



# THE PATRIOT



439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING

WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE, MASS.

Vol. IV, No. 12

December, 1977

## On-The-Spot Reports

### **ORI and BOLD EAGLE Test Our Unit's Personnel and Equipment**

(Stories on pages, 3, 5 and 7)



**TEAM EFFORT . . . .** Many people combine to make our aircraft ready for a launch at the Savannah ANG Field Training Site.



## Dining Hall, Car Pool, Top EAC's List

Dining Hall improvements and establishing a car pool for Westover reservists top the list of items the Enlisted Advisory Council (EAC) is working on to make life easier for Westover's citizen soldiers.

EAC President TSgt. Andy Hoffman, 905MOBSF, assigned to the wing intelligence office, said that additional Dining Hall chairs are on order to help ease the crowded conditions. Plans were also approved to turn the fire doors into extra entrances.

"It's been funded and the work orders approved, now it's just a matter of getting the work done," Sergeant Hoffman said.

Hoffman was quick to praise the quality and quantity of the work done by the dining hall staff.

"Air Force wide it's one of the best," he said. "Three meals are served on Saturday and two on Sunday while some Air Guard units serve only one a day."

The EAC is also dealing with transportation problems. Reservists without cars have trouble getting to Westover.

"There is hardly any public transportation to Westover on weekends," Sergeant Hoffman said. "So the EAC set up a task force to find an immediate and a long range solution."

The task force made up of Sgt. Wayne Wright, 905WSSF; TSgt. Thomas Erving, 905CF; TSgt Edmund Baczynski, 74AES and Sgt. David Gunderson, 901CEF, decided that car pooling was "the way to go".

They matched auto-less reservists with their driving colleagues living near by.

As a long range solution they hope to set up a more accurate indexing system listing those who want to offer rides and those who need rides.

Sergeant Hoffman said that the EAC meets every UTA Sunday and that Brig. Gen. Billy Knowles or Lt. Col. Charles Parrott attend every meeting.

He urged that all reservists make suggestions or offer criticisms to their unit EAC representative.

### 1978 UTA SCHEDULE

Jan	*13-14	Jul	15-16
Feb	11-12	Aug	*11-12
Mar	11-12	Sep	*8-9-10
Apr	8-9	Oct	14-15
May	6-7	Nov	18-19
June	10-11	Dec	9-10

Aug 13-27 Annual Tour

\*Friday evening

## Second Time in Three years

# 914th Wins Loening Trophy

The Grover Loening traveling trophy, awarded for outstanding achievements by a tactical or military airlift group, was awarded to the 914th Tactical Airlift Group for the second time in three years.

The group, part of the 439 TAW, took the award in 1975 as "The Best Flying Group in the Air Force Reserve."

The new award was presented for a variety of accomplishments from July 1, 1976 through June 30, 1977.

During the "Blizzard of '77", that hit the northeast early this year, the 914th fought winds of up to 75 knots, a wind-chill factor of 50 below and snow drifts 12 to 15 feet high, to airlift more than 1,500 tons of supplies and equipment to assist snow covered communities in western New York.

The group also did well in its two inspections held during the period and participated in last year's Brave Shield XV exercise.

## SBP Changes Proposed For Guard, Reserve

Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) changes for Reservists and National Guardsmen have been proposed to Congress.

The Department of Defense wants "to provide survivor protection to the spouse, spouse and children, children alone, or persons with insurable interests of Reservists who have completed 20 years of satisfactory Federal service but who have not yet reached age 60."

Unlike their active duty counterparts, Reservists who have served 20 or more creditable years receive no benefits until they reach age 60.

The Director of the Reserve Compensation System Study, Richard G. Altmann, told a House Armed Services Subcommittee on Sept. 15 that the proposal is developed on the basic premise that there would be no additional cost to the Government, although there would be initial cash flow changes after enactment into law.

**MSgt. Joseph Delvecchio**, 56, 439CSG civil engineer, passed away on Oct. 14. He was a 33 year military service veteran. Sergeant Delvecchio, twice recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross, leaves a wife and two children. Donations to the Doctor Paul Kornbrith Cancer Research Clinic, Massachusetts General Hospital, are being accepted in Sergeant Delvecchio's memory.

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THE PATRIOT staff joins the Westover community in expressing our heartfelt condolences to **Mr. and Mrs. Roy A. McCord** on the death of their daughter, **Rebecca Balboni** and son-in-law, **Steven**. The couple, married three months ago, died in an automobile accident on Oct. 28.

\*\*\*\*\*

Our condolences are extended to the families of two women, both employed at Westover AFB for over 30 years, who died recently. **Miss Mary A. O'Connor** was the deputy finance officer, and **Mrs. Margaret Haverly** was chief of the 99 CSG's Publications Management Branch. Both had retired shortly after the main SAC units were deactivated at the base.

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 Information Officer**  
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## 439th TAW "Can Do" Attitude Prevails:

### A Personal Perspective

By Major Rudolph G. DiLuzio

We arrived at Westover at dusk on a Friday, about to participate in what has been billed as a first of its kind exercise for a Reserve unit. A deployment of personnel, equipment, and materials to two forward operating bases. One at Savannah, Georgia, and one at Gulfport, Mississippi. And, oh yes, It's all being done in conjunction with an ORI. "Are these people for real?", you ask yourself.

