



439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE, MASSACHUSETTS

Vol. III, No. 3

March 1976

Westover Declared Bicentennial Base at Kickoff Event

(Story on page 4)



TWO BITS The sculptured heads of a twentieth century Air Force reservist, his Revolutionary War counterpart and their first commander-in-chief adorn a quarter, and along side it, a clay model created by Maj. Leon Furr for the Pentagon. (See story on his artistic achievements on page 5).



"ADMINS" CONFER MSgt. Edward Birkel, 439th Tactical Hospital medical administration supervisor, right, discusses a piece of X-Ray equipment with MSgt. Harold Hillyard, a member of the staff assistance team from Dobbins AFB.

New Uniform Combination

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Air Force men and women have a new uniform combination available. A light blue men's cotton polyester, long sleeve shirt to be worn with blue service trousers and necktie has been approved for year round wear. The shirt may be worn with or without the service coat (blouse).

When the shirt is worn as an outer garment, without a blouse, an individual has the option of wearing a tie tac or tie clasp with either the Air Force seal or rank insignia.

Ribbons, badges, and specialty insignia will be optional, just as they now are on the short sleeve blue summer shirt. Name tags and rank insignia, however, must be worn.

The new shirts have two breast pockets and shoulder epaulets. Officers will wear soft cloth rank insignia on the epaulets in lieu of metal insignia. Enlisted members will wear three inch sleeve chevrons on their new shirts.

For women, the only change will be the addition of shoulder epaulets to the existing light blue overblouse. Women officers will wear their rank insignia on the epaulets. Enlisted women will continue to wear the three inch chevrons on their sleeve.

This optional uniform is now available in base exchanges in limited quantity.

Medical Units Get Staff Visit

A three member staff assistance team from the Eastern Air Force Reserve Region, headquartered at Dobbins AFB, Ga., visited the 439th Tactical Hospital and the 74th AES on Feb. 7 and 8. The trio was Maj. Thomas Chester, Medical Service Corps administrator; Maj. Joy David, nurse; and MSgt. Harold Hillyard, medical material supervisor.

Two or three times a year, the staff assistants inspect all medical areas including functional properties, general efficiency and manning. They also review administration procedures and check for compliance with regulations and directives.

Westover's visitors did not evaluate and pass judgment on their findings. Rather, they submit a critique and offer suggestions. Their final report, filed with personnel of the respective units; Col. Billy Knowles, 439th TAW commander; and their own supervisors at Eastern AFRR, is used for a basis for preparation of the annual inspection by the Inspector General.

Now Hear This

(AFRNS) — Many times we hear our members (and others) using the term "reserves" when referring to the Air Force Reserve (AFRES). "Reserves" refers to the Reserve forces of all the service branches.

Also, "air reserves" refers to the flying organizations of both the Guard and Reserve, sometimes referred to, properly, as the Air Reserve Forces.

However, if you're a member of an AFRES unit, it's the Air Force Reserve — or "The Reserve." Never the reserves.

UTA SCHEDULE

13 - 14 Mar.

10 - 11 Apr.

15 - 16 May

12 -13 Jun.

10 - 11 July

13 - 14 Aug. (Fri-one period 1900'2300)

15 - 29 Aug. ENCAMPMENT

11 - 12 Sept. (Fri-one period 1900-2300)

16 - 17 Oct.

13 - 14 Nov.

11 - 12 Dec.

Wing Conducts Full Practice ORI

Elements of the 439th TAW worked long hours throughout Friday night, all day Saturday until midnight and all day Sunday, performing the actual step-by-step procedures of the ORI plan during the February UTA.

The 337th and 731st TASs flew all required missions, and then the wing staff and the MAC advisors evaluated them.

The 905th CAMS launched the entire eight available C-130s for the accomplishment of 32 airland and airdrop sorties on Saturday and Sunday. The 901st CAMS launched nine C-123s and a weather ship for 27 airland and airdrop sorties on Saturday.

The 901st and 905th APFlts provided full loading capability for all missions.

Everybody involved put in the maximum effort—full tactical briefings, exercise of the command post, the mobility plan exercised in every respect the same as for the ORI, security police carried out their functions just as though it were the real thing.

As Wing Commander Col. Billy Knowles said, "They worked under extreme pressures and weather conditions, accomplishing Herculean tasks and suffering much while performing the very mission for which this base and all thereon exist."

