



THE PATRIOT



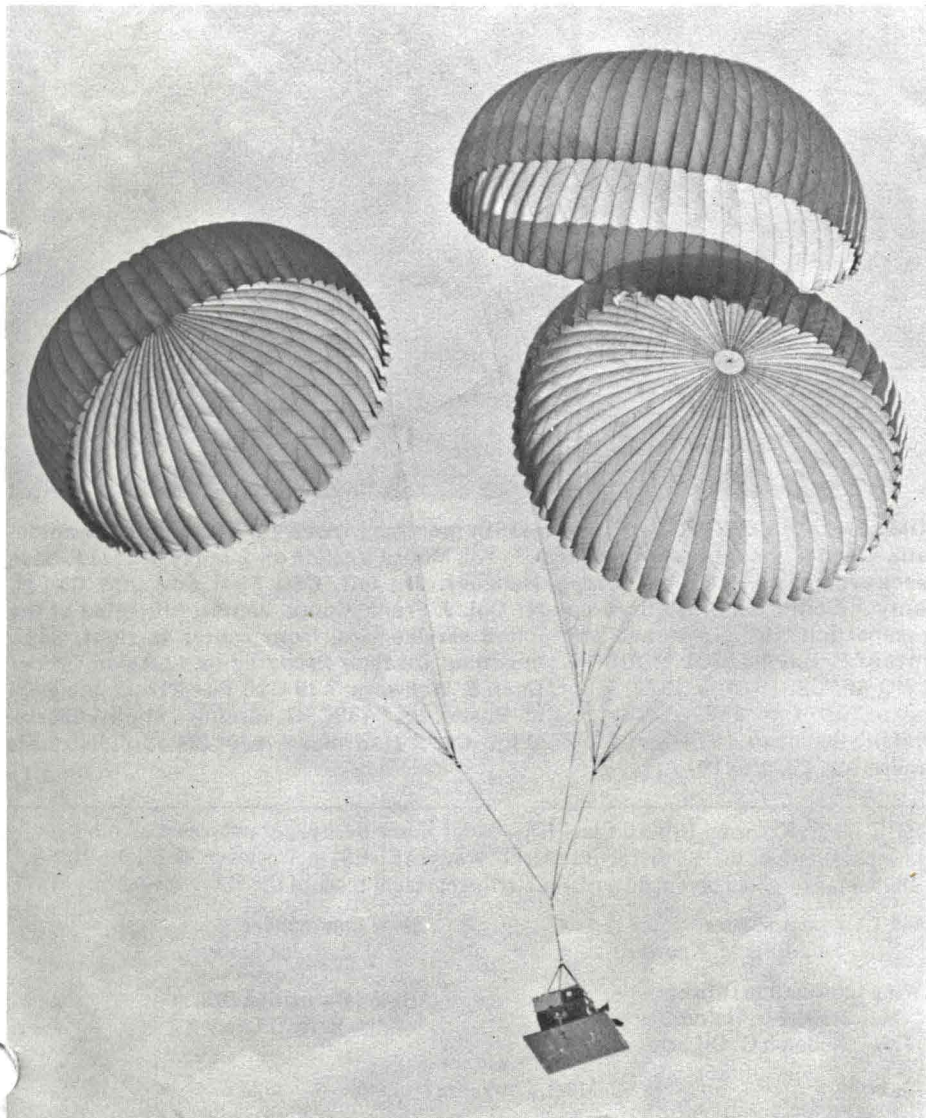
439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING

WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE, MASS.

Vol. V, No. 1

January, 1978

439th Gets Outstanding Unit Award



JEEP DROP The drop zone was no place to be with a wind chill factor of minus forty, but training for the 905th Aerial Port Flight took on a realistic dimension on Sunday, Dec. 11. Instead of a practice pallet, unit personnel prepared a functioning jeep for the drop from a C-130.

Once again, the Air Force has recognized the accomplishments of the 439 TAW. This time, USAF Headquarters presented the unit with the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (AFOUA).

The 439th's aircraft now wear the award's distinctive red, white and blue ribbon. Any personnel assigned during the period of time covered by the award, will have this fact entered in his/her records, and may wear the ribbon forever.

A life-size replica of the ribbon, manufactured on the base, will be displayed in the lobby of Building 1850, the Base Headquarters.