Well, here we go. Sign-in is out of the way and everyone is doing his thing. Sure makes for a long day to 2200 hours. What? We're scheduled for mobility processing at WHAT TIME? But 0140 means A.M. We'll be there all night! As it turns out, "we" are not. The processing is down to a science and things really are moving along. It's now 2 a.m. and our group has completed its gauntlet of I.D. and dog-tag check, shot records, and other pertinent personnel checks. That's it until anti-hijack processing at 8 a.m. That's it, that is, for our group. There are still others coming through after us, and the mobility processing people will be at it well after the sun comes up.

The sun is up, and many of the same faces (albeit, a bit drawn) are still at it, processing us for the deployment mission. Manifest and anti-hijack procedures out of the way, it's off to our aircraft. Arriving at Savannah at 4 p.m. you begin to marvel at the fact that this deployment is all coming together.

The C130s are rolling in with personnel, baggage and equipment. Busses meet the people as they deplane. Aerial port flight personnel quickly off-load the materials, and things are in full swing for Saturday night. Not the usual Saturday night, though, because at 9 p.m. we're going to launch the first of the ORI C130 missions from Savannah.

Meanwhile, many of the Savannah arrivals are transferring over to aircraft taking them to their final destination, Gulfport, where the C123 missions will begin tomorrow. In all today, the 439th has deployed over 500 personnel from Westover and Niagara to Savannah, with some 132 personnel going to Gulfport. In addition, the Wing has transported approximately 75 tons of cargo. Not bad for a day's work.

Billeting taken care of and operating locations found, many are off to the dining hall for a quick supper. Obviously we're going to find some horrendous delays there and who knows what for food. But how about that? The line moves swiftly and the food isn't bad at all. In fact, there's a choice of entrees. And this despite the fact that

they're operating short-handed and with inexperienced help. Amazing.

#### Down To Business

At Savannah, the mission activities are focused around a small cluster of low-level buildings off the ramp area. The C130s from Westover and Niagara are silhouetted against the darkening sky. The aircraft are being prepared for the ORI CDS drop, a small bundle parachute drop simulating an actual paratrooper drop. At the Command Post, at the 337th/328th Provisional Tactical Airlift Squadron (PTAS), at support activity centers, all the preparation and planning is moving to the action stage. It won't be long now.

You can't help but be impressed with what you see at PTAS Operations. Direction is being given in a low-key professional way. If any problems exist, there aren't any visible signs. These people know what they're doing, and virtually every move is being watched by the ORI Team people who seem to be there every time you turn around. Pressure? You bet there is!

It's now 8:30 p.m. and the C130s are winding-up for the 9 p.m. take-off. The engine roar from our aircraft is deafening, reverberating off the small cluster of buildings that makeup the wing command complex. But still, a group slowly materializes

(Continued on page 8)



901 CAMS Personnel  
"Tune" an Engine



On-Loading at Westover



## 58APS Gets Excellent MEI

A Management Effectiveness Inspection (MEI) was performed on the 58 Aerial Port Squadron (APS) by MAC headquarters IG team, Scott AFB, Ill., during the November UTA.

All facets of the 58 APS were examined, including OJT, administration, management, materials handling, safety, loading procedures and organization.

The overall rating of the 58 APS MEI was excellent with particular credit given to the areas of the Material Handling Equipment Program and loading operations.

Also receiving special recognition was the appearance of the 58 APS facility and troops.

Complimentary remarks were made concerning the morale, motivation and attitude of 58 APS personnel.

Westover salutes the Civil Air Patrol on the occasion of its 36th Anniversary. This national organization, (a nonprofit corporation that has been an official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force since 1948,) is made up of some 64,000 aviation-minded citizens committed to serving our Nation. They help meet local and national emergencies, encourage the public to learn more about air and space matters, and motivate young men and women to take leadership and service roles in the community.

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Westover will be closed to air traffic during the Christmas and New Year holidays from Dec. 24 at 7 a.m., to Dec. 26 at 11 p.m., and from Dec. 31, 7 a.m. to Jan. 2, 11 p.m.

## Pruyne New MAC Advisor

Maj. Kermit K. Pruyne replaced Lt. Col. Roger Haneline as MAC advisor for the 731 Tactical Airlift Squadron on Aug. 30, upon Lt. Col. Haneline's reassignment to Howard AFB, Panama.

Major Pruyne is a 15 year, active duty, former operations analyst from Scott AFB, Ill. His new role as MAC advisor includes piloting of C-123s and advising personnel of the 731st squadron to insure the capability of the squadron to function efficiently within MAC, upon mobilization.

Major Pruyne has been selected for promotion to lieutenant colonel.

## Freer Named Personnel Technician

TSgt. James F. Freer, 439 CSG, base career advisor, was cited by the 14 Air Force (R) as its outstanding personnel technician for the AFRES competition.

Sergeant Freer coordinates and guides the Career Motivation and Retention program designed to provide information on career opportunities and integrate the needs and goals of the individual and the Air Force Reserve.

With the assistance of unit career advisors, Sergeant Freer provides the counseling necessary for Air Force Reservists to find their place in the Air Force mission.

