"The 914th is a welcomed addition to the 439th. We look forward to working with them," proclaims Lt. Col. Robert A. McMullen, 439th TAW deputy commander for operations. "The group brings to the 439th a long and distinguished record of achievement and excellence in performance."

Colonel McMullen's declaration was recently substantiated. During October, the 914th's planes flew a total of 588 hours. No other reserve C-130 unit has logged more hours in a single month. This accomplishment would equal a single aircraft flying nonstop 24 hours a day for 24 days.

Base Begins Basketball Team

What has nine C-130s, 15 C-123s and a basketball team? The answer—Westover Air Force Base. Active duty personnel and their dependents have recently formed the Westover Flyers and joined the Chicopee Parks and Recreation Basketball League. They're in the "18-24 year old" division and will play 20 games during the coming months.

The team is coached by TSgt. Nathaniel Moulden, Det. 5, 1 ACOMGp. He's assisted by SSgt. James Clarke, AFSPPF. The squad consists of 14 potential captains as a member is chosen by teammates prior to each game. The Flyers are: Sgt. Renaldo Toney, 1917 CS; Sgt. Eliger Henley, 1917 CS; Serge J. Holmes, USAF dep.; SSgt. Gregory C. Dayne, 1917 CS; Sgt. Ken Lockney, Det. 5; SSgt. Patrick Murphy, AFSPPF; SSgt. Gregory Adams, Det. 5; SSgt. John Serrano, AFSPPF; SSgt. Glen Fraley, AFSPPF; A1C Ronald Davis, Det. 5; A1C Frederick Jelks, 1917 CS; Sgt. Frederick Smith, Det. 5; Walter Nelson, USAF Dep. and TSgt. Richard Eaton, 439CSG. Mike McNicholas is their manager.

Base appropriations have been all the team's expenses such as uniforms, jackets and entry fees.

Another league game has been scheduled for Saturday evening of the January UTA in the base gym. The team is expecting another in a series of excellent basketball games and invites everyone to share in their victory.



THAT'S A SWITCH Lt. Col. Jack P. Ferguson, base commander, connects the first call made on Westover's telephone system as maintenance is taken over by the New England Telephone Co. Placing the call (left) is Edward H. McGinnis, the company's military coordinator, as the operator, Mrs. Lillian Lundquist, prepares to assist.

**OUR CONDOLENCES TO
THE FAMILY OF
MAJ. GEN. ALFRED VERHULST
COMMANDER, EASTERN AFRR
December 22, 1975**

Wing Commander's Message

By Col. Billy M. Knowles

I'm writing this in December while contemplating the coming new calendar year; the 200th birth year of our great republic. There is so much significance attached to this national celebration that somehow involves to a greater degree all New Englanders.

It would follow that even among New Englanders, the reserve members of the Patriot Wing, the 439th TAW, are symbolic of that original experiment. While striving to meet the readiness goals expected of this unique tactical airlift wing, there is a concurrent opportunity to participate in this celebration so as to commemorate the birth of history's only truly free society—and to reaffirm those principles into perpetuity.

To that end, Westover AFB is to be declared a Bicentennial Base; a Bicentennial Council has been formed and activities are being planned throughout the year. We already have confirmation that the United States Air Force Thunderbirds will help us to celebrate Armed Forces Day at Westover on April 25th. Our efforts will extend to the private sector and encourage joint participation of every element within the Air Force Family; i.e., the reserves, DoD civilians, active duty personnel and those retirees in the immediate vicinity.

You will hear more and more on this matter, but let me encourage each of you to respond when called upon. As stated before, my family and I are particularly proud to be assigned to the Patriot Wing and to live in New England during this Bicentennial era.