The honor cites the wing's service to the country in 1975 and 1976. ". . . . the Wing consistently sought and successfully executed tactical airlift missions in support of other armed forces of the United States, enhancing the combat readiness of the Wing as well as the organizations it supported. In doing this, the Wing provided 90 percent of the overseas tactical airlift requirements of the U.S. Army 10th Special Forces Group and was the only United States Air Force tactical airlift organization on ready reserve status to participate in NATO exercises, thereby directly contributing to national objectives of international significance. The outstanding knowledge, skill, and dedication of the personnel of the Wing resulted in unprecedented achievements during an Operational Readiness/Management Effective Inspection and led to their leadership in planning, execution, command, control and analysis of all tactical airlift activities associated with the Joint Chiefs of Staff-tasked U.S. Readiness Command's Exercise Brave Shield XV."

When asked about his feelings on the latest award to come our way, Wing Wing Commander Brig. Gen. Billy M. Knowles expressed them this way, "Under similar conditions in the past, I had said I was so

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"WES CARPOOL" Gets Off The Ground

Base Commander Col. J. Frank Moore has announced that a car pooling program will be started during the January UTA, which will allow personnel to obtain or offer rides to and from residences during UTA periods.

Colonel Moore said this program, developed by SSgt. William A. Batchelder, 901 MOBSF, and indorsed by the Enlisted Advisory Council, will be a start toward assisting our personnel with UTA transportation problems.

A board will be posted in the Dormitory Office, Dining Hall and Base Exchange, giving all members an opportunity to participate in the program.

BRIEFS

The essential involvement of the 905th Aerial Port Flight (APF) in BOLD EAGLE was inadvertently omitted from the previous PATRIOT. Fourteen members participated in the exercise at Savannah and at Westover beginning with the unloading of cargo and equipment through the night of Oct. 21. At Savannah, working with the 914th APF, the loadmasters prepared the C-130's CDS bundles. The unit's recovery teams saw a lot of the Georgia countryside during the tour. They travelled to the Taylor Creek Drop Zone, two hours from their base, in a variety of vehicles, including a 40-foot flat bed truck, a lowboy tractor, a bus, pickup and a 25K adverse terrain forklift. The Patriot also wishes to correctly place Amn. John Letteny (basic training honor graduate) in the 905APF, rather than the 901APF, as reported last month.

Westover's base basketball team played its first game of the season on Friday night, Dec. 9, and beat Spalding of the Chicopee Industrial League, 77-70.

The Morale, Welfare and Recreation Division sponsored a Christmas party on Saturday, Dec. 17, for young children of base personnel, reservists and civilian employees. Santa Claus gave the youngsters gifts and his helpers provided refreshments.

LASAGNA will be served at the evening meal Sat., Jan. 14 between 4:30 and 6 p.m. Everyone welcome.

901 WSSF Tops ORI

The 901st Weapons Systems Security Flight (WSSF) continues to receive congratulations and praise for its Outstanding rating during the recent Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI). Of a possible 200 points, the unit received a 191 score. "We received word from the inspectors that no other Air Reserve Force Weapons Flight has ever scored more points," reports MSgt. Ludwig Schwegheimer, 901 WSSF NCOIC.

Their accomplishment is even more significant because the 901st WSSF reversed its previous ORI rating of Marginal.

The unit was tested at its Gulfport location during BOLD EAGLE while completing their exercise responsibilities. Inspectors looked at weapons security, operating procedures and security exercise involvement. This included entry control into restricted areas, internal security and response to simulated exercises.

"Now there's only one problem," explains Sergeant Schwegheimer. "One of the inspectors, impressed with our efforts, rightfully asked, 'How are you going to maintain this high standard?'"



COMMENDABLE CROWD Four 439th members receive the Air Force Commendation Medal in ceremonies in Col. J. Frank Moore's office on Sunday, Dec. 11. Base Executive Officer Lt. Col. Joseph Hellauer, Jr., left, CSG First Sergeant CMSgt. Henry J. Scott, and Base Commander Col. J. Frank Moore, center, officiated at the presentation. Recipients and their cited service, are, from center to right, SSgt. Vincent P. DePillo, 901 MOBSF, Connecticut Disaster Preparedness Liaison Officer at HQ AFRES, 1974 to 1977; MSgt. Dean E. Wallwork, 439 CSG Fire Protection Supervisor, 1974 to 1977; SMSgt. John Bostic, Jr., 439CSG administration superintendent, between 1974 and 1977; MSgt. Carol Hawreluke, 439CSG administrative supervisor, 1971 to 1977.

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Santa Visits Childrens' Hospitals

By AB Deborah Elliot

Santa Claus and friends visited the Shriners' Hospital for Crippled Children and the Newington Conn. Children's Hospital Dec. 10, bringing the old Christmas spirit with them again this year.

