



# THE PATRIOT



439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING

WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE, MASS.

Vol. III, No. 11

November, 1976

## Knowles First Reservist Commander

# Brave Shield: A Big, Beautiful Show

By Maj. Rudolph G. DiLuzio

More than 16,000 Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force personnel, active duty, national guard and reserve, from posts and bases across the country, participated in the largest peace time joint readiness exercise, Brave Shield XV, in the Florida panhandle from October 2 through 28.

One unit, well represented, was the 439th TAW. Approximately 450 Westover reservists spent their two week annual training, or volunteered for additional active duty at Pope AFB, N.C., Hunter AFB, Ga., and Hurlburt Field, Fla. 901st/905th CAM squadron personnel maintained the base's eight C-123s and six C-130s from Westover and ten from Niagara Falls intregally involved in the operations. Administrative and support personnel performed a variety of tasks in a variety of locations from "tent-city" orderly rooms and mess halls to the Airlift Control Center (ALCC).

The 439th's participation also set two firsts. Brig. Gen. Billy M. Knowles, wing commander, was selected as the Commander of all Airlift Forces. Never before had a reservist been named to command a major segment of a Brave Shield exercise. Also, the participation of Westover's C-123s gave "opposing" forces an airlift capability for the first time.

The exercise provided realistic training by following a month-long scenario. A fictitious country, friendly to the United States, requests American assistance in warding off insurgents and enemy infiltration which could lead to the government's overthrow. Portions of the 750 square mile Eglin AFB, Fla. are designated as friendly, opposing and neutral countries.

The plea is acted upon by the National Command Authority, a mythical united command. It, in turn, directs the U.S.

Readiness Command to deploy Joint Task Forces (JTF).

### Five State Exercise

Phase I of the exercise immediately got underway with the deployment of specific units to their assigned bases. The Eglin reservation served as the nucleus of operations. Its numerous auxiliary fields, such as Duke and Hurlburt, served as headquarters for the JTF, Air Force operations, the Joint Unconventional Warfare Task Force and the Joint Opposition Force, and

it was the operating location for the F-4E Phantom jets.

F-100 Supersabres, F-106 Delta Darts and F-4E Freedom Fighter aircraft flew out of Tyndall AFB, Fla. for the Opposition Air Force. MacDill AFB, Fla. housed the F-105 Thunderchiefs and F-4E Phantom IIs for the JTF. Shaw AFB, S.C. was the temporary home for the JTF's Tactical Reconnaissance Element, RF-4C Phantom IIs and the Photo Processing Interpretation Facility and Army Intelligence.

(Continued on page 4)



**KEEPING THEM FLYING** are SSgt. Robert Chunyk, left, and SSgt. Keneth Schworm, 905th CAMS, working on a Westover C-130 at Pope AFB.



## Reserve Regions Redesignated, Realigned

The Air Force Reserve has realigned its intermediate management structure as a positive step under the total force policy.

Each of the three Reserve regions was redesignated as numbered Air Force (Reserve) or NAF(R) on Oct. 8. Each NAF(R) will interface with specific active duty numbered Air Forces of the major commands that gain the reservists upon mobilization.

