



# THE PATRIOT



439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING

WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE, MASS.

Vol. VI, No.4

April, 1979

## Westover Takes Second in Volleyball Tournament

The first place trophy went to the 442nd TAW, Richards-Gebauer AFB, Kan., at the third annual AFRES Volleyball Tournament at Westover, held during the March UTA.

The Westover Flyers took second place. They had breezed into the finals after defeating the 910 TFG, Youngstown Municipal Airport, Ohio; 919 SOG, Eglin AFB, Fla. and the 442 TAW to end first round play.

439 TAW and 442 TAW went right down to the wire in the two out of three final elimination. Each team won a game, and competition became tight as they went into the deciding game. 442 TAW came out the victor with a close 15-13 match.

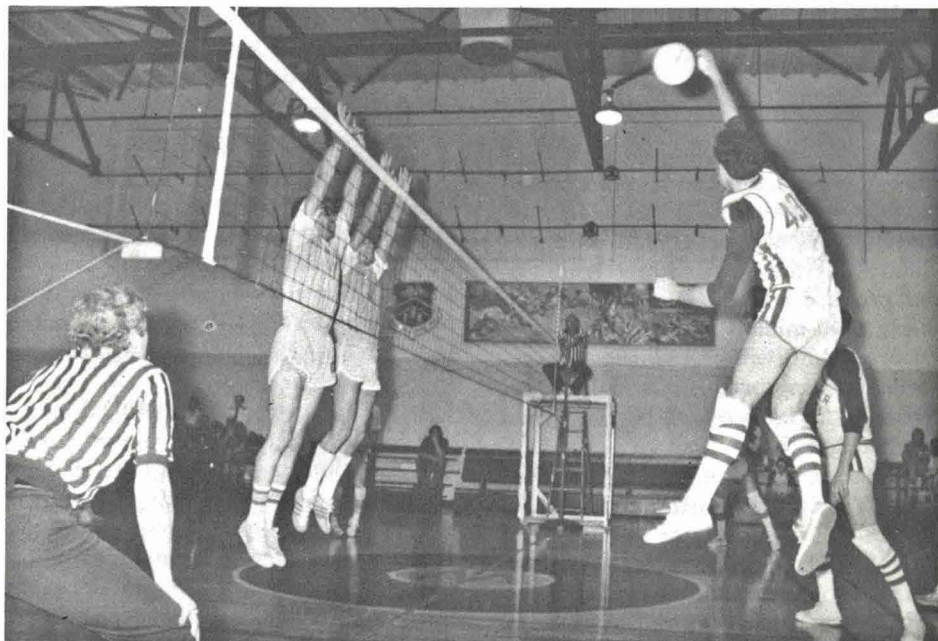
The other competitor in the five-team tournament was 85 APS, Hanscom AFB, Mass.

Members of the Westover Flyers were Capt. Robert Martens, SMSgt. Vincent Viglione, MSgt. Andrew Lown, TSgt. Richard Eaton, TSgt. Dennis Wallace, SSgt. Richard Oliver, SSgt. David Quintanilla, PFC Steve Jarvis and Jess Barraza. Coaching the men's team was Mike McNicholas.

The Westover women's team won the tournament by forfeit as the other scheduled teams failed to show up. They also played in an intramural league during the month and on some UTAs.

The members of the women's team include TSgt. Ann Daugherty, SrA. Pat Byrnes, SrA. Claire Gaudreau, SrA. Marian Gibson, SrA. Denise Nash, 1C. Cheryl Clapprood, Coleen Campbell and Hazel Perry. Ron Turmelle coached the women's team.

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Capt. Robert Martens (43), 439th flying safety officer, returns a blooper served by a Richards-Gebauer player during the annual AFRES volleyball tournament March 31. Although the Westover team displayed fine form throughout the tournament, the Flyers lost the event and the championship title in a squeaker to Richards-Gebauer.

## New Gate Houses Open at Base Boundaries

Vehicles arriving at Westover will now pass two sets of gate houses at either of two entry locations.