## BRIEFS

The 70th Aeromedical Evacuation Flight joins the 439th's 914 TAG on Jan. 1, 1978 with its reassignment from the 926 TAG. The unit will move from its present Naval Air Station site in New Orleans to Niagara Falls. The transfer follows the 926th's conversion from C-130s to A-37 Fighters and redesignation as the 926 Tactical Fighter Group.

\*\*\*\*\*

A tip of the hat (and a loosening of the belt) to the 439th's Dining Hall personnel. They outdid themselves (again) on Sunday, Nov. 20 with a Thanksgiving turkey dinner, from soup to pumpkin pie. We're thankful.

\*\*\*\*\*

Westover boasts over the fact we had two of the four honor graduates from basic training at Lackland AFB in October. Amn. John H. Letteny, to be assigned to the 901 APF after schooling at Sheppard AFB; and AB Jor H. Ohlin, joining the wing's Intelligence Office after specialized training at Lowry AFB, are the two welcome additions to the unit.

\*\*\*\*\*

Privately-owned automobiles, parked overnight in the airmen dormitory parking lot, must comply with Winter parking procedures to facilitate snow removal. On all even numbered days, starting at 6 p.m. and continuing to 6 p.m. the following day, cars must be parked on the dormitory side of the lot. On odd numbered days, these cars must be on the Rose Avenue side.



### ENLISTED

SSgt. Raymond W. Benoit  
SSgt. Jon S. Berry  
SSgt. James E. Chapman  
SSgt. Mark F. Dastoli  
SSgt. Karl A. Hauss  
SSgt. Benny Martin

Sgt. Richard J. Anderson  
Sgt. Clinton A. Gibbs, Jr.  
Sgt. Janet R. Malouin  
SrA Raymond L. Cloutier  
SrA James P. Lapsertis  
SrA Harold E. Rhodes, Jr.  
A1C Henry W. Douglas, Jr.  
A1C Thomas J. Murphy  
A1C Walter A. Schleicher  
A1C Bruce M. Von Kummer  
AB Ronald C. Baldwin  
AB Dolores A. Hunt  
AB Gregory A. Nash  
AB Robert R. Robinson  
AB Theldor Wilkins

### REASSIGNED

Capt. Derle M. Snyder  
Sgt. Dana P. Tardif  
Amn. Chris C. Crews

### PROMOTIONS

Maj. John O. Harris

### REENLISTED

CMSgt. Joseph S. Dimartino  
TSgt. Klaus P. Fecke  
TSgt. Alan R. Garside  
SSgt. Robert B. Fetherston  
SSgt. Marshall R. Hathaway  
SSgt. Josephine Johnson  
SSgt. Kenneth A. Johnson  
Sgt. Michael Major  
Sgt. Richard L. Pease  
SrA Eugene P. Butler

### TO STANDBY RESERVE

Col. Frank E. Kachinski

TSgt. Albert S. L. Shaw  
SSgt. Theodore R. Geoffrey  
SSgt. Peter P. Kolnicki  
SSgt. Herman J. Levasseur  
SSgt. Ernest W. Tirendi  
Sgt. Robert W. Ayers  
Sgt. Terence M. Brennan  
Sgt. Leeman M. Foss  
Sgt. David J. Talix  
SrA Paul J. Amoroso  
A1C Barbara J. Moores  
A1C Sandra A. Price  
AB Dorene G. Bara  
AB Lynette Talburt

### DISCHARGED

SSgt. Peter A. Desaulniers  
SSgt. Bernard J. Lucido  
SSgt. Stephen F. Schink



# 439th Displays Diversity and Dexterity

By Betty O'Connell

When word was given that everyone had to pitch in—today you may be an information officer—tomorrow you may be driving a bus — someone knew just what he was talking about.

Travelling with a unit which has been mobilized brought out a lot of adjectives—tiring, inspiring, interesting, eye-opening, at times frustrating, but most of all, it brought out a pride in the unit I didn't know I had.

With a few UNnotable exceptions, people seemed to enjoy their extra-curricular activities. If you could pick out the letters on the machine, you might be called on to type. If you sat at a desk, the telephone was yours to answer. Deep in thought on what to do next, and somebody says, Are you doing anything? The automatic "No" answer was rewarded with a trip (on foot) across the complex to reproduce a "flimsy" in a hurry for the IG. So what if you had no lunch before you boarded the plane? The answer given many, many times before the two and a half weeks were ended—"War is Hell!"

Of all the sections to be short-changed by lack of personnel, the dining room was hurting the most. Those guys and gals in our dining hall are super beings. Despite the fact they just about worked around the clock, at Gulfport there was always a smile or a pleasant word from them. It seems to be inherent in these "chow hall" personnel. By the time I got to Savannah, the rough spots had been ironed out, but word from the troops who had been there from the beginning was that our people there did a fantastic job, too.

A1C Maryann Kulas and A1C Mike Spano, neither of whom appears old enough to even be in The Reserves, were an inspiration to everyone at the Georgia site.

## Help From Many Sources

After settling in at primitive (the kindest word we'll use to describe them) quarters at Gulfport, finding out they were pretty much alone, but knowing somebody had to get going, TSgt. Ron Perrault and SSgt. Vin Lingley met MSgt. LaVerne Garriga. An air technician with the Mississippi ANG (MANG) whose normal assignment is in the unit's Equipment Management Office, he "bent over backwards" according to the personnel with Westover's advance party, to accommodate every person in the party, no matter what their affiliation or unit.