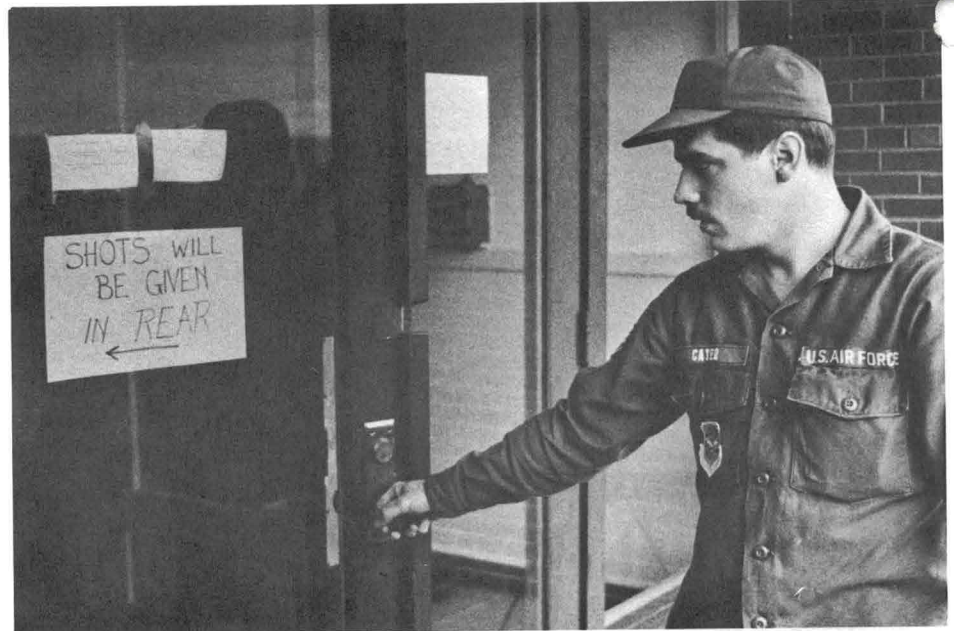
The former Eastern Region, Dobbins AFB, Ga., became the Fourteenth Air Force (Reserve) and Western Region, McClellan AFB, Calif., became Fourth Air Force (Reserve), aligned with the 21st and 22nd Air Forces, Military Air Command, respectively. Units gained by SAC and TAC are now organized under the Tenth Air Force (Reserve), formerly Central Region, Bergstrom AFB, Tex. The latter is aligned with 8th and 15th Air Forces (SAC) and 9th and 12th Air Forces (TAC). An Aerospace Defense Command gained squadron was assigned to the 10th AF(R) also.

Since 1960, Reserve regions have been the intermediate management level between Headquarters, Air Force Reserve and Air Force Reserve units. The regions were responsible for training supervision and command support, much like the active-duty numbered Air Forces. Reserve officials say aligning the regions directly to the gaining commands' numbered Air Forces was a logical step.

Gen. William Lyon, chief of Air Force Reserve, said, "Not only will the realignment increase the responsiveness of the Air Force Reserve to mobilization requirements, it will also assist in establishing an improved wartime mission for the Reserve numbered Air Forces. In addition, the new alignment provides the needed Reserve intermediate management structure while maintaining flexibility to adjust to future force changes."

## BRIEFS

CERTIFICATES OF COURSE COMPLETION now belong to firefighters MSgt. Richard B. Filliettaz, MSgt. Francis R. Langone, SSgt. Stanley G. Adamczyk, SSgt. William E. Timmons, SSgt. Charles E. Woodruff, Sgt. Patrick J. Devens, Sgt. Kirt M. Ouellet and Sgt. James T. Tucker. They successfully completed the Disaster Preparedness Force Training Course for Reservists given by the First Region Disaster Preparedness Personnel and Westover's Disaster Preparedness Officer Ralph Nugent.



"NOW WAIT A MINUTE!" SSgt. Richard M. Cayer, 901 CAMS, has second thoughts about the sign on the main entrance of the 74AMES building. Unit members administered a base-wide "Hong Kong" and "Swine" flu immunization program during the October UTA.

LT. COL. WILLIAM W. BASNETT, commander of the Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve Base and the 914th TAG, has been reassigned to AFRES headquarters, Robins AFB, Ga. He will serve as Director of Operations and will be responsible for training activities for the Reserve's nationwide program.

\* \* \* \* \*

CEREMONY MARKS FIRST FOR WOMEN . . . Mrs. Nita Ashcraft took the oath of office as Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) in Pentagon ceremonies on August 12. In doing so, she became the first woman to hold an Air Force civilian office at the Assistant Secretary level.

## 1977 UTA/ Encampment Schedule

Jan	8-9
Feb	12-13
Mar	19-20
Apr	16-17
May	14-15
June	11-12
Jul	16-17
Aug	*12-13
Sep	*16, 17, 18
Oct	15-16
Nov	19-20
Dec	10-11

Aug 14-28 Encampment  
\*Friday evening

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**Commander, 439th TAW**  
Brig. Gen. Billy M. Knowles  
**Base Commander**  
Lt. Col. J. Frank Moore  
**Base Information Officer**  
Betty O'Connell  
**Wing Information Officers**  
Maj. Robert D. Hafner  
Maj. Rudolph G. DiLuzio  
**Editor**  
TSgt. Lawrence H. Lentz

**Staff**  
TSgt. Thomas Brucia  
SSgt. Marshall Hathaway  
SSgt. Robin Ketcherside  
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A1C Dean M. Mauro  
A1C Wanda Wood  
**Photographers**  
SSgt. Barry W. Brightman  
SSgt. James Langley  
Amn. Paul Amoroso



## New Base Commander Named

Lt. Col. J. Frank Moore has been named Westover's new base commander and 439th Combat Support Group commander. He replaces Lt. Col. Jack P. Ferguson who now commands the 908th TAG at Maxwell AFB, Ala. The appointment, announced by Brig. Gen. Billy M. Knowles, 439 TAW commander, was effective Oct. 18.