You will be pleased to learn that the 914th Tactical Airlift Group at Niagara Falls International Airport, Buffalo, New York, is to be reassigned and becomes part of this wing some time in January. The unit is commanded by Lt. Col. William W. Basnett, Jr., and possesses C-130A model aircraft, thus continuing our unique mixed weapons system inventory—C-130A, C-130B and C-123K. The 914th has similar responsibilities, in that they too are host managers of the Niagara Falls AF installation. We sincerely welcome this fine unit into the 439th wing family and look forward to a long mutually beneficial relationship.

Finally, let me wish you and your families a most happy and healthy new year.



EAGLES HAVE LANDED on the epaulets of now Col. Donald A. Carlson, deputy commander for materiel. Col. Kenneth Charpilloz, senior AF advisor, and Col. Billy M. Knowles, 439th TAW commander, help bring the birds, which formerly belonged to Colonel Charpilloz, to roost.

Bicentennial Briefs



Here's our initial calendar as approved by the Bicentennial Council. It's only the beginning with lots more to come. Our program is expanding daily. Watch The Patriot for updates:

- January 26 (Monday)** Recognition Services. Flag raising and luncheon. Unveil Westover Bicentennial Symbol.
- March 21 (Sunday)** Base units participate in 25th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, Holyoke, Mass.
- April 19 (Monday)** Patriots' Day in Massachusetts. Plant trees throughout base for lasting value depicting new base boundaries. Plant perennial and annual shrubs for 4 July celebration and base beautification.
- April 25 (Sunday)** Armed Forces Day/Base Open House. Air Force Thunderbirds to perform. Aircraft displays, flying activities.
- May 31 (Monday)** Memorial Day. Participation by wing and base units in community, parades, other activities. Speaking engagements by all personnel.
- June 13-14 (Sunday and Monday)** Participation by base units in Hampshire County Bicentennial Parade on 13th; Flag Day ceremonies on 14th.
- July 3 (Saturday)** Celebration of Declaration of Independence. Fireworks and base activities.
- August 15 (Sunday)** Base participation in V-J Day Parade, Moosup, Conn.
- October 16 (Saturday)** "The Woman Patriot". Officers' Dining Out. Dedicated to the "Patriot Women." Activities throughout month also so dedicated.
- November (Date?)** Westover "Homecoming Day". Nostalgic aircraft fly-ins. Renaming of base streets.



RESOURCE CONSERVATION CONSCIOUS These men receive certificates for practicing the best fire protection in their sections. Shown as they receive the citations from Lt. Col. Jack P. Ferguson, base commander, are from (left) Lawrence A. Mitton, industrial area; Willard H. Ryder, Jr., administration; Victor J. Petrolati, base civil engineer; Arthur C. Mackintire, hangars and nose docks; and Capt. Ronald T. Frederickson, accepting the certificate for SMSgt. George C. Sedlack, places of public assembly.

Santa's Helpers Cheer Hospitalized Children

Santa Claus traded his traditional red attire with white fur trim for an Air Force blue uniform on Saturday, Dec. 13, as 439th personnel helped him distribute presents to children at two local hospitals.

Two groups from Westover journeyed to Springfield's Shrine Hospital for Crippled Children and Newington (Connecticut) Children's Hospital. At each facility, approximately 50 young patients received \$500 worth of toys, games, dolls, and personal items such as comb and brush sets. The money was raised by Westover personnel.

But what's Christmas without a party? So Santa and his helpers dished out mounds of ice cream and chocolates.

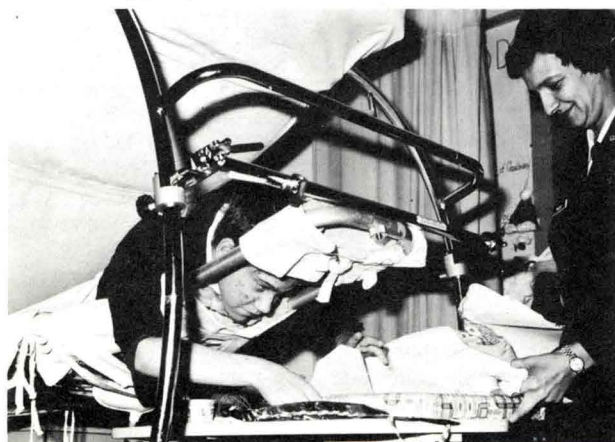
It's never an enjoyable experience to stay in a hospital. For a child, hospitalization during Christmas time is especially difficult. Perhaps due to the efforts of the 439th personnel, the children's stay will be more pleasant. Even after the reservists' departure, their concern will hopefully be felt for many weeks to come. Extra gifts were left with hospital officials for those children admitted before Christmas.