Besides working many hours helping our people to get straightened out, including physically assisting with the equipment inventory, he put on an impromptu spread at the All Ranks Club, including an oyster buffet. Then he tended the bar. When we told him how grateful we all were, he said,



Briefing New Arrivals At Gulfport

"That's what I'm here for." Our first sample of Southern hospitality.

And that was only the beginning. Dobbins AFB had sent over two NCOs to run the dining hall administration. Sergeants Perrault and Lingley were more than happy to have SMSgt. Frank Shelton and MSgt. Thomas Lyons cutting up vegetables for salad and frying steaks. Another airman, SSgt. Irving Colby, a sheet metal worker with the 901 CAMS, heard the dining hall was looking for help, so he came over to offer his services—he never got blisters working on airplane parts, but he did cutting spuds for two days.

Ever hear of Mean Archie Green from Dobbins? Someone detailed him to help the cooks. "Not me," he said. But of course he reported, reluctantly, and the enthusiasm abounding in the Gulfport dining hall rubbed off on him, too. He could be seen every day cooking breakfast, and apparently loving every minute of it.

Would you believe a logistics officer baking? Well, that's just what Lt. Col. Jerold Peery from Dobbins AFB did. But this kind of pitching in was not confined to the dining hall. Our MSgt. Frank Ludwig and TSgt. "Annie" Daugherty did double duty as switchboard operators—and that was after doing a day's work as personnel specialists.

## More Unusual Tasks

A projected shortage of bus drivers resulted in MSgt. Clay Gallant, Wing Training, being conscripted for service at Gulfport. One day he got behind the wheel of a bus, and it was a long time before he turned the bus over to another driver.

We're bound to overlook somebody who did an outstanding job, but we've tried to

point out those who found themselves in unusual jobs; something outside of their normal assignment. That includes the two young women from the 901 Mobility Support Flight, Amn. Elise Carey and Amn. Claire Gaudreau. Normally working in Inventory Management, they served food and scrubbed grills until 10 o'clock the night the C-123 crews landed at Gulfport.

This kind of good citizen act was not limited to Westover personnel. Did you see that young Sgt. John Sentman, a Life Support technician from Niagara? After finishing his assigned work at Savannah, he drove a crew bus, cat-napping between his chores.

She may be pint-sized, but her enthusiasm and spirit are ten-gallon sized. SrA Louise Young, a medical technician, put in countless hours at the dining hall in Savannah. And at the same time, she managed to get the troops from the entire operation together for an occasional social hour or picnic, in between all the other mission activity.

Col. John F. Newell, Jr., commander of the 1st Provisional Tactical Airlift Wing, the unit established for the Bold Eagle exercise, has sent a letter to the commander of the 118th Tactical Airlift Wing (Tennessee Air National Guard) at Nashville, Tenn., thanking their personnel for the outstanding help they gave us. Their tour of duty was ended on October 30, but they volunteered to stay on to help wherever they could.

Receiving special notice and thanks were four of their loadmasters who had come to augment the Guard crews and stayed to augment the Reserves. Two members of the 118 CAMS stayed for the duration to help at the dining hall.

(Continued on page 8)



## First Reserve Force Tested

# 439th Takes New ORI, Falls Short

Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI)—the primary evaluation of a unit's capability to fulfill its mission—became even more realistic as the 439 TAW completed an inspection calling for the actual deployment of troops and cargo to a forward operating base. The 439th is the first Air Reserve unit to be so tested. Previously, the exercise simulated this second base involvement.

While active duty units have been tested under the "new look" ORI for the past 18 months, the 439th took the new ORI challenge one step further. The 439th, operating from Westover and Niagara Falls, deployed to two forward, standby, bare-base locations, Air National Guard Training Sites at Savannah, Ga., and Gulfport, Miss. No other unit, active duty or reserve, has ever attempted such a feat.

The 439th's efforts, however, met with only partial success. While it was praised for its ambitious undertaking, the wing was not able to successfully pass one critical aspect of the inspection at the four locations and received an "unsatisfactory" rating from the inspection team from Scott AFB, Ill.

Some units will take a "limited ORI" in January, and be tested in those areas deemed deficient.

The ORI and its mobility processing was the first part of a two-week 439th involvement in exercise BOLD EAGLE. (See stories, pages, 3, 5 and 7.)

The inspection, between Oct. 21 and Oct. 24, evaluated the wing in two areas: "Deployment Reliability" and "Employment Effectiveness."

The deployment portion focused on the 731 and 337 TAS at Westover and the 328 TAS at Niagara. The three flying squadrons successfully launched all of their aircraft and all arrived at the forward operating bases on time.



Picking up a Pallet at Gulfport

The inspection's second phase, the employment, evaluated the units' operations at the four locations. Aircraft and crews performed short field take-offs and landings; made actual Container Delivery System drops (CDS) within designated areas and simulated personnel drops. It also evaluated critical areas of command and control, mobility, aircraft maintenance, supply, physical security, operational aircrew, intelligence, 901st and 905th CEF, aircrew testing and security awareness.

The Military Airlift Command inspection team outbriefed Westover's personnel on Nov. 19.