Colonel Moore enlisted in the Air Force in 1952. Upon commissioning in 1953, he was assigned to the 9th Bomb Wing at Biggs AFB, Tex. as a B-36 navigator. After attending various navigation schools, Colonel Moore served at the Air Force Special Weapons Center, Kirtland AFB, N.M.; the Atomic Energy Test Site at Eniwetok in the Marshall Islands; and at the 376th Bomb Wing at Barksdale AFB, La., as a B-47 navigator. After completion of B-52 training in 1959, he was assigned to the 42nd Bomb Wing, Loring AFB, Maine, as an instructor radar-navigator. He flew in this capacity until his release from extended active duty in 1962.

From 1962 to 1970, Colonel Moore was assigned to various positions in the Reserve and served in an Air Reserve technician capacity as group and wing navigator and as scheduling officer in the C-130A Combat Crew Training School. In 1970 he was appointed to the Director of Operations Office at Central Air Force Reserve Region and served as chief of the Operations Support Division.

Colonel Moore was voluntarily recalled to active duty in 1974 and served as Chief of the Operations Plans Division at AFRES headquarters.

He attended Southwest Missouri State College. In 1970, Colonel Moore completed the Air Command and Staff College, the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in 1971 and the Air War College in 1976.

## Toy Collection Begins

Patients at the Children's Hospital, Newington, Conn. and the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children, Springfield, would appreciate your assistance. By donating games and toys in good condition, 439th members will help make long days at the hospital a little more pleasant for the youngsters. SMSgt. Hugh Fraleigh, ext. 3188, and CMSgt. Alcide Patenaude, ext. 3019, will collect the contributions during the November UTA for distribution at the hospitals during Westover's annual visit on the December UTA.



**NEW BOSS** gets briefing from his secretary, Mrs. Anita Sabourin, and the base executive officer, Herman Tracey, as he contemplates the paperwork already accumulated during his first day on the job.

## Uniform Changes Announced

(AFNS) Air Force men will be authorized optional wear of high-gloss (patent finish) poromeric shoes with service uniforms.

Women will be allowed to wear boots with the pantsuit/pants and overblouse year round. However, boots will not be authorized indoors with the uniform skirt.

These are two major changes proposed by the Air Force uniform board and approved by the Air Force Chief of Staff.

Other changes include:

Approval of sleeve braid by women officers on the pantsuit uniform coat.

Optional wear of the cotton/polyester, durable press, blue trousers (shade 1577) with the new long-sleeve blue shirt.

Women will be allowed to position badges above their ribbons or name tag, instead of below them, on the overblouse when worn as an outer garment and on the service uniform coat.

Other actions included phase out of the uniform combination 2. This is the long-sleeve blue wool/polyester shirt when worn under the blue service coat. Combination 4A, the tan summer service uniform, will also be phased out when current inventory is depleted.

\*\*\*\*\*

HANGAR AVE. will be closed at the intersection of Outer Drive until the renovation of the heating system is completed.

**OUR LOSS—THEIR GAIN.** Lt. Col. Robert A. McMullen, the wing's deputy commander for operations is returning to Niagara Falls to command the 914th Tactical Airlift Group. Colonel McMullen told the staff he has mixed emotions—he looks forward to the challenge and opportunities afforded the commander of a flying unit, but is going to miss his associates at Westover. We wish him the best of everything!

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## Third Chaplain Joins 439th

Maj. Albert J. Ryan has joined Westover's chaplain staff and will work with Lt. Col. Roger A. Rotvig and 1st Lt. Peter A. Gregory.

Father Ryan is the Assistant Pastor of St. Mary's Church (Catholic) in North Attleboro, Mass.

Previously, he served on Air Force active duty for seven and a half years in Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio; Thailand; Hanscom Field, Mass.; Plattsburgh AFB, N.Y.; Iraklion Air Station, Crete; and Grand Forks AFB, N.D.

"I'm rejoicing to be back in the military where I had many enjoyable years," said Father Ryan. "I'm looking forward to meeting everyone and being a part of the 439th."