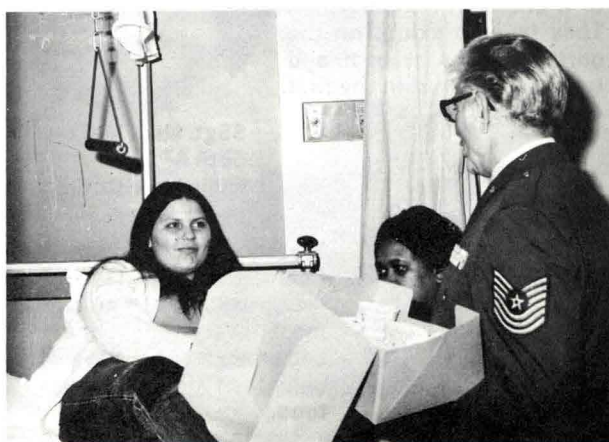
ELVES THEY'RE NOT Santa (TSgt. Maurice LaFortune) receives his help from (left) 1st. Lt. Charles P. Simoncini and (standing) SSgt. Anthony J. Symasko.



CENTER OF ATTRACTION A very special present occupies center stage as (left to right) Maj. Jean P. Oslin, MSgt. Hugh and Capt. Rachel Fraleigh help tear off the wrappings.



A CIRCULAR 360° BED positions a grateful patient in order to open his gift. 1st. Lt. Joan E. Riccio, 74th AES, assists him.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT AS WELL AS THE PALATE MSgt. Aristide A. Carosi, 439CSG/LGS, dispenses some conversation, charm and cola.

The Inquiring Photographer

SSgt. Marshall Hathaway

Since time immemorial, military chow lines all over the world have been a traditional source of consternation for the die hard perpetual gripe. It is claimed that some of the best professional chefs available serve the hungry masses at the base dining hall, and we deemed it appropriate to seek reactions from a few weekend gourmets during the December UTA. Believe it or not, The Patriot staff failed to find a totally disgruntled "breaker of bread". Here are a few of the typical comments:

"I think it's superb!" A one year veteran of lunching at the dining hall, Freer remarked, "They really do a good job considering there's only a weekend to put it all together. . . I don't have any particularly favorite menu items—I leave it to the cooks' judgment; they usually do a good job."



SSgt. Jim Freer,
439 CSG/DPM
Wallingford, Conn.



SSgt. Paul Lamontagne,
905 CAMS
Northampton, Mass.

"It's not bad at all. There's always something that's a hanger. I eat there every UTA and I'm full time here. Overall, it's pretty good." Paul went on to tell us that one of his friends in the shop looks forward to UTA weekends solely for the breakfast sausages.

"Adequate. The food is quite good; much better than before, I think because of a change in supervision. They tend to skimp on the portions of roast beef and turkey or run out in the first 45 minutes."



SSgt. Mike Markiw,
58th APS
Willington, Conn.

"Pretty good food. Sgt. Babin is a good supervisor—he really tries hard. I like most everything, and it's better than most bases. Usually I get sick on chow hall food."



Amn. Lynne Desmarais,
439 CSG Hq
Chesterfield, Mass.