On Feb. 19, Westover opened new guard houses on Industrial Road and on Central Avenue. The original gate houses are now operated by the Westover Metropolitan Development Corporation.

The Industrial Road control point, near the Base Supply building, will be opened from 5 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. every

day. During UTAs, it will stay open 24 hours on Friday and Saturday.

The new Central Avenue gate house, at the Fourth Avenue intersection, is now near the ellipse. It will remain open at all times.

The two sets of gates reflect two sets of boundaries. The Air Force, through GSA, transferred some excess Westover property to the WMDC. The WMDC is developing a portion of Westover excess

(continued on page 3)

## AF Bases to Close, Phase Down

Washington (AFRNS) . . . . . Good-fellow AFB, Texas, will close and operations at three other bases in the United States will be reduced.

Those bases include Loring AFB, Maine; Rickenbacker AFB, Ohio and Kingsley Field, Ore.

The Air Force will also deactivate the 17th Defense System Evaluation Squadron at Malmstrom AFB, Mont., and study withdrawal of active duty forces from Duluth International Airport, Minn., and Hancock Field, N.Y.

In addition, three installations previously identified for closure will remain open: Chanute AFB, Ill., Lowry AFB, Colo., and Los Angeles AFS, Calif. The Air Force will also study converting additional jobs to civilian contract at various bases in the United States and Guam.

The actions were among the realignments and reductions announced March 29 by Secretary of the Air Force John C. Stetson. They are part of an overall plan which will enhance Air Force readiness and produce cost avoidance figures of nearly \$140 million annually.

Loring AFB will be reduced to a forward operating base. Its B-52 bombers and KC-135 tankers will be reassigned to other SAC bases.

When its new status is achieved in Fiscal Year 1982, Loring will support ten KC-135s on rotational duty from other SAC bases; two fighter interceptors, also on rotational duty; and a defense weather program.

Rickenbacker AFB will lose its active duty Air Force units. SAC will also inactivate the 301st Air Refueling Wing, transferring its assets to other SAC units. Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve units will remain at Rickenbacker.

## Volleyball Tournament . . .

(continued from page 1)

The teams received trophies and individual medals at the end of the tournament, which was sponsored and conducted by the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Service.



The first 10,000 miles is always the hardest. Brig. Gen. Donald E. Haugen is congratulated as he completes the 10,000th mile of his running "career." The general was presented a plaque and a book on running from, left to right, Mrs. Judy Haugen, Col. J. Frank Moore, Col. James P. Thomas, Arthur Murphy and Harold Voelker.

## Air Force Begins ART Conversion Test

The 95th Congress accepted a House Appropriations Committee recommendation and directed the Army and Air Force Reserve components to conduct a test during FY 79 and convert a limited number of ART positions to full-time military status.

In a subsequent action, DOD directed the Air Force Reserve to convert a total of 68 positions in FY 79 and additionally programmed a total of 229 positions for FY 80. A special task group met at the Pentagon to develop implementation procedures for the FY 79 test.

In order to make the proposed test as valid as possible, it was decided to limit the number of installations involved and select units with vacancies which were a representative sampling of skills and military grades. Accordingly, the 915

TFG, Homestead AFB, Fla. and the 931 AREFG, Grissom AFB, Ind., have been designated as the test units for FY 79.

There is no requirement or intent that the Air Force Reserve involuntarily change the status of any technician currently employed. Those positions identified for militarization will be restricted to ART positions which are currently vacant at the two locations where the test will be conducted.

According to retired Maj. Gen. William Lyon, former chief of the Air Force Reserve, the Air Force is committed to the position that the ART program is the most effective and efficient system for providing full-time support of our Reserve units.