## Brave Shield...

(Continued from page 1)

43 C-130s, including Westover's, were based at Pope AFB, N.C. while the C-123s were at Hunter AFB, Ga. A fighter squadron of A-7 Corsairs was stationed at England AFB, La. and the Airborne Warning and Control System planes came from Homestead AFB, Fla.

Navy ERA3 Sky Warriors, Army U-21 Cefirm Leaders and Air Force EB-57 Canberra aircraft collectively served as electronic warfare elements from the Pensacola Naval Air Station, Fla. Keesler AFB, Miss. was the JTF Airborne Battlefield Command and Control Center. SAC's B-52s, the first time used in such an exercise, were deployed from Barksdale AFB, La.

Air Force bases outside the southern United States were also involved. Other B-52s and C-141s made the round trip from March AFB, Calif., as well as F-111 all weather, swing-wing aircraft from Cannon AFB, N.M.

The major ground units for the "friendly" forces came from the 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C. The "opposing" Army unit, the 24th Infantry, is located at Fort Stewart, Ga.

An extensive mock air war, held mainly in restricted airspace over the Gulf of Mexico followed in the next phase. It provided realistic experience to Air Force pilots with air-to-air combat, counter-air and anti-missile strikes.



**A SHERIDAN TANK** begins the slow climb into a Military Airlift Command C-130 during Brave Shield exercises. 43 similar aircraft were used to drop and air land troops and equipment during the ground-war phase of the operation.



**SOME OF THE 1,200** parachutes used by the 82nd Airborne paratroopers await delivery back to Ft. Bragg. The bundled chutes would be air dropped onto a base drop zone.

Phase V was the actual field training portion of the exercise. The "ground-war" was held from October 13-17 at Eglin and used close air support from tactical fighters and assault aircraft from neighboring bases.

The final phase saw the redeployment of participating units back to home bases by Oct. 28.

### Westover Involvement

As Airlift Commander, General Knowles established headquarters at Hurlburt Field. Operating under field conditions, he directed all the airlift activities of 12 C-141s, 43 C-130s, and almost 1800 people, insuring the on-time delivery of troops, cargo and equipment to the combat areas. The troops under his command, in addition to those from Westover, were from Niagara Falls, Nashville, Oklahoma City, Little Rock, Dyess AFB, Charleston, Pope AFB, McGuire AFB and Shaw AFB. 43% of these individuals were guard and reserve personnel.

The majority of Westover personnel, about 300, were stationed at Pope AFB, the site of the C-130 operations and headquarters of the Brave Shield Provisional Wing (PAW). The wing, part of General Knowles' command, was a composite of 1,500 national guard, reserve, and active duty personnel.

A good part of their combined efforts were directed to D-Day activities on Oct. 12. Starting on the previous day and continuing into the early morning hours of D-Day, support personnel watched in awe and admiration as others helped load 1,800 airborne troops and 60 tons of supplies and equipment and military vehicles, such as Sheridan tanks, onto 19 C-130s and 5 C-141s. A few hours later, these troops were airdropped into unfamiliar terrain to fight a ground war lasting several days. Due to the prior around-the-clock efforts of the maintenance section, 36 of the 38 scheduled missions were successfully launched.



## BRAVE SHIELD: THE HUMAN ELEMENT

By SSgt. Marshall Hathaway

Brave Shield was much more than a military success. Despite all the flying, operations, policing, administrating and working, set in a myriad of military jargon, and everyone living and working in an atmosphere requiring strict adherence to regulations, something strange and wonderful happened . . . but it took a while to realize it.

The exercise's "facts of life" were certainly not commensurate with a high morale situation. There were eight and ten hour shifts, sometimes 12 hours. It wasn't particularly rare for some to go around the clock.

People from all over the country from various squadrons, groups and wings with unfamiliar work habits had to work together in new consolidated work situations.

Brave Shield personnel were pretty much confined to the immediate work and living areas at Pope—partly because of a lack of recreational transportation and partly because work schedules did not permit much free time. We were located on a giant military complex with only one town accessible by bus. It only ran every 90 minutes and the town wasn't worth the effort. Even Westover men and women were out of touch with each other. Shift work and irregular hours separated us. Also, we were quartered in several locations miles apart.

But . . . this highly incongruous situation proved what kind of people all the

participants were. It clearly showed that the reservists, regulars, guardsmen, officers and enlisted, are a damn fine credit to the Air Force!