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.

Commander, 439th TAW

Col. Billy M. Knowles

Base Commander

Lt. Col. Jack P. Ferguson Base Information Officer

Betty O'Connell

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Maj. Rudolph G. DiLuzio

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No Major Findings at 905th CF MEI

"Tremendously successful," was the way Col. Billy Knowles, 439th TAW commander, reacted to the findings of the two-day Management Effectiveness Inspection (MEI) of the 905th Communications Flight (CF) held during February's UTA. "There were no major findings and that is phenomenal!" he declared.

The inspection was conducted by a team from Air Force Communications Service (AFCS) Headquarters, Richards-Gebaur AFB, Mo. The 905th CF was evaluated on its management, operation, maintenance and training readiness.

The unit is commanded by Maj. Joseph F. Hellauer and supports the 439th TAW with radio, teletype and crypto communication.

Along with all the 905th CF personnel, Major Hellauer was delighted with the weekend's outcome. "We are very pleased, but especially, when compared to previous findings. Last inspection there were 12 major findings, while the one before that we had seven."

"Special recognition goes to the communications operations section headed by Capt. Jerry Burge and MSgt. Paul Babin; radio operations led by TSgt. Gerald McLaughlin; the maintenance section run by TSgt. Robert Lougher; and Plans and Administration supervised by SSgt. Patricia Lougher," he said.

Major Hellauer was delighted, but perhaps not surprised by the excellent performance. "Everyone in the unit was tested and everyone responded in their customary outstanding fashion."



CHECKING IT OUT TSgt. Gerald R. McLaughlin, 905th CF, operates a KWM 2A Collins Ultra High Frequency Radio under the watchful eye of Capt. George Schrum, right, MEI supervisor. Maj. Joseph F. Hellauer, 905th CF commander, center, aids in the demonstration of the radio used for ground-to-ground and air-to-ground voice communication.

Base Commander's Message

By Lt. Col. Jack P. Ferguson

I am quite concerned about the "noshow" rate prevalent during recent unit training assemblies. Absenteeism is running 10% and higher.

Certified letters are sent out to absentees with forms provided to state reasons for not reporting on the UTA. A high percentage of these forms are not being returned, or are being returned too late to allow makeup.

Air Force Regulation 35-41 states absence is allowed due to illness, personal hardship or other circumstances beyond the reservist's control. Makeup of an approved absence is allowed not earlier than 15 days before or not later than 30 days after, but before the next scheduled UTA.

Before making a decision to approve or disapprove requests for makeup of absences, the authorizing official must have a full explanation; for example, was ill" is not acceptable. The nature of the illness must be explained, and if under a doctor's care, the request must be accompanied by a medical certificate.

Training programs are established with the supposition that reservists will be here to be trained. We cannot meet our goals and maintain our training status with poor attendance during the UTA, or with an inordinate number of individuals performing their duty on other than the established weekend.

Everyone has some part in attaining a successful inspection of the wing. Let each one do his part during the UTA, and as a unit we'll show them how it's done.



TUESDAY'S VOLUNTEER, Marian Zymaczynski, left, receives help from Dawn Martzoukas, CHAMPUS advisor. After her "OJT", Marian will be one of the individuals on duty to assist retirees.

Retired Liaison Office Set up on Base

An office for liaison with retired officers and airmen and their dependents has been established in the AFRES Aid Station, Building 5600. Initiated by the Pioneer Valley Chapter, The Retired Officers Association (TROA), volunteers have come forth from the Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA), Gold Star Wives, the Air Force Association and several other retired individuals representing other organizations and branches of the service.

These volunteers will assist retirees and their dependents or survivors by answering questions on such subjects as CHAMPUS and personal affairs, or by directing them to the right offices where they may obtain help.

As a start, an impressive list of volunteers is on duty each Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Hopefully, they will eventually have volunteers on duty each day. To volunteer your services or to obtain information, call 557-3592 any day between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Westover an Official Bicentennial Military Installation



A BICENTENNIAL BASE GETS A BICENTENNIAL FLAG Westover's color guard, left to right, SSgt. Paul Couture, SSgt. William Rose, TSgt. Sherman Williams and TSgt. Nathan Writesel, all 439th CSG recruiters, display the base's new bicentennial flag. The "colors" feature the country's official 200th birthday symbol.