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**439 TAW Commander**  
Brig. Gen. Donald E. Haugen

**Base Commander**  
Col. J. Frank Moore

**Wing Information Officers**

Maj. Robert D. Hafner

Maj. Rudolph G. DiLuzio

**Editor**

MSgt. Lawrence H. Lentz

**Base Information Officer**

Miss Betty O'Connell

**Staff**

TSgt. Marshall Hathaway  
SrA. Dean M. Mauro

SrA. Patricia Joyce  
A1C Deborah Elliot

# Disaster Preparedness Begins Chemical Training

by SrA. Patricia A. Joyce

I could have panicked, but I didn't. I wasn't alone either, as I boarded the bus for a trip which was not to be a joy ride. Our destination was Westover's Confidence Training Center.

Our laughing faces of minutes before were replaced with a look of somber apprehension as we neared the isolated brick building near civil engineering.

A chemical warfare training program has been initiated at Westover as a result of Air Force wide emphasis on preparation of Air Force personnel in chemical protection techniques. All mobilization units, air reserve technicians and reservists with mobilization line numbers are required to participate.

Westover's Disaster Preparedness Division will train approximately 1,400 reservists in chemical warfare procedures, hopefully by June 30.

The program, modelled after the chemical warfare training program at Lowry AFB, Col., is conducted in two phases. Phase I includes a two-hour presentation by TSgt. Paul H. Gilman, disaster preparedness technician, and Air Force films.

Sergeant Gilman explained the present and future dangers of chemical warfare, and compared the United States and Russian capabilities in biochemical warfare.

The scene to follow may have appeared unusual to an outsider, as we donned gas masks, hoods, rubber boots, carbon-lined protective field jackets and pants. Sergeant Gilman continued to explain the purpose of the protective garments.

Now fully dressed in protective apparel, we listened to Lt. Col. Walter H. King, disaster preparedness augmentee officer. "Be sure your masks fit snugly over your faces. You will remove your masks once we are inside. After you've experienced the confidence chamber, you will remask. Blow out of your mask to rid it of any gas that may have been entrapped inside. Then we will go outside together."

We filed into a small, bare room. A dimly-lit lantern's gaseous substance lent an eerie appearance to the small room. It was as if we were experiencing "incense" without a scent.

"Okay, everyone take off your masks," boomed Sergeant Gilman's



Members of the 439th listen to last minute instructions from MSgt. Albert R. Breton, disaster preparedness instructor, foreground in white suit, prior to entering the Confidence Training Center. Chemical warfare training for reservists at Westover began during the February UTA.

voice. We removed our masks hesitantly. My throat began to sting, the air seemed heavy, my eyes watered and the "incense" was no longer scentless. A strong odor permeated my nostrils.

Less than a minute elapsed but it seemed like an hour. I fumbled with my mask. I couldn't get it on fast enough. Once the mask was back on my face, I felt relieved and glad to be on my way out of the chamber.

Another member of our group, Amn. Elizabeth A. Shirk, 901 MOBSFIt inventory management specialist recollects, "It may sound funny, but I enjoyed it. It was something new and different to me. I admit I was scared, but I was eager to experience it for myself. Before I went in, my main concern was that my mask was on correctly."

After completing the Confidence Training Center visit, Capt. Alan Clune, 905 CAMS aircraft maintenance officer, said, "I feel it is important that the reservists get this kind of training as it reduces the fear of the unknown. It also introduces them to the possibility that if mobilized, they may be faced with a situation like this. Due to the adequate preparation by the Disaster Preparedness Division, nobody was panicking."

In April, we'll walk through a mock-up "KMU-450" decontamination unit, set up in the Disaster Preparedness Office. One by one we'll be decontaminated. First we'll shed the contaminated clothing and continue through a shower to wash away remaining chemicals. After redressing, we'll be safe to enter shelters without danger of contaminating others. Since this is only a simulated exercise, there will be no actual showering and disrobing.

As I look back, maybe I didn't panic, but I wasn't comfortable. Hopefully, the time will never come that I find myself in a contaminated environment, for real.

## New Gate Houses . . .

(continued from page 1)

property as a major industrial park. Part of its responsibilities will be security for these buildings.