From the start, reserve forces were graciously accepted into the active duty situation at Pope. An immediate rapport was established and, as if at the flip of a switch, people assumed an instantaneous sense of obligation and duty.

The transition into the consolidated force situation was remarkably smooth. We went about our duties without having to be told, without friction, and in good spirits. Complaints were so minimal, that for all practical purposes, there were none. The different elements integrated with obvious harmony and meshed their work routines as if they had been pulling together for years. Groups of people, most of whom are not accustomed to early rising, woke at 5:30 a.m. to join others for a good breakfast and good company. People, weary from long hours, said "hello" and "good morning" with a smile. Although many were required to produce an unending series of tasks, many volunteered to do just a little bit more.

And there was pride. Individual pride in knowing that "my" part contributed to the success of the mission. That pride, linked with many other factors, fed the most enjoyable elements of Brave Shield—a blossoming epitome of comradery.

There were even those of us that weren't all that anxious to leave.



**GRAVEYARD SHIFT . . . . TSgt. Leroy Dennis, 905th CAMS, connects a ground power supply as another Westover C-130 is prepared for its part in the exercise.**

Later, during the week, the PAW resupplied and reinforced these infantrymen with an additional 1,200 troops and 1,188 tons of cargo through 70 airlift missions.

In addition to the realistic and comprehensive training, Brave Shield provided for the effective blending of active duty, national guard and reserve units into one fighting force. Overall, more than 15 per cent were part-timers working alongside their full-time counterparts.

Although operations such as Brave Shield are not new to the Reserves, this one was unique. "With this exercise, reservists participated in the planning, execution, command, control and analysis," reported General Knowles. "At Pope, the Provisional Wing was organized, for the first time, along a tri-deputy, for operations, structure. Headquarters was comprised equally of guard, reserve and active duty people."

During his briefing of the new media representatives from the local area, at Hurlburt Field to view the exercise, General Knowles assured them, "Those people at the 439th are the best. If they can't do it, it can't be done."

The uniforms are the same; so are the abilities. This exercise gave us another opportunity to convincingly show it.

\* \* \* \* \*

OFFICERS' DINING OUT will be held at 1900 on Dec. 11 at the open mess. Dress: Black mess dress or tuxedo for the gentlemen; evening dress for the ladies. Tickets, available at your unit during the UTA, are \$12.50 per person and \$25 per couple.



**NIGHTTIME PREPARATION** prior to D-Day included the loading of a Gama-goat (an armored personnel carrier) by a "k-loader."



# BRAVE SHIELD PHOTOS...



## PROMOTED

SMSgt. Edward N. Birkel  
 MSgt. Antonio Kounelas  
 MSgt. Salvatore D. Palumbo  
 MSgt. Ira A. Simmons  
 TSgt. Richard J. Matte  
 TSgt. Robert C. Rash  
 TSgt. Albert S. L. Shaw  
 SSgt. James A. Beachell  
 SSgt. Ruby E. Bosinske  
 SSgt. Donald J. Butler  
 SSgt. Peter A. DeSualniers  
 SSgt. Robert A. Dinatale  
 SSgt. Anthony D. Feato  
 SSgt. Frank H. Hoff Jr.  
 SSgt. Gordon R. Hunt  
 SSgt. Christopher M. Johns  
 SSgt. Rodney W. Kelly  
 SSgt. Alan J. Kidawski  
 SSgt. John A. Kirlin  
 SSgt. Ronald R. LaFrance  
 SSgt. Paul N. LaRochelle  
 SSgt. Dannielle H. Randolph  
 SSgt. Donald C. Ratti  
 SSgt. Larry L. Santerre

SSgt. Edward Stachowiak  
 SSgt. Francis J. Trigo Jr.  
 SSgt. James S. Urbec  
 Sgt. Lawrence J. Clairmont Sr.  
 Sgt. Robert D. Keating  
 Sgt. James A. Maccioni  
 Sgt. Peter M. Matta Jr.  
 Sgt. Craig C. Morin  
 Sgt. Amy T. Spencer  
 A1C Christine A. Banadik  
 A1C Lynne M. Desmarais  
 A1C Roberta A. Flaherty  
 A1C Douglas A. Gosselin  
 A1C Robert M. Hyer  
 A1C Robert C. McLaughlin  
 A1C Patricia A. Miller  
 A1C Stephen A. Moniak  
 A1C James A. Norris  
 A1C Francis E. Pettijohn  
 A1C Gail A. Villone  
 A1C Francis E. Walbridge  
 A1C Debra L. Wiernasz  
 AMN Joann Rao  
 AMN Joanne M. Silvia  
 AMN Donna Thomas