Instead of a sleigh, the round-bellied Claus, (played really by TSgt. Maurice La-Fortune, Material Control NCOIC), used a faithful Westover bus.

Thanks to two local toy companies and 439th personnel, the bus was full of gifts and candy for all the children. The maintenance shops expended special efforts in raising money and the little girl clutching her new teddy bear is smiling because of it.

Walking through the corridors of the hospital in the holiday season gives a certain feeling of sorrow and happiness. Realization that the children experience such hardship so early in life sends pangs through the heart. Yet, seeing smiles and enchantment in their eyes from Santa's visit can make a person glow.

The children also thanked SMSgt. Hugh Fraleigh (retired), for his unending efforts, and all the generous people who remembered them.

Although next Christmas seems a long way off, the small treasures given to our little people will serve as reminders of someone that cares.



WESTOVER ELVES Pre-Basic trainees Theldor Wilkins, Adolf Ellert and Robert Robinson spent a part of Saturday morning wrapping hundreds of gifts for the patients of the Shriners and Newington Childrens' Hospitals.



SERGEANT CLAUS Recently retired SMSgt. Hugh Fraleigh returns in his role as Santa and presents a gift to a patient at the Newington Childrens Hospital.

Franzen Becomes Captain

The 439th loses a staff sergeant and the United States Army gains a captain.

SSgt. Eric T. Franzen, legal services specialist with the 439 CSG's Base Judge Advocate, has received a commission in the United States Army as a captain, judge advocate general officer.

His first assignment is with the 25th Infantry Division on the island of Oahu in Hawaii, where he reports after attending Judge Advocate General School in Washington, D.C., effective Jan. 8, 1978.

Sergeant Franzen joined the Reserves and the 439th while attending law school, and applied to various services for a commission. Upon graduation in May 1977, he took the Florida bar examination, was notified in November that he had passed and was accepted by the Army.

**The Officers' Dining Out
Will Be Highlighted in the
February Patriot.**



OVER THE TOP The base garnered another accolade as Base Commander Col. J. Frank Moore, chairman of the Chicopee Area Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), accepts a plaque attesting to the outstanding record of contributions made by base personnel. The total receipts of \$10,775.03 represented a 73 percent increase over last year's contributions. Commended for her major part as base project officer, Juanita F. Jennings, left, reported that of 1,106 persons solicited, 742 contributed. This total accounts for \$9,151 by 369 payroll deductions, and cash gifts of \$1,624.03. Also receiving the plaque for their part in the campaign, were co-chairman Chicopee Postmaster Edward F. Manning, third from left, and his project officer, Lawrence DeCondio, superintendent of the Post Office window section.



Base Commander's
Message

By Col. J. Frank Moore

As we begin this new year, we are confronted with many new and exciting challenges. Beginning with the ORI in January, and continuing throughout the year, the requirements levied against this wing will necessitate that every individual's time be utilized to the fullest. There is no place for dead wood in an organization as active as ours. Each supervisor must insure that all training is accomplished in a timely fashion in order to meet our operational requirements.

I encourage each of you to seek ways to improve training, morale and productivity which will further enhance this wing's stature. Encourage your friends to join—winner and become part of the most outstanding wing in the Air Force.

And last but certainly not least, plan in advance to meet the commitments as we prepare for the SouthCOM rotation to Panama, annual training and the wing's deployment to Europe.

I also want to take this opportunity to say Happy New Year to each and every one of you and your families. May it be a glorious one for all.

Westover has a new recruiter. She's SrA **Tonette ("T.J.") Jones**, who urges Connecticut residents interested in a Reserve career to call her, collect, at 557-2125/2943.

(AFOUA) . . .

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proud of the 439th and all its subordinate units that I could spit.

"As General Flynn (Lt. Gen. John P. Flynn, Air Force Inspector General) said, the Air Force hasn't figured out our Modus Operandi.

"This may never happen again. The award is well deserved, and we're terribly proud. It will provide a visible sort of distinction—it's visible evidence that every member in the wing may wear. Those assigned during that period may wear it for life.

"I'm just so proud of our people. There couldn't be a better wing—and we're known for our ability to do anything. And here we are, 'the first of a kind' again."



LIGHT FANTASTIC . . . Typical of those enjoying the 439th Christmas party at the dining hall on Dec. 10 are TSgt. James Freer and MSgt. Mary Paradise, 439CSG/DPM.

**HQ 439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING (AFRES)
WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE, MA. 01022**

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THIRD CLASS-BULK RATE