Westover Air Force Base initiated an ambitious Bicentennial program on January 26 with a kickoff luncheon at the consolidated open mess. Col. Billy M. Knowles, 439th TAW commander, announced that Westover has been designated an official Bicentennial military installation by the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration (ARBA).

To achieve this recognition, rigid requirements had to be satisfied. Among them were fulfillment of three thematic factors—

Heritage '76, with emphasis on American military heritage placed in its historical perspective.

Festival USA, a schedule of activities and events to encourage Air Force personnel and organizations to expand their own knowledge of country, and to extend a particular welcome to visitors;

Horizon '76, to emphasize activities reflecting Air Force pride in its role of "citizen airman" and expressing faith in the future of our country.

During the Bicentennial year, Westover AFB will be carrying out several programs in support of these themes. Capsule descriptions were given in the January issue of The Patriot. Details will be published as the Westover Bicentennial Council finalizes them.

The first affair opened with the 439th TAW Recruiting Color Guard posting the colors, followed by an invocation by Chaplain (1st Lt.) A. Peter Gregory. The 200 guests, active duty and reserve military personnel, base civilians and invited dignitaries were treated to a buffet prior to the start of the formal

portion of the program. Lt. Col. Charles K. Collins, chairman of the Westover bicentennial council, previewed the planned activities for the year.

Colonel Knowles presented plaques and citations to MSgt. Vernon Hartman, 1917 Communications Squadron, retiring chief of the Westover control tower, and Mr. George Langdon of Bradley International Airport's office of the Federal Aviation Agency, and acknowledged their outstanding efforts during the recent change from military to civilian air traffic control at Westover.

Colonel Knowles then welcomed the guests, promising them that this base intends to leave no doubt in anyone's mind that Westover is very much alive, that there is plenty of military activity going on, and that the local communities will certainly know that we are a Bicentennial base.

Following Colonel Knowles' greeting, Alfred Freitas, Bicentennial education committee chairman, introduced the guest speaker, Dr. David Leonard, professor of history, who spoke on the beginnings of our nation.

Guests at the luncheon included Howard W. Redfern, mayor of Chicopee; Thomas Griffin, Holyoke alderman representing Mayor Ernest Proulx; and representing their city or town bicentennial commission, Frank Higgins, Westover Massachusetts coordinator for the state; John Anderson, Chicopee; Bess Stathis, Holyoke; Alan Hale, Springfield; and Sandra Davidson, Ludlow.

The highly successful affair was closed with a benediction by Father Gregory.



AWARDS WINNERS MSgt. Vernon Hartman, second from left, and Mr. George Langdon, Bradley IAP FAA, are congratulated by Capt. Paul Rainville, 1917 Communications Squadron commander, left, and Capt. Leo Cobb, Jr.

Furr Gets Pentagon Commission



SUBJECTS CLOSE TO HIS HEART Major Furr finishes a sculptured bust of his wife. A ballerina, also inspired by Mrs. Furr, "dances" on the studio work bench.

WANTED: Reservist with excellent sculpturing abilities to participate in special Pentagon project. Contact USAF.. REL Liaison Office.

One of those responding to this unique request in the Reservist magazine was Maj. Leon Furr, a command pilot with the 731st Tactical Airlift Squadron. An accomplished sculptor, Major Furr easily fulfilled the Pentagon's criteria and now is putting the finishing touches on a sculptured piece depicting the new Air Force Bicentennial emblem. The representation, exact to the small detail, is only one inch in diameter and depicts today's helmeted reservist superimposed over a revolutionary minuteman.

Major Furr's creation, made of epoxy and painted black, blue, orange and white, took three months to complete. His effort will be exhibited at the Pentagon in a specially prepared display case.

Starting a New Career

The bicentennial-inspired project is the latest in a long series of sculptured objects designed and created by Major Furr since 1971.

After discharge from Air Force active duty in 1968, he began investigating potential careers. Eventually, he planned

to enter college and enroll in art courses. But he never made it to the campus. Major Furr began "dabbling" in sculpture and other art mediums. His works were warmly praised by fellow artists. He has been a full time sculptor ever since. Immersed in his work, he temporarily put college aside.

"Sculpturing has been the start of a whole new way of life for me," claims Major Furr. "I now have the opportunity to meet people I never would have met, and I'm doing exactly what I want to be doing."