## ENLISTED/REENLISTED

TSgt. Herbert S. Reeves  
 SSgt. Earl W. Cole Jr.  
 SSgt. Richard O. Johansen  
 SSgt. Barbara J. Mosley  
 SSgt. George E. Ouellette  
 Sgt. Birgit M. Engelbrektsen  
 Sgt. Michael L. Guyette  
 Sgt. James A. LaCroix

Sgt. Francis J. Komloski  
 Sgt. Thomas A. MacDonald  
 Sgt. Thomas R. McShane  
 Sgt. Joseph Picard  
 Sgt. John E. Rice  
 Sgt. Lamont Taylor  
 Sgt. George R. Ultrino  
 Sgt. Tadeuse M. Zajdel  
 A1C Michael W. Crowley  
 A1C John A. Dejnack Jr.  
 A1C Vincent Lupo  
 A1C William E. Pearce  
 A1C James D. Pollard  
 AMN Franklin A. Guild  
 AB Diane T. Boulette  
 AB James F. Buonopane Jr.

## ENLISTED

AB Lynn P. Clark  
 AB Holly A. Dill  
 AB Dennis J. Duncan  
 AB James F. Dupuis  
 AB Anthony B. Gamble  
 AB Tiajuana E. Howlett  
 AB Barbara A. Morris  
 AB Zachary C. Osler  
 AB Nancy A. Peters  
 AB Teresa N. Rice  
 AB Carol Lee Spears  
 AB William B. Thomas

## DISCHARGED

TSgt. Patrick J. Kelley  
 SSgt. Charles R. Beach  
 SSgt. Richard D. Ferry

SSgt. David R. Langlois  
 SSgt. David E. Morganthal  
 SSgt. Thomas W. Otto  
 Sgt. Peter S. Lukawicz

## REASSIGNED

TSgt. William A. Rose  
 TSgt. Robert D. White  
 SSgt. Jasper A. Smith  
 Sgt. James R. Larned  
 Sgt. Michael O'Brien  
 Sgt. Scott W. Richards  
 A1C Richard G. Oliver

## TO STANDBY RESERVE

Lt. Col. Charles K. Collins  
 1st Lt. Margaret L. Anderson  
 1st Lt. Charles D. Mattern  
 1st Lt. Paul I. Summers  
 SSgt. James G. Dube  
 SSgt. Kenneth W. Horton  
 SSgt. Cornelius J. Kelleher  
 SSgt. Robert C. Lawson  
 SSgt. Paul G. Marquis  
 SSgt. Jasper A. Smith  
 SSgt. Jeffrey W. Tremblay  
 Sgt. James J. Charbonneau  
 Sgt. John C. Coggins  
 Sgt. Catherine A. Peltier  
 A1C Edmond V. Arpin  
 A1C Lawrence R. Fay  
 A1C Sylvia J. Gallagher  
 A1C Jean Marie Pickner  
 AMN Eva M. Riley  
 AMN William G. Smith



## Learn Not To Burn

By A1C Dean Mauro

In addition to their regular duties, fire fighters at Westover added several extra activities to their schedule, in honor of Fire Prevention Week, October 3-9.

The annual observance creates an awareness of possible fire hazards in the home and at work, and corrects these problems avoiding the tragic consequences of future fires.

Although Westover already has the lowest fire loss rate in the Air Force Reserve, those involved in Fire Prevention Week hope to improve on the base's already excellent record.

During the week, ten unannounced fire drills were held at selected base facilities. The drills, according to Westover Fire Chief Haskel Jenkins, involved the evacuation of all the building's occupants, response to the building by men and equipment from the base's fire fighting units and a demonstration of rescue and emergency first aid techniques by the Fire Department rescue crews. Each drill also included training in the use of various types of fire extinguishers.

All base units were encouraged to participate in Fire Prevention Week through a unit display contest. Mr. Dale Altman,

439th CSG transportation division, and Mr. Ralph Nugent, 439th TAW disaster preparedness office, were the winners. Louis Roman was selected as Westover's Fire Fighter of the Year, during the special week.

A 20-hour baby sitters class conducted by the fire fighters graduated eight people. The course stressed fire reporting and building evacuation techniques.