Enlisted

TSgt. George R. Bixby, Jr.
TSgt. Anthony S. Diomede
TSgt. Jean M. Gordon
TSgt. Louis A. Gracida
SSgt. Ernest H. Bedinelli Jr.
SSgt. Marshall R. Hathaway II
SSgt. Steven R. Porterfield
Sgt. Robert F. Baranski Jr.
Sgt. Martin T. Condon
Sgt. Dominick K. Disanti
Sgt. Richard L. Pease
Sgt. David A. Stebbins
Sgt. Noel J. Underwood
A1C Paul Cheslofska
A1C Kenneth A. Holmes
A1C Sylvia J. Paulin
A1C Amy T. Spencer
AMN Patricia C. Brooks
AB Lawrence B. Clark
AB Kenneth D. Cornell
AB Mary A. Emmons
AB Sharon M. Fanning
AB Cornelius J. Harper Jr.
AB Elizabeth J. Hatch
AB Mary A. Nadolny
AB Dorothy M. Shaffer
AB Kathleen C. Syrotchen
AB Edwin C. Villareal
AB Deborah A. Whitehead

Reenlistments

SMSgt. Gaetano A. Iannuzzo
MSgt. Herbert L. Frizzell
MSgt. Aubrey L. Pegram
TSgt. Ronald A. Allen
TSgt. John J. Cottingham, Jr.
TSgt. Jean M. Gordon
TSgt. John J. McNamara, Jr.
TSgt. William A. Murdza
TSgt. Phillip J. Sulewski
SSgt. Alan R. Garside
SSgt. Paul J. Scevola, Jr.
Sgt. Steven J. Budleski
Sgt. Albert J. Drenthe
Sgt. Robert B. Fetherston
Sgt. John J. Gallagher
Sgt. Donna M. Schroder
A1C Joseph T. Sennett

Promotions

Col. Donald A. Carlson
SMSgt. Mariano Delmonte

MSgt. Paul D. Wood
TSgt. Francis A. Duval
TSgt. Frederick J. Hall
SSgt. Steven Q. Bethke
SSgt. Steven M. Charest
SSgt. Alfred L. Curtin
SSgt. Francis M. Hartley
SSgt. Stephen J. Healy
SSgt. Harry R. Howard
SSgt. William C. Hubbard
SSgt. Paul H. Kwiatkowski
SSgt. Henri R. LeBlond
SSgt. Arthur N. Moreau
SSgt. Paul A. Petersante
SSgt. Francis J. Simone
SSgt. Mark J. Stiles
SSgt. Virginia M. Thomas
Sgt. James V. Biuso Jr.
Sgt. Henry D. Gelinis
Sgt. James R. Noonan
Sgt. Janis A. Sledge
Sgt. Ernest W. Tirendi
A1C Howard F. Cormier
A1C Deborah L. Pariseau
A1C Donald G. Twarkins
AMN Jeffrey C. Joachim

Reassigned

Maj. Charles E. Dickens
Maj. James A. Greenwood
Capt. Vivian M. Villemure
MSgt. John A. Chalot
MSgt. Glenn A. Runnalls
MSgt. Merrill W. Shook
TSgt. Charles Rodolakis
SSgt. Lois A. Tallred
SSgt. Paul G. Barnachez
SSgt. David R. Benedetti
SSgt. James Cauty
SSgt. David L. Currier
SSgt. Stephen P. Goralski
SSgt. Richard E. Lambert
SSgt. John F. MaGuire
SSgt. Douglas F. Miller
SSgt. Melvin A. Millett
SSgt. Albert D. Valcourt
Sgt. James P. Bjorkman
Sgt. Michael R. Cahill
Sgt. Rodney J. Dzialo
Sgt. Glen B. Ekstrom III
Sgt. Alan H. Fisk
Sgt. Stephen W. Hersey
Sgt. Richard J. Leamy
Sgt. Michael T. Murphy
Sgt. Charles D. Nutt
Sgt. Michael P. Ouellette
Sgt. Richard G. Picard
Sgt. Thomas A. Rankin
Sgt. John C. Santos
A1C Sandra C. Breton
A1C James L. Johnson
A1C Rebecca M. Meyer
A1C Jerry Williams

Aero Club Gets off the Ground

When there's a will—there's a way! Thanks to the efforts and dedication of some 439th TAW members, Westover now has its very own aero club. It is the only reserve unit in the country to claim such a distinction. With its recent formation, the club is now actively seeking new members.