His career started with a clay model of his dog, Pogo and was followed by a more critical bust of his daughter, Beth. Soon afterwards, Major Furr was finishing a series of original figurines for the Sheffield Silver Company, a division of Reed and Barton. His figures range from an American revolutionary soldier to a madonna and child. Each one is approximately 21/2 inches high, made of clay and took a month to complete. His efforts were then reproduced in molds and now decorate the top of silverplated bells or pewter letter openers available for purchase in jewelry and gift stores.

Many of Major Furr's creations remain within the fashionable Natick,

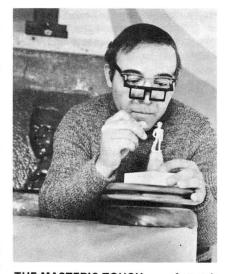
Massachusetts home he shares with his wife and four children. Sculptured pieces adorn each room and range from minutely detailed clay ballerinas a few inches in size; a three foot square bas relief; to three-dimensional acrylic paintings.

The inspiration for the numerous dancing figures comes from his wife, Perla. A gifted choreographer, when Major Furr was on active duty she organized fellow Air Force wives and produced shows on and off base. Today, she operates her own studio, the Vibrato Dance Institute and the Vibrato Dance Theater Company, in South Acton, Mass.

Like other artists Major Furr has faced the realities of his new profession. During difficult economic periods, purchases of the "necessities of life" take top priority. Potential customers often postpone purchasing art objects, even if they perceive them as beautiful and decorative.

Differences of opinion among family members commissioning a specific work also require mediation by the artist. "Since people prefer different sides of a person's various facial expressions, it would be difficult to please everyone," says Major Furr. "I must therefore please primarily the individual who commissions me."

(Continued on Page 7)



THE MASTER'S TOUCH A steady and firm hand, and unnerving concentration are required as Major Furr completes a three inch minuteman. An easel holds a bas relief sculpture commissioned by a member of the former 901st TAG.

Extending the Westover Welcome Mat

Saturday morning of each UTA, a new group of men and women gathers at the base gym. Collectively and individually they are welcomed to Westover.

They are new reservists to the 439th. Some are "fresh out of basic" while others have enlisted after a recent separation from active duty. They are teenagers and those not-so-young teenagers who feel right at home after a few years out of the military.

Although they don't share a common background, they seem to share a common feeling. It is their first UTA weekend and they're wondering how they'll be received and what lies ahead. Will they face friend or foe? Will they be confronted by a military hard nose or by a friendly smile?

"Have a cup of coffee?" is the question, but it begins to answer the doubts of those with jittery feelings. By the end of the second day, their collective opinion indicates that the remainder of the weekend proved as equally congenial as that offering of java.

Several prior service reservists remembered indoctrination procedures as being "a monotonous bore. But the people at Westover had a knack for making the process a fairly pleasant and informative situation." Lt. Col. Arthur Spafford and Maj. Alfred Abbatiello. reserve supplement officers, oversee the group's in-processing and try to make each one feel at home and welcomed.

by SSgt. Marshall Hathaway

After the initial Hello by the two officers, several short briefings occupy the morning session.

MSgt. Richard B. Filliettaz, fire inspector, stresses the importance of proper safety procedures and how to handle various types of fires. He's followed by Capt. Benjamin Goff, social actions officer. He explains why and how the Air Force is concerned with its people. This attitude is shared by Gen. David C. Jones, chief of staff, who holds this viewpoint in "the highest priority."

An information office representative has information on what's happening on base. He explains membership benefits and procedures at the open mess and the use of other facilities such as the base gym and BX. Capt. Arthur King, judge advocate, advises the group of some of their legal rights as reservists. Next is a safety lecture by Mr. Henry Winter, ground safety officer.

A few of the new weekend warriors had "considered safety seminars pretty much of a drag—none could tell us anything that we haven't heard before." In many areas cited by Mr. Winter, the startled reservists confessed to "a little bit of ignorance."

Next in line as part of the "welcome wagon" briefings, Lt. Col. Roger A. Rotvig, chaplain, told of the base's modest "church" and appealed to all to attend services. Maj. Edward Seilius, consolidated base personnel office chief, offered the assistance of his staff in any way possible.