Their summary was followed by an appraisal by Brig. Gen. Edward Dillon, 14AF (R) commander. "In the past, the 439th has always taken the lead and set the example. This ORI is no exception. Other units, active duty and reserve, will look to your successes and shortcomings and draw from your experiences."

He was followed by Brig. Gen. Billy Knowles, 439 TAW commander, who congratulated the wing's personnel on their accomplishments, telling them, "The only problem we have is for you to understand what you did and be damn proud of it!"



PRIDE OF THE FLEET. A C-123 Provider and a C-130 Hercules pose proudly on Westover's flightline.



# BOLD EAGLE: A Monumental Undertaking

By SSgt. Marshall R. Hathaway

More than 30,000 members from all elements of the U.S. Armed Forces clashed in "battle" during October and November in a joint readiness exercise designated "Bold Eagle 78." Conducted by the U.S. Readiness Command (REDCOM), it employed the Total Force Policy. Guard and Reserve personnel accounted for 15% of the forces involved. Nearly 400 of them were from Westover.

Like last year's Brave Shield XV, the 439th TAW played a vital role in this year's exercise. Our wing was the AFRES field planning agent, and exercised command at the deployed locations. We supplied aerial port support at Eglin AFB, Fla., (the range where the "war" was actually fought); air-lift support for the friendly forces from Savannah Air National Guard Field Training Site (FTS), Ga., and in-theater tactical airlift for the aggressor forces flying out of Gulfport FTS, Miss.

By pitting opposing armed forces together in a mock war, exercises such as Bold Eagle are designed to provide an opportunity for participating units to operate in an environment involving more than one service, and to achieve a realistic training in joint tactics, techniques and procedures.

SrA Dulany Ney, who provided historical coverage at both locations, portrays a spectator's view of our involvement as she describes a night mission conducted by the 731 TAS:

"It was certainly impressive to see the lights snaking along through the sky, following one right after the other, coming

faintly silhouetted then catching a glimpse of black wings, engines whining, the whirl of motion, lights of all planes clearly visible now and suddenly the sky filled with twinkling lights swaying gently to the ground. Plane after plane dipped and dropped their load and were swallowed by the darkness. Quiet again settled into the area."

## AFRES A Key Ingredient

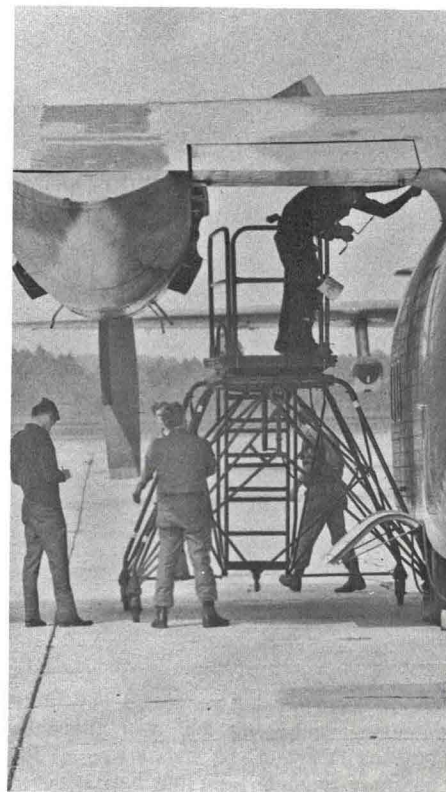
AFRES units provided 40 aircraft and the necessary support personnel to participate in all three phases of the operation, beginning with deployment of personnel and equipment from October 11 to 23. Phase two was the field training segment from Oct. 24 to 30, and the final phase, the re-deployment, took place from Oct. 31 through Nov. 11.

43 members of the 58 APS, all performing their annual tour, were deployed to Florida, operating at Eglin's Main Field and its auxiliary, Hurlburt Field, during phases one and three. Their mission was the off-loading and loading of material and passengers from the C-130s, C-141s and C-5As.

Their sister squadron, the 59 APS, did the same type of work at Westover, and provided three of their members for the full period of time at Gulfport and Savannah.

## Gulfport Operations

The FTS at Gulfport was home for the C-123 operations. There our people combined with other AFRES and active duty units to form the 7th Provisional Tactical Airlift Group and to provide airlift support for the aggressor forces. Eight of the 731 TAS's