Vehicles with a Westover base destination will be cleared at the outer gates. When they reach Westover's boundaries, base security personnel at the new gate houses will authorize entry.

**Spouses' Day  
June 16, 1979**

## BRIEFS

Wing Commander **Brig. Gen. Donald E. Haugen** represented the military in the Chicopee, Mass. area on Mar. 10 at a party honoring Ted C. Jarrett, retiring executive vice president of the Chicopee Chamber of Commerce. Among other citations, General Haugen gave him a plaque from the personnel of the 439th TAW saluting him for "the many years of close and rewarding association with the personnel of Westover Air Force Base." **Betty O'Connell**, base public information officer, representing the chamber's women's division, was one of the "roasters" at the affair.

\* \* \* \* \*

The 1917 Communications Squadron's Information program, and its manager, **SSgt. Daniel E. Samis**, will receive special recognition from the Northern Communications Area at Griffiss AFB, N.Y. The award recognizes the unit's information activities, tours and news release dissemination.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Col. Roy E. Ayers, Jr.**, has been appointed commander of the 439th's TAG at Niagara Falls IAP, N.Y. He replaces **Col. Robert McMullen**. Currently, Colonel Ayers is the operations and training officer of the 919 SOG at Eglin AFB, Fla.

\* \* \* \* \*

First Lady **Rosalynn Carter** landed and later took off from Westover on Monday, March 19. The President's wife was a guest speaker at a volunteer school program in Springfield.

\* \* \* \* \*

The men and women of the 901 MOBSFlt presented a plaque to **Maj. Martin Markey**, unit commander, which marked his retirement from the Air Force on Sat., March 31. The unit members also honored his 20 years of military service and four years as unit commander at a special party on March 4.

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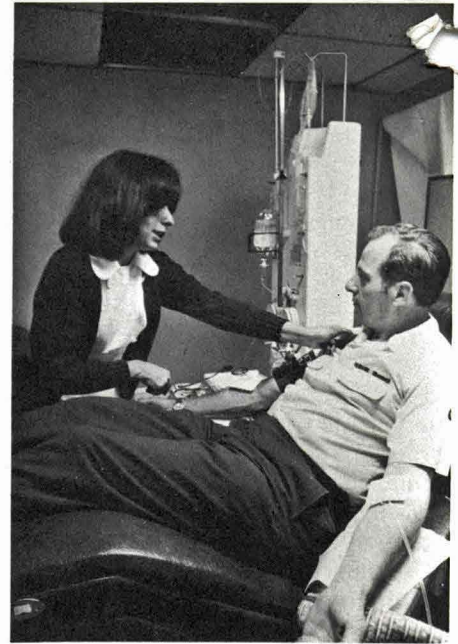
## Base Sergeant Supports Pheresis Program

by TSgt. Marshall Hathaway  
TSgt. William Batchelder, 439 CSG duplicating technician, is a regular pheresis donor at the Red Cross Donor Center in Springfield, Mass. He urges other Westover personnel to participate in the program.

Pheresis is a vast departure from a regular whole blood donation. Instead of giving whole blood, a pheresis donor gives a specific component of blood, such as plasma, platelets or white cells. These components are vital in the treatment of certain diseases. For instance, a leukemia victim would require dozens of whole blood donations to provide a single effective transfusion. In pheresis, only one donor is needed to collect the necessary white cells for that same transfusion.

Pheresis takes two or more hours. Blood is drawn from one arm and passed through a blood processor which separates and collects single blood components. The remaining components, including red cells, are returned, usually through the other arm. Normally, the body replaces components drawn in pheresis within 24 hours and a donor can give again in 24 to 48 hours. Whole blood donations require an eight-week interval because the body needs time to replace its iron loss.

Pheresis operation began in the Springfield center in June 1978. It is one of only four in the northeast region. The others are in Worcester, Boston and



**Chris Pirroni, R.N., monitors a blood processor while TSgt. Bill Batchelder donates his blood platelet and white cells.**

Portland, Maine. The center can handle only three donors a day. Therefore, donors are scheduled in advance.