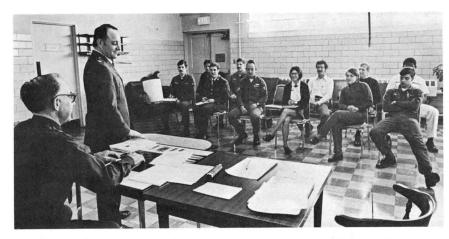
AT LAST.... In-processing completed, Amn. Debra Sekcinski from Holyoke, assigned to the 439th CSG at Base Operations, eases into her job as base operations dispatcher apprentice by posting a NOTAM (Notice to Airmen) which informs pilots of runway conditions all over the country. Debbie took her basic training at Lackland AFB, and approaches her stay in The Reserves in respect to re-upping with an "I'll see how it goes" attitude. So far, she says the going has been just fine and she's enjoying her stay at Westover.

An optional bus tour of the base followed and then lunch at the mess hall.

During the rest of the weekend, several additional training sessions with training specialists took place. They place a high regard on the proper education of the individual right from the start.

A myriad of other details are disposed of by the new reservists in the time left. They include stops at records, pay, career control, personal affairs, flight management, pass and ID, clothing, supply and tool issue, hospital, et. al. Most of the troops I spoke to felt that their in-processing was fairly smooth and efficient.

Throughout my day of observation, the concern by the unit commanders was very much apparent. Through their actions and words, they hope to instill an impression in all the new airmen who join Westover's reservists—"The Air Force cares about me."



WELCOME ABOARD Lt. Col. Arthur Spafford, left, listens while Maj. Alfred Abbatiello delivers his Hello to January's troops embarking on their first UTA at Westover. Both men are reserve supplement officers (RSO) attached to ARPC in Denver, and presently assigned to CBPO here.

Wing Commander's

Message

By Col. Billy M. Knowles

Since my last message, probably the most singular occurrence has been uninterrupted weeks of winter weather the likes of which most of us hope isn't seen again for some time. Like any city, an Air Force Base and Air Force missions suffer immeasurably from the impact of such weather. But since we are all eternal optimists, the passage of each winter day brings Spring one day closer.

Similarly, each passing day brings us closer to the MAC Operational Readiness and Management Effectiveness Inspection. In my mind, I see it occurring during our 15-16 May Unit Training Assembly. Thus our game plan is to reach peak readiness then. With two days in March and another two days in April left for preparation, every member of the 439th Tactical Airlift Wing must plan and prepare towards validation of the highest Combat Readiness capability achievable — C-1.

In a larger sense, the most meaningful way each of us may validate continuance of the reserve participation in the Total Force is through commitment. That commitment translated into cost effective Combat Readiness reinforces budgetary appropriations considerations for the Air Force Reserves by Congress. Of the 101 billion dollar Defense Budget for FY-77, only 5 per cent is embarked for the Guard and Reserves (all service components). Yet we represent collectively 30 per cent of the force structure. As Citizen Soldiers you may be understandably proud and as taxpayers, comfortable that such a bargainbasement contribution is rendered by your individual efforts. A 30 per cent force for a 5% investment is the best buy on the market in these days.

Nevertheless, the specific nitty-gritty of the matter is — lots of work, hard work and I know we are more than up to the challenge.

From the Recruiters

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Morningstar of Warren, Mass., were recently enlisted in the Air Force Reserve. Both Fred and 'oan were stationed here in 1965 and are now continuing their Air Force career in The Reserves. Sgt. Fred is assigned to the 439th CSG while A1C Joan is with the 901st CAMS. The question now arises as to who outranks whom at home. Ask Fred—he'll tell you.



PROMOTIONS

Maj. Gale French SMSgt. George M. Roohr TSgt. Robert L. Blouin TSgt. William E. Boulanger TSgt. Raymond W. J. Gohra SSgt. Glenn J. Arsenault SSgt. Robert R. Bolduc SSgt. Philip R. Bourget SSgt. Alan M. Ciano SSgt. Jeffrey R. Holt SSgt. William H. Lane SSgt. Michael J. Markiw SSgt. Leslie D. Mesecher SSgt. Donald G. Mever SSgt. Donald F. Moran SSgt. Gary A. Paine SSgt. Robert Schofield SSgt. David E. Shields SSgt. Robert J. Webb SSgt. Ronald Williams Sgt. Paul G. Benson Sgt. Joseph Castelone Sgt. Gary B. Decker Sgt. John R. Dyer Sgt. Francis J. Fazi Sgt. Mark Keenan Sgt. Charles H. Morency Jr. Sgt. Eduardo Rizo Sgt. Donald B. Wandrei Sgt. Robert W. Waugh A1C Debe C. Bascom A1C Diane M. Dupuis AMN Faith E. Dragone AMN Robert C. McLaughlin AMN Debra L. Wiernasz