Chief Jenkins stressed, "The most striking aspect of fire and the death and injury it causes is that fire is a parasitic killer. It needs someone to change it from a benevolent helper of mankind into a vicious killer."

Fire Prevention week held during October commemorates the tragic "Chicago Fire" of October 1871, responsible for 200 deaths.



**FIRE FIGHTER OF THE YEAR** Louis Roman, right, explains to Sgt. Bruce F. Shick, 905th CE Flt., center, and Sgt. Leon J. Mason, 905th CE Flt. the gauges on a P-4 crash truck, during the October UTA. Fire Chief Haskel Jenkins selected Roman because of his self-development, appearance and job-development. Roman, a full-time civilian, is a driver-operator of the P-4 crash truck and helps train reserves and other civilian fire fighters.

## BROKEN ARROW . . . .

(Continued from page 8)

But within the cordon there is now an invisible but dangerous patch of finely divided radioactive plutonium, scattered no one yet knows where. The cordoned area is now off-limits. Anyone moving within the cordoned area would have to be considered radioactively contaminated. The only way out of the cordon is at the entry control point where a decontamination line will be set up.

The hooded, protective-suit encased members of the disaster prep support team, carrying radiation meters, slowly move into the circle to mark off "hot spots" (areas of contaminated soil). They work slowly, carefully, but without interruption, identifying a clear path to the accident site and preparing for recovery actions.

The excitement is over. But recovery operations are the most time consuming of the four important phases of the disaster response. Higher headquarters assistance will be on base to direct the heavy work of removing contaminated soil, to help conduct an aircraft accident investigation, and to declare the area safe.

It could be a long time before things get back to normal at this base. But the important thing is that the base was able to handle its responsibilities during the initial emergency.

## Interim Base Commander's Message

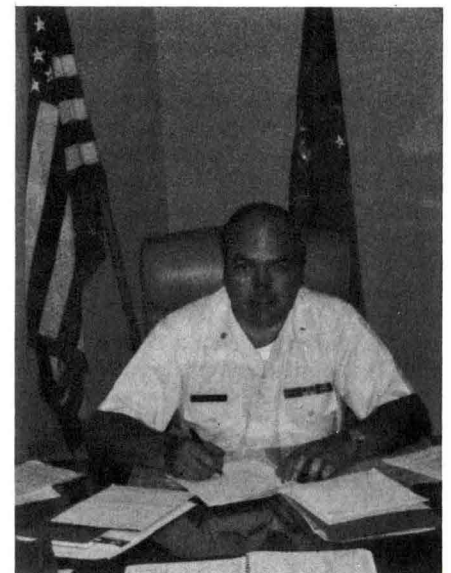
By Lt. Col. Gordon Partridge

The privilege of serving as Interim Base Commander, albeit of short duration, was indeed an honor.

The many facets of the day-to-day operation of a base this size cannot be appreciated until one has the opportunity to occupy the commander's chair. The many activities represent a co-mingling of civilian and military expertise—each required to support our overall mission.

I am confident that a closer rapport can be established between the civilian and military communities if we can continue to improve our communication with each other.

I know that our new Commander, Lt. Col. Frank Moore, will be fully supported by all as I was during these past weeks, and I offer him our heartiest welcome.



**Lt. Col. Gordon Partridge, 439CSG executive officer views the "paper mill" from the other side of the desk.**



## The Day One Might Have Crashed

By TSgt. Tom Brucia

*Broken Arrow, definition: "an actual or simulated aircraft accident involving nuclear weapons."*

A Broken Arrow at Westover AFB is a possibility. Otherwise Westover wouldn't be exercising constantly. The following story relates how an actual might happen.

Six miles out C-141 Golf 371 approaches Westover, transporting nuclear weapons. The C-141 hadn't planned to stop here, but it has problems. An inflight emergency: smoke in the cockpit, possible ruptured hydraulic line. "Westover Tower," reports the pilot, "This is MAC 371, C-141, located 10 miles north of Westover. I have smoke in cockpit, ruptured hydraulic line. Fuel, 16,000 pounds. Personnel, four forward. Dangerous cargo on board. Location, mid-passenger compartment. Class A—Alpha—explosive. Number of units, 3. Line number 12345. Net explosive weight, 304 pounds. Request landing instructions."

The controllers manning the tower immediately send notification of the emergency over the primary and secondary crash net phones.