Respond to Sergeant Batchelder's appeal by calling the Northeast Regional Red Cross Blood Program for an appointment—(413) 733-4107. If you'd like more information or wish to obtain a pheresis pamphlet, the address is 63 Springfield St., Springfield, MA 01107.

Westover personnel mourn the deaths of **SSgt. Raymond H. Chevalier** and **Naomi M. Duffy**. Sergeant Chevalier, a veteran of the Korean War, was currently serving as a reservist in the Transportation Division. Miss Duffy, with the 1917 CS, was an administrative clerk at Westover for 35 years.

\* \* \* \* \*

Westover will host 225 troops of the **11 Special Forces Group**, July 5-19. The Green Berets will use the facilities as a forward operating base during a mass unconventional warfare exercise. Units of the 11SFG stretch from Fort Devens, Mass., to Coral Gables, Fla., and as far west as Dayton, Ohio.

Congratulations to **SMSgt. Henry J. Scott**, 439 CSG first sergeant. As a civilian, he is associated with Domestic Wells, Inc., of Bolton, Mass. Sergeant Scott was recently elected President of the Massachusetts Water Well Association which educates its members on government regulations and on new equipment and supplies for the ground water industry.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Air Force's musical talent show, **TOPS IN BLUE '79**, will return to Westover for an encore performance on Wednesday, June 13. Further details will be announced.

\* \* \* \* \*

## The Bus Stops Here, and Here, and Here



SSgt. Michael L. Wright, left, vehicle operator, explains to Sgt. Richard G. Russo, vehicle operator, the various stopping points on the new bus route.



TSgt. Francis J. Coffey, SSgt. Richard J. Thureson and TSgt. John D. Hines, 439 TAW members, are some of the first passengers to take advantage of the shuttle service.

by A1C. Deborah Elliot

Westover has a shuttle bus service on base during UTAs. "With the threat of a gas shortage in the near future, the shuttle service seems to be a reasonable alternative to the problem for us," says Mr. Ted Buckhout, 439CSG transportation officer. "The primary reason for initiating the program is for the conservation of energy. The second consideration would be the convenience of base personnel."

Two busses were available on the late March UTA. The Transportation Division has three 29-passenger busses

available for the service. If needed, the Westover Job Corps, a youth agency, could supply a 45-passenger bus.

The busses begin at the barracks, building 5103, and cover the distance between main business areas. There are stops at the dining hall, open mess, base exchange, the civil engineering buildings, the supply building, at each hangar, base administration, the gas station, foodland, base operations, group headquarters, wing headquarters, the swimming pool and the BOQ.

A round-trip takes approximately 25 minutes, according to MSgt. Leroy J.

Johnson, 439 CSG, NCOIC Vehicle Operations. With two busses running, the maximum you need wait for a bus is 12-1/2 minutes. When needed, a third bus could be used. This would cut down on the waiting time.

"Three busses could take the place of 100 cars," remarked Sergeant Johnson, as he drove past a filled parking lot on base. "Last UTA, I used eight gallons of gas just running back and forth from building to building. Imagine how much gas these hundred cars could save."

"All in all," Sgt. Michael L. Wright, 439 CSG vehicle operator said, "If you want to save gas, get on the bus."

## Thomas Named Deputy Commander for Operations

Among his other responsibilities, the wing's deputy commander for operations develops the unit's training plans such as disaster preparedness, wing mobilization and sabotage defense. "I think the new 'D.O.', Col. Jim Thomas, will be more than competent to do the job," reflects Lt. Col. Robert McCoy, who formerly held that job, and is assigned to the 914 TAG.

Colonel Thomas started his military career as an enlisted man in 1950. After two and a half years, he received his commission through the aviation cadets.

Since then, he has flown F-86, F-102, F-104, A-37, C-141 and C-130 aircraft for more than 7,000 hours. Colonel Thomas has served as a pilot, instructor, flight examiner and operations officer and squadron commander.