ENLISTED

MSgt. John R. Plavnicky TSgt. Raymond E. Beauregard TSgt. Charles T. Radabaugh Jr. SSgt. Mark S. Gilyard SSgt. Dean R. Harper SSgt. Richard S. Kurek Sgt. Llewellyn L. Estabrook Jr. Sgt. Kenneth J. Giblin Sgt. Raymond S. Hakala Sgt. Conrad A. Letourneau Sgt. Richard W. Marek Sgt. Frederick W. Morningstar A1C Paul Cheslofska A1C Wayne C. Edwards A1C Joan A. Morningstar A1C Luis Pardo AMN Francis E. Walbridge

AB Bryan J. Capello
AB Richard A. Denesha
AB John L. Dutilly
AB Cameron J. Duquette
AB Michael A. Fortier
AB Gayle A. Gordon
AB George Lee
AB Gary C. Osgood
AB Sandra A. Price
AB Gerald W. Ripley
AB Eric D. Scoville
AB Thomas P. Small
AB Phillip A. Smith
AB Karen A. Volino

REENLISTED

MSgt. Peter P. Colerico
MSgt. Yvon L. Doyon
MSgt. Anthony S. Simovich
TSgt. Francis X. Bonneville
TSgt. Raymond M. Desroches
TSgt. Raymond J. Dupre
TSgt. Lenny N. St. Germain
SSgt. William G. Chaput
SSgt. Richard K. Getman
SSgt. Steven F. Leib
SSgt. Leslie D. Mesechar
SSgt. Joseph R. Paul
Sgt. Gregory S. Nolder

REASSIGNED

Capt. Norman E. Ellard 2d. Lt. Glenn D. Webb SSgt. Andrew Fabricant SSgt. Murray M. Kerner Sgt. Robert E. Berne AMN Katherine S. White

Major Furr . . .

(Continued from Page 5) Tomorrow's Dream

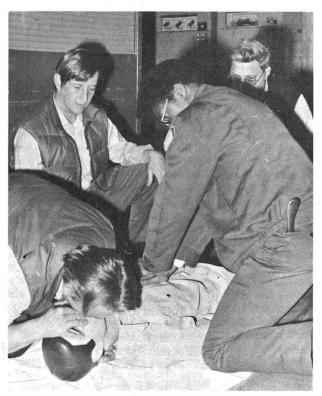
With other artists, Major Furr shares a dream — a dream about the future. He hopes his efforts will meet with continued financial success and be assured of a future income through royalties received from commercial duplicated pieces.

"My time will be more of my own. Rather than mostly working on commercially oriented pieces, I'll be able to to do art for art's sake," he prophesies.

As a reservist, he will soon be pinning on the insignia of a lieutenent colonel and increasing his 6,000 plus hours of flying time.

But mostly, Major Furr will concentrate on his art, developing the talents only recently emerging and perhaps, guiding his son, Mark, who has also expressed his own talents in sculpture.

Major Furr realizes that the competition will be tough. But he remains undaunted. And rightfully so. With an already demonstrated ability, a long and prosperous career seems assured.



(Photo by Tom Hill)

MOUTH TO MOUTH . . . Westover AFB Fire Department members, from left: Dean Sleeper, Louis Roman, Sgt. Ronnie Wheatstone and MSgt. John Dianna, practice Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) on a dummy borrowed from the 74th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron (AES). The class on CPR is part of the American Red Cross course on reviving a person, in an emergency, who has suffered a heart attack at the scene of a fire, due to smoke inhalation, electrical shock or heart disease. The 15 hour CPR course was taught by Kenneth Willette, a 439th CSG firefighter and emergency medical technician, at the base fire department. Mr. Willette also teaches a 54 hour course on advanced first aid and emergency care to base personnel.

The Color Guard is looking for volunteers to form a supplemental color guard to share in the many events scheduled for this year. Contact SSgt. Bill Rose at the recruiting office or call him at 3923 or 2125.



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