Checking That Last Bolt

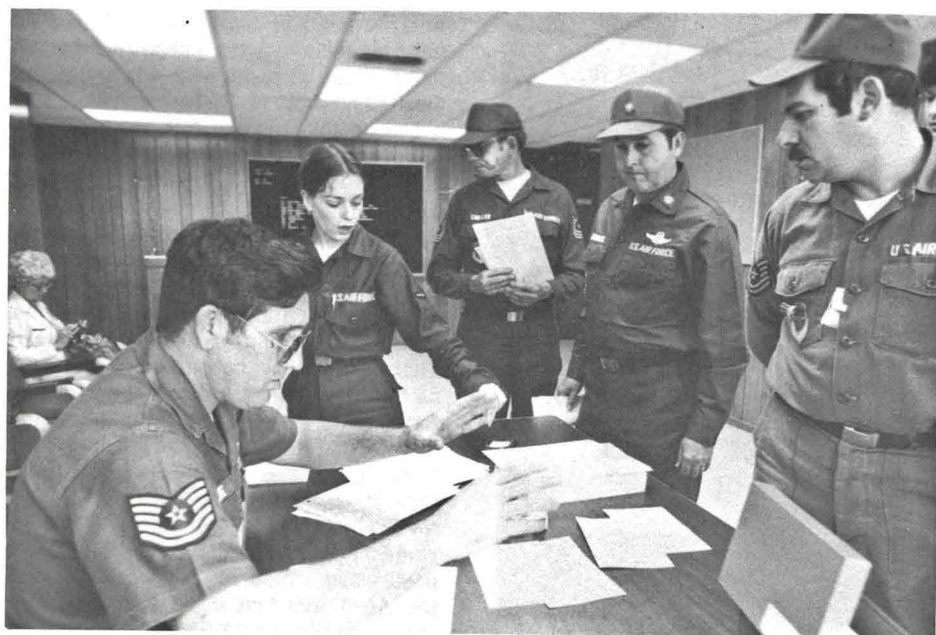
Providers, joined by six C-7 Caribous from Dobbins AFB and Maxwell AFB aided the "bad guys" with air land and air drop missions delivering personnel, rations, munitions and supplies in the Eglin range "war zone."

Westover personnel were in charge of the 7PTAG commanded by Lt. Col. Charles R. Parrott, while the combat support squadron was headed by Maj. Jack R. Pitman.

## Savannah Operations

Westover personnel also "ran the show" at the ANG Field Training Site in Savannah, Ga., the airlift support bastion of the "good guys." Commander of the 1st Provisional Tactical Airlift Wing there was Col. John F. Newell, Jr., with Col. J. Frank Moore holding the reins of the support elements.

As at Gulfport, various units melded into a consolidated work force. Flight crews of the 337 TAS and their C-130s aided friendly forces by providing airlift support for the initial airborne assault at Eglin. Plans included air drop missions of paratroopers and heavy equipment at the Eglin Range, but low ceilings caused a switch to air-land operations. 1PTAW engagements also included the redeployment of the 82nd Airborne Division to Fort Bragg, NC., with drops and landings.



In-Processing at Gulfport

(Continued on page 10)





Home Away From Home

## "Can Do" . . .

(Continued from page 3)

outside Base Ops. They're all out there watching, each with his own thoughts. Someone refers to the engine roar as the "sound of freedom". He may have called it pretty well, because there's a feeling here that "this is what it's all about". The reason for units like the 439th.

"A beautiful sight", remarks one observer as the planes roll out into taxi formation. "One more beautiful sight to see," remarks another, "to see all of them up there."

Takeoff begins. Number one is airborne, two, three, four, five, . . . and more. They all made it! Now there's the wait for their return in some 55 minutes. And back they are, on schedule. The parking operations themselves are a beautiful sight to watch out on the ramp area. The lights from planes, Follow-Me vehicles, and ramp personnel form intricate patterns that would be the envy of a choreographer.

### After Action

The night, however, isn't over for the aircrews. They still have to go through a debriefing which will cover operations and intelligence aspects of the mission. By 11 p.m., the crews will be released for crew-rest. Tomorrow is another day when they go at it again with a daytime CDS drop plus a Heavy Equipment (HE) mission to Pope AFB, N.C. One "hell'uva" weekend.

So what did we accomplish? We successfully executed an infinitely complex logistical exercise. We again demonstrated the outstanding flying and support skills of our Wing team. And, we have shown that the "Can Do" motto doesn't belong exclusively to a sister service organization (the Navy's Seabees). It belongs to us as well.



Enjoying Chow at Savannah



Right Idea . . . Wrong Letters

## 439th Displays . . .

(Continued from page 5)

One of their men worked untiringly in Base Operations, while their audio-visual technician pitched in and set up a photo lab for our Information Office.

Among the other lessons learned and experience gained, we saw a prime example of how the Guard and Reserves can work in harmony; those men from Nashville sure proved it.

### Not All Work

Despite the long hours our people put in at both Gulfport and Savannah, they managed to find time to relax. Softball games were the order of the day (or night) at both locations. The activity proved "war" is not the only producer of casualties. Capt. Richard Orpheus, 337 TAS, incurred the most damage; he sustained a badly-broken leg and will be on crutches and in a cast for some time. Meanwhile, the captain is furthering his military career by taking professional military education courses while at home.

Most of the other injuries were minor, not the least of which were a few bruised egos. For instance, did you see the newly-promoted lieutenant colonel who just couldn't seem to keep his borrowed 'cycle upright? We're sorry there was never a camera handy when he and the bike upended in some well-camouflaged ditch.

Most of the people at both locations walked around the bases, since nothing was very far from the main arena, but the situation encountered by a team of airmen from the 901 APF certainly wasn't on the program. Their vehicle sunk in the mud at the drop zone, and there was no help available. They walked a good distance to a farmhouse to seek aid, and instead of letting them use the telephone, the farmer sicked his dogs on them. They were thankful the next farmer was more hospitable; he not only let them use the phone, but he provided them with refreshments while they awaited pickup.