He was the 702 Military Airlift Squadron's commander and the 514 Military Wing's assistant deputy commander for operations, both at McGuire AFB, N.J.

Colonel Thomas earned his bachelor of general education from Omaha University after ten years of night and correspondence courses. "I was on 24-hour alert during this time, and constantly being transferred between bases, which made studying a challenge," the colonel reminisces. He also holds a master's of personnel administration from Central Michigan University.

The new deputy commander, his wife and two children, will move to Westover as soon as their New Jersey home is sold.

## AFRES FY79 Budget Short by \$11.5 Million

(AFRES News Service) Robins AFB, Ga.—The Air Force Reserve is doing more with less this year as the operation and maintenance financing for fiscal year 1979 is \$11.5 million less than Air Force Reserve headquarters stated requirements.

The command was allocated \$246.6 million, \$5.3 million less than it cost to operate in FY78. AFRES identified a requirement of \$254.1 million in FY79 to finance minimum essential activities. The FY79 budget is divided among 25 program elements-weapons systems.



Receiving honors at the Commander's Call are, from left Maj. Larry Seberg, MSgt. Grete Bohannon, TSgt. Walter F. Feller, TSgt. Donald Gendron and TSgt. Robert Sousa.

## Commander's Call Honors Five

Five members of the 439th were honored at the Group Commander's Call on Sunday, March 4.

TSgt. Robert A. Sousa, 905 MOBSFlt, received the plaque he earned as the wing's 1978 Outstanding Support Person.

Four others received the Air Force Commendation Medal from Brig. Gen. Donald E. Haugen, wing commander. Maj. Larry A. Seberg distinguished himself as communications officer, aircraft maintenance officer and maintenance staff officer of the 2nd. Air Logis-

tics Center Augmentation Squadron, Fort Drum, N.Y., between 1968 and 1978.

For her work between 1974 and 1978 as NCOIC of the site development section of the 905 Civil Engineering Flight, MSgt. Grete Bohannon received the special recognition.

TSgt. Walter F. Feller is also wearing a new ribbon. He was the 901 Communications Flight's telephone switching equipment maintenance supervisor from 1976 to 1978.

## Reserve Notes 1978 Accomplishments

Robins AFB, Ga. (AFNS)—The Air Force Reserve passed a major milestone during 1978 when for the first time it reached its strength goal of 53,883. The Reserve now has 53 flying units, equipped with 17 different weapon systems at 37 locations throughout the United States.

The largest training program in the history of the Air Force Reserve occurred in 1978, reflecting its increased involvement in total force activities. Also, the Reserve Associate Manning Plan

was implemented to improve manning, retention and promotions in Military Airlift Command Reserve associate units.

As a cap to 1978, the Air Force Reserve received the Foulois Trophy for the best flying safety program in the Air Force in 1977 and Maj. Gale H. French was awarded the Kolligian Trophy for 1977 for his heroic efforts involving an emergency C-123 landing at Westover AFB, Mass.

## Bodycombe is New AFRES Command

Maj. Gen. Richard Bodycombe is the new Chief of the Air Force Reserve at the Pentagon and new commander of Headquarters AFRES at Robins AFB, Ga. He succeeded Maj. Gen. Lyon who retired after a 35 year reserve and active duty military career.

In addition, Maj. Gen. Edward Dillon has been reassigned from 14AF(R) commander to AFRES vice commander. He assumes General Bodycombe's former position.

General Bodycombe now commands more than 450 aircraft and some 190 AFRES flying and support units across the United States. In his Headquarters USAF capacity, he is the chief advisor to the Air Force Chief of Staff on Air Force Reserve matters. As commander of AFRES, he is responsible for the Air Reserve Personnel Center and more than 53,000 Air Force Reservists.

## Officers' Dining Out Preparations Set

Maj. Gen. James E. McAdoo, named the new commander for 14AF(R), will be the guest speaker at the Officers' Dining Out on the evening of Saturday, April 28.