The initial impetus for the club began in August of this year with SMSgt. William Mahoney, NCOIC of the 905th APF's loadmaster section, and others. Concerned personnel met after duty hours to determine the feasibility and potential objectives of a new organization. (An aero club had existed here when Westover was under SAC control.) Consensus quickly confirmed the high level of interest and practicality of such an organization, and plans were formulated.

Working with, and under the auspices of AFRES representatives, the 439th personnel began implementation of their objectives. They then received word that Hamilton AFB's aero club was disbanding and transfer of that base's aircraft to Westover was a possibility.

With a loan of \$2,500 for start-up expenses and additional funds for a full-time manager's salary, 439th command approval and the establishment of an office in the southwest corner of hangar 9, the club became a reality.

On Nov. 17th, six "hardy souls", SSgt. Bob Adams, 439th Life Support Section; Capt. B. J. Ferro, III, 337th TAS; SSgt. Stan Latka, 104th TFG, Mass. ANG at Barnes Airport; Sergeant Mahoney; SSgt. Kenneth E. Schworm, 905th CAM Sq; and TSgt. Robert D. White, 731st TAS began a five day, 32 hour cross-country trip from Hamilton, in California, to Westover in the club's new planes, a Cherokee 235 and four Cherokee 140s.

The club had already named its board of governors. Sergeant Mahoney will serve as president while MSgt. Vincent A. Mento, 901st CAM Sq; Capt. Paul M. Torpey, 337th TAS; Sergeant Schworm; TSgt. Joseph Gould, 439 CSG/

DAR; Sgt. Ted Erhardt, 439 CSG/SP; and Lt. Raymond L. Brisson, Jr., 58th APS will fill vice president, safety officer, maintenance officer, secretary and two at-large positions respectively.

Recently chosen for the manager's position was Sergeant Adams. He's logged over 4,000 hours in the air, including 2,500 hours as an instructor. Sergeant Adams previously managed two other flight schools and holds all the required flight instructor ratings.

Club officials are now busily preparing their new acquisitions and are soliciting approximately 60 new members to join the 40 personnel already involved. Membership is open to anyone connected with reserve units at Westover or at the Westfield Air National Guard organization. In addition, active duty, reserve, DoD civilians, military retired personnel, their spouses and dependents are also eligible.

New members are asked for a one-time \$30 initiation fee and an \$8 monthly dues. The rental fee of the planes has also been determined, and is considerably lower than charged at private schools and clubs. The Cherokee 140 costs \$13 an hour, while the "235" goes for \$18 an hour, and includes gas and oil. Instruction fee is an additional \$6 an hour.

The planes will soon be ready for instruction and recreational flying. Soon afterwards, the first of the novice club members should complete a minimum of 20 hours flying with an instructor and another 20 hours of solo flying and earn their private pilot's license.