Universally, compliments were heard at both locations for the dining hall personnel and for the menus they provided. Many epithets could be bestowed on some of the individuals who were outstanding among many outstanding people, but the title of Chowhound of the Year must go to SSgt. Greg Nolder from the 59 APS. Watching that man eat would warm any cook's heart. That must be how he worked up the stamina to do his job and still plan tours and entertainment for off-duty hours, act as tour director and yet never miss a meal.

Yes, participating in this exercise was an experience for me that will stay as one of my fondest memories. I salute the men and women of the Air Reserve Forces, but most particularly, those who showed the rest of the Air Force that there's a good reason why we call ourselves the Number One Wing.



## 600 Full-Time Personnel for 442 TAW at Richards-Gebaur AFB

Approximately 600 full-time personnel are now supporting and operating the Air Force Reserve's 442nd TAW and its supporting units, as Richards-Gebaur becomes an Air Force Reserve base.

Of the 1600 personnel authorized for Hq 442 TAW and its supporting units, 1,363 are Reservists, 210 are air reserve technicians and 27 are full-time civil service employees. The 442nd will be supported by approximately 200 additional personnel of either civil service or contract status.

The balance will be Air Force active duty and civilians providing advisory, air traffic control, communications and other services. Richards-Gebaur became a Reserve base with the transfer of Hq Air Force Communications Service to Scott AFB, Ill.

## Medical Units Benefit From 14AF Visit

A helping hand from the 14th Air Force Surgeon's Office was sent to the 74th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron (AES) and the 439th Tactical Hospital by way of a staff assistance visit (SAV) in November. The eight member visiting team was on hand from Nov. 17 through the UTA.

The assisting visitors observed and made recommendations to benefit their Westover counterparts concerning medical, administrative and training performances. The head of the medical team, Col. Melvin J. White, surgeon; the training observer, CMSgt. George Wilson; and the administrative observer, MSgt. Gene R. Williams, all 14AF (R) SAV team members, will make their final recommendations to Headquarters 14AF (R) so Westover's medical units may benefit from SAV observations.



HAPPY NEW YEAR



**BLUE ADIEU . . . .** MSgt. Helen McCarthy, 901CF telecon communications operations supervisor, receives an inscribed Paul Revere bowl from Maj. Allen M. Salus, flight commander and fellow workers in appreciation for her dedication to the unit, at her retirement party. Prior to the party she was awarded an Air Force Commendation Medal at the unit's retreat ceremony. Sergeant McCarthy gave the Air Force 23 years of outstanding management and training of communications personnel, and this poem:

## MY SAD GOOD-BYE TO AIR FORCE BLUE

*The day has come when I bid a sad adieu  
To my presence in good ole Air Force blue.  
The friends I have made, I shall never forget  
For they are by far the best I've ever met.  
The memories, the stories, the heartaches and  
the joys and yes, sometimes the fears  
I'll be forever grateful for those 23 precious years.*

*Yes, it's true, I am very proud to have served  
The best, the 901st Comm Flt Reserve.  
I'm proud to have done my part in some small way  
To help protect the fine country we have today.*

*I still get misty eyed and my heart pumps, oh, so fast  
When Old Glory is hoisted to the top of the flagpole mast  
To hear the band signal for the parade to pass in review  
To give my all to God and Country, as a good American should do.*

*And so good-bye to the good ole Air Force Reserve  
I hope I have given my all, you so rightly deserved.*

Helen McCarthy, MSG USAFR



## Bold Eagle . . .

(Continued from page 7)

The 1PTAW and 7 PTAG combined flew a total of 113 missions, representing a total of 512.2 flight hours. There were 600.4 tons of cargo airlifted and 1,675 personnel air landed.

### Accomplishments

Bold Eagle 78 didn't happen overnight. Westover's unique involvement began six months prior to deployment, and the planning stage was a long haul. Many people and many hours went into these first-of-a kind preparations. The fruits of their efforts were bountiful—Bold Eagle accomplished what it was intended to do.



Unloading Baggage



Unloading at Savannah

According to Lt. Col. Arthur Sorenson, the exercise project officer, every member of the wing benefitted in the process of being different. "We set the pace for tactical airlift training for other units. We learned some valuable lessons by actually deploying our forces to forward operating bases, and relying wholly on our own people for 100% of the support required. In the process of testing ourselves, we have tested some long-accepted planning factors and found that it's time to re-think some of them.

"And with all the new challenge and new experience, our accomplishments exceeded our expectations. Perhaps more significantly, we got a taste of training the way we expect to fight."

## President Carter's Statement of Support

The following statement from President Carter concerning support of federal employee participation in Reserve Forces training programs is forwarded for your information and appropriate utilization. "I have today signed a statement pledging that all federal agencies will support their employees' participation in the programs of the National Guard and Reserve. Our nation continues to depend for its defense upon our Reserve forces. Under the total force concept, Reserve forces would perform critical missions in any future conflict. My administration is committed to ensuring that these vital forces are fully manned, well trained, well equipped and capable of rapid mobilization and integration into the active force in time of national emergency.

The programs available in the Reserve offer an excellent opportunity for many young men and women to learn valuable skills while also serving their nation.

I call upon employers throughout the nation, both public and private, to join me in continued support of these programs, which are so necessary to our national defense".