General McAdoo has been the deputy to the chief of AFRES. On May 14, he will replace Maj. Gen. Edward Dillon who has been selected as vice commander of AFRES.

The Band of the Northeast from Pease AFB, N.H., will provide the ceremonial music for the affair.

Lt. Col. Robert Motley, committee chairman, reminds those planning to attend that since this is a very formal occasion, dress should also be formal. This includes black mess dress uniform or evening (long or cocktail length) dress for the ladies, and black mess dress uniform or tuxedo for the gentlemen.

The 439th TAW officers' wives group are offering a two-day gala weekend for April 28 and 29, which will include a shopping and sightseeing tour on Saturday, and a brunch on Sunday. Details will be mailed to the homes. Plans for baby sitting may be made by contacting Barbara Hausen at (413) 543-6653.

**SPRING CLEANUP WEEK**  
April 22 to 28

**For Your Sake**

**For Our Sake**

**For Safety's Sake**

## Commendation Medals Awarded at Second Commander's Call

The second UTA of March (March 30 and April 1) included a Commander's Call for personnel of wing headquarters and associated units. Col. Charles Parrott, wing vice commander, officiated because of General Haugen's attendance at the Air Reserve Force Policy Committee meeting at the Pentagon.

Maj. Martin Markey ended his Air Force career by accepting a certificate which attests to his completion of the Air War College Correspondence Course.

Seven Air Force Commendation Medals were also awarded.

The 439th's TSgt. Edward R. Guenther distinguished himself as administrative technician from 1974 through 1979.

Three members of the 731TAS were also honored. MSgt. Robert W. Williams served as a C-123 instructor flight examiner and flight mechanic between 1972 and 1978. In the Azores, in France and in Germany during REFORGER '78, TSgt. Andrew B. Lown, C-123 flight examiner flight mechanic prevented three hazardous flight situations from developing into aircraft accidents.

TSgt. Stella L. Nine significantly contributed to her unit as an administrative clerk from 1975 to 1979.



Adding Air Force Commendation Medals to their arrays of ribbons are, from left, TSgt. Raymond D. Desrosiers, SSgt. Stella L. Nine, TSgt. Edward R. Guenther, SMSgt. Robert F. Rose, MSgt. Robert W. Williams, CMSgt. Charles C. Fusco and TSgt. Andrew B. Lown.

The 901 CAMS was also well represented.

CMSgt. Charles C. Fusco earned his commendation medal as organizational maintenance superintendent from 1976 to 1979. During this time, MSgt. Rob-

ert F. Rose displayed qualities of professionalism and leadership as an organizational maintenance flight line chief. Because of his timely repair of aircraft during adverse conditions, TSgt. Raymond D. Desrosiers, aircraft propeller technician, is also wearing a commendation medal.

## Base Delegation Attends Sword Ceremony

by TSgt. Marshall Hathaway

The U.S. Navy Sea Chanters had only sung a few bars of "God Bless America" when a soft, but firm bass undertone rose from the audience—almost as if it had been rehearsed. An evening steeped in military tradition drew to a close.

The Order of the Sword, an award that symbolizes truth, justice and power rightfully used, was presented to Maj. Gen. William Lyon on March 3, 1979 at Andrews AFB, Md. Among the 300 present, ten were from the 439th.

According to historical accounts, the Order of the Sword was established in the 12th century. At that time, King Gustav of Sweden asked noblemen commissioned by him to appoint officers to serve them personally. From those ranks grew the noncommissioned officers as we know them today. On occasion, these NCOs would honor a leader and pledge their loyalty by ceremoniously

presenting him a sword. This ceremony became known as "The Royal Order of the Sword."

In modern times, it is the noncommissioned corps which bestows such honors on its leaders. General Lyon is the third reserve officer to be inducted.

Toasts, accolades and presentations were made to General Lyon by many NCOs. It was a black tie affair complete with the USAF Color Guard, Ceremonial Band, dinner music by the Ambassadors and entertainment by the Sea Chanters.