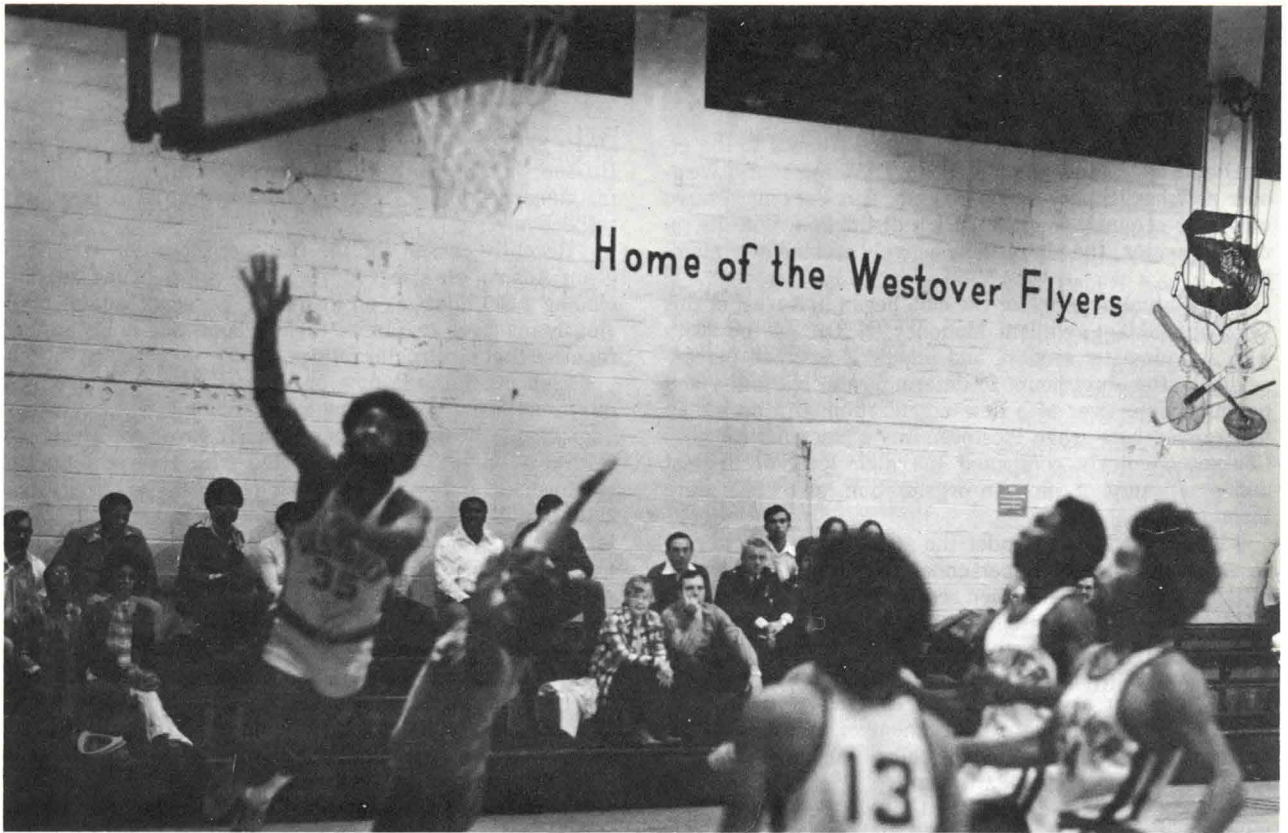
Now there's no excuse. With the club's formation, desk-bound and shop-based airmen no longer need be jealous of their fellow reservists spending their UTAs in "the wild blue yonder." "We're anxious to begin your training and let you experience the fun and thrill of flying," tempts Sergeant Adams. "Come fly with us!"



A MYRIAD OF INSTRUMENTS in a Cherokee 104 are explained by SSgt. Bob Adams, club manager, (right) to new member SSgt. John Sambor, 439th Life Support Section.



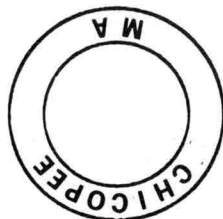
CLUB PRESIDENT, SMSgt. William Mahoney, inspects the engine of the club's new Cherokee 235. A "140", in the background, awaits its turn for a similar examination.



HIGH FLYER SSgt. Gregory Dayne, 1917th Comm. Sq., (he's number 35), performs some low altitude maneuvers on his way to two points during basketball game on Saturday evening of the December UTA. Other Westover Flyers, Sgt. Tim Nelson (#13), Det. 5, 1st ACOMGp; Sgt. Eliger Henley (#21), 1917th Comm Sq; and Serge Holmes (#34), dependent; did not need to wait for the rebound. Their team went on to defeat the Y Cafe's Blue Room Booters 68-53. (See story on page 3.)



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