## Hanukkah Message from the Secretary of the Air Force

To Air Force men and women of the Jewish faith, I want to extend my warm greetings and best wishes for the Hanukkah holiday. Hanukkah has served over the centuries as an inspiration to mankind in its quest for freedom from political and religious tyranny. May it continue as a bright beacon in the search for world peace and tranquility, and may it bring joy and happiness to each of you and your families.

*John C. Stetson,  
Secretary of the Air Force.*

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Another example of Westover personnel volunteering their time and efforts is the *Westover Chapter 11, Disabled Veterans*. Through their participation at a local flea market on Sunday afternoons, these men and women were able to assist 20 veterans families on Thanksgiving Day. Thanks to their generosity, 24 more families will be helped at Christmas time.



# BRIEFS

Area Veterans' Day participants from base were Capt. Michael Choffel, 1917 Comm. Sq. commander, and Brig. Gen. Billy M. Knowles, 439 TAW commander. Captain Choffel spoke at the Holyoke War Memorial services. General Knowles spoke about the origin and meaning behind the veterans' holiday at the Leeds Veterans' Hospital, and marched in a three-mile parade in Northampton, Mass.

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Sgt. James Lambert, 905 CEF heating system specialist, received the "Top Student in Class" award following the completion of the 10-week Heating Specialist System School held at Sheppard AFB, Texas. This special technical course covered various areas relating to heating efficiency and energy conservation. Laboratory experiments demonstrated the relative efficiencies of boilers and fuels.

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Lt. Gen. John P. Flynn, the Air Force Inspector General, and the senior prisoner of war in Hanoi, will be the guest speaker at the 439th's Officer Dining Out on Saturday, Dec. 10, at 7 p.m. Tickets, at \$12.50 each, are still available at the open mess. Appropriate dress is black mess dress or tuxedo, or evening gown.

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## "Aeromed" Exercise Slated For Westover

Westover and its 74th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron (AES) will host a tactical aeromedical evacuation field training exercise for 14th Air Force (Reserve) aeromedical evacuation (AE) units in July, 1978. The intensive training program will involve 750 persons including medical, technical and support personnel.

A similar exercise was hosted here in 1975 when 700 reservists participated in a ten day program.

The rigorous training itinerary calls for the establishment and operation of six Mobile Aeromedical Staging Facilities (MASF) by each unit. Tents, erected near airstrips, serve as the center of operation. Adding to the realism, moulage experts create typical battlefield wounds, including broken bones, shrapnel wounds and various diseases, on volunteer patients. Examiners in each MASF ask the medics and technicians exactly what they are doing and why in order to check their work and to simulate the pressure of a battlefield situation.

In an actual combat occurrence, each AE crew is responsible for treating casualties, accompanying patients out of the combat area in an evacuation aircraft and finally to the nearest overseas U. S. Air Force base for later transport to a hospital within the United States.



## Wing Commander's Message

By Brig. Gen. Billy M. Knowles

Entering the holiday season most of us pause occasionally to reflect upon the immediate past, project the near future and acknowledge our many blessings and good fortunes. We in the 439th Tactical Airlift Wing can certainly identify with such reflections.

Our immediate past has been a real hummer. Just think what we've done, where we've been, since January 1977 blew in on a cold Arctic air mass. People going places and doing things—meaningful things—readiness things. You have reason to be proud of yourselves and your accomplishments.

You can bet our near future (1978) will be full of promise. No one can imagine the 439th resting upon its laurels. There is still much to do: in training, in testing and in fine tuning our readiness posture. But perhaps the prime challenges for '78 are manning, skill level and RETENTION. Our greatest achievements will be realized when we are 100% manned with 70% skill manning and 60% retention among our non-prior service or first term airmen.

As for blessings and good fortune, we could all list so many. Second only to peace, however, was our greatest good fortune—the miraculous safety of our aircrew after a catastrophic C-123K accident. Their professional skills were augmented by assistance from our creator.

Please let me extend to you and your loved ones a most sincere wish for continued good health and happiness. While we're about our way being good people, let's continue to be good Americans.



82nd Airborne Troops at Eglin

439 TAW volunteer membership drive chairman for the forthcoming Air Force Sergeants Association membership drive is SMSgt. Robert Johns, 439CSG/DPM.



# Christmas Message From The Chief of Air Force Reserve

"As the holiday season approaches I want to extend to all of you, who voluntarily serve to maintain the vigilance necessary to preserve our liberty, and our way of life, my personal appreciation for your continued support.

While the traditional concepts of peace on earth, good will toward men are especially dear to us at this time of the year, it is your day-to-day efforts that keep these cherished values alive.

I sincerely wish all of you and your families a joyful holiday season and a new year filled with happiness. May 1978 give all of us in the Air Force Reserve the opportunity to bring universal peace and good will another step closer to reality."

*Maj. Gen. William Lyon,  
Chief of Air Force Reserve*



**BIG UNDERTAKING . . . . .** 901 Aerial Port Flight personnel had a rare opportunity to off-load a C-5A on Oct. 22. The visiting aircraft's electronic gear from Pearl Harbor will be overhauled in Hartford. The complicated procedure took SMSgt. Richard Jedry, TSgt. Joseph LaFrance, SSgt. Garth Parker and SSgt. Alton Wiehe over five hours to complete.



**HQ 439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING (AFRES)  
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