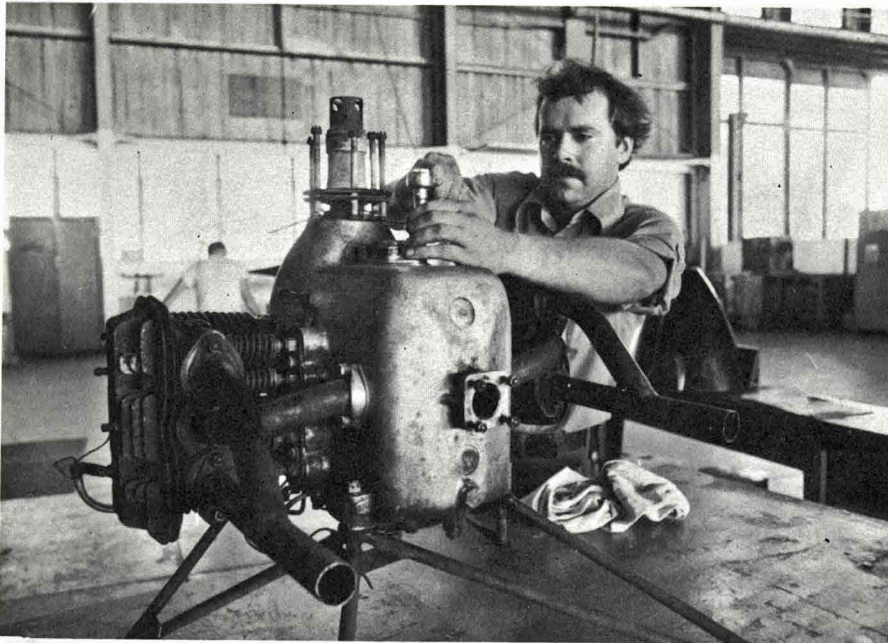
Sitting at Westover's table were Brig. Gen. Donald E. Haugen, wing commander; CMSgt. Jack Murdock, senior enlisted advisor; SMSgt. Richard Haskins, 74 AES; SMSgt. Henry Scott, CSG first sergeant; SMSgt. Donald Carpenter, 439 CSG; MSgt. Vincent McCrae, 74 AES and TSgts. William Batchelder, Stuart DeGray, James Freer and Marshall Hathaway, all 439 CSG.

## Musical Group to Form

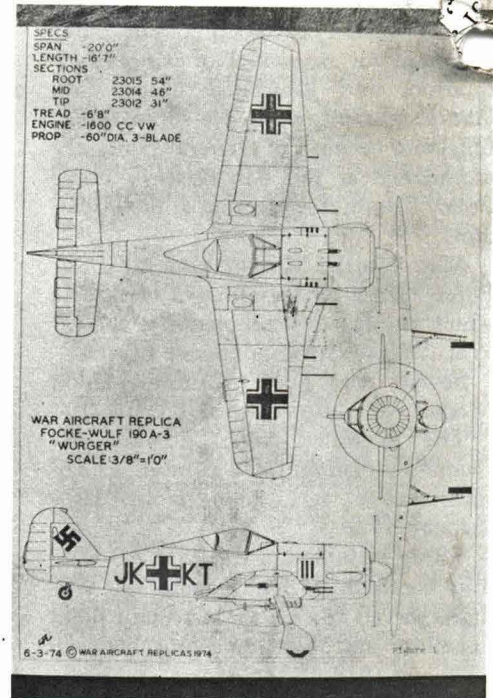
Interest in forming Westover's own musical group, such as the TOPS IN BLUE, has been brewing since the base's successful "Gong Show" last summer. SMSgt. Henry Scott, 439 CSG first sergeant; and TSgt. Marshall Hathaway, Office of Information, are exploring the feasibility of forming either such a group or a chorus.

Entertainers and musicians from all organizations based at Westover are urged to contact Sergeant Hathaway at (413) 557-2572