One minute out. A half a minute out. Over the end of the runway. Touchdown. Suddenly, the right gear collapses. The craft slips sideways, and skids. It cartwheels onto the grassy margin of the runway, partially disintegrates, and its right wing tears off.

The news goes out to all support control centers at Westover AFB. People of the disaster response force rush out of their shops and offices for their cars. They each have important things to do.

Within seconds, the fire department's P-2 and P-4 crash trucks, already on the scene, rush to the wreckage. Fire fighters in hooded protective suits pull bodies from the wreckage as flames begin darting through the twisted metal. Other firemen begin dousing the blaze with foam. Almost simultaneously other members of the response force reach the flightline.

"Fuel is spilling from the aircraft. Fire is spreading from the downwind side of the wreckage," reports the fire chief.

The medics give first aid to three severely injured crew members. It is too late for the fourth. Ambulances, sirens wailing and lights flashing, carry off the wounded to nearby hospitals. Meanwhile, security police go from building to building near the accident, telling occupants to clear out. Other security people are busy setting up a 2,000-foot "circle of safety"—a cordon—completely encircling the burning hulk.

A high-ranking officer, representing the wing commander, acts as the on-scene commander, relaying information to the command post and making on-the-spot de-

isions to prevent loss of life or property. He's at least 2,000 feet upwind of the disaster. The distance helps prevent further injuries from low-order detonations. The location of the on-scene commander becomes the entry control point. It is the only way out of or into the cordoned area.

In the wing command post, the wing commander and his staff listen to crash net radios amid a clatter of ringing telephones. The wing commander passes instructions in a crisp voice to his key officers and to his representative on the scene, the on-scene commander, and to the disaster control team.

Back at the scene, the fire department's efforts to extinguish the blazing JP-4-soaked wreckage are not yet successful. Apparently extinguished, flames burst forth again and again in different parts of the wreckage.

Suddenly, a cloud of yellow smoke emerges from the twisted fuselage containing the radioactive material. The fire chief knows this means the weapons have been engulfed in flames and could explode.

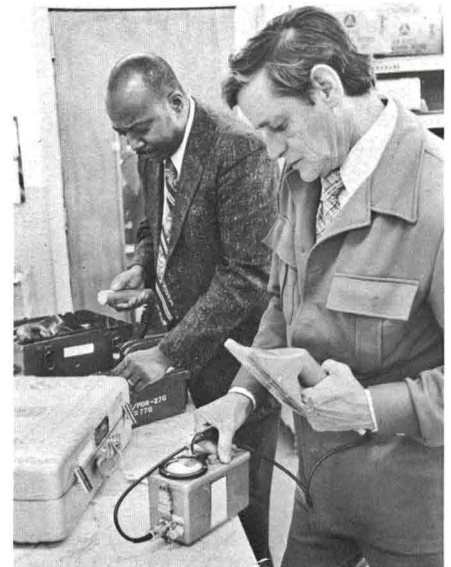
For the safety of the fire fighters and other disaster response people, the on-scene commander orders withdrawal. They retreat to the entry control point.

Though there is little chance of a nuclear detonation of critical—nuclear—mass, still when the high explosives go off, finely divided radioactive plutonium is blown all over. It emits dangerous alpha radiation.

At the sight of the yellow smoke the disaster prep officer gives an order to prepare for an explosion.

Dozens of figures—firemen, medics, chaplains, civil engineers, everybody else on the response team—take cover, huddling behind vehicles at the entry control point.

An explosion rips through the burning plane. There is an enormous hole in the fuselage. Debris is scattered about. Some smoldering wreckage has blown against one of the evacuated buildings, partially



**CHECKING DISASTER RESPONSE EQUIPMENT** are Ralph Nugent, right, disaster preparedness officer and his assistant, John Wilson.

caving in a wall and threatening to set the structure afire.

Almost as fast as word has gone to higher headquarters, news (and rumors!) have begun leaking off base. After approval by the wing commander, a news release goes out to local media to fill the dangerous rumor gap. Reporters and TV cameramen begin to arrive at the Industrial and Main gates. The information officer takes over; he establishes a news media center, and when safe to do so, escorts the media reps to the disaster scene.

Meanwhile, good discipline, experience gained from exercises and adherence to procedures at the accident have prevented injuries from the conventional explosions. Good control by the security police has kept the uninvolved outside of 2,000 feet and prevented a circle of dead or injured "rubber-necks."

(Continued on page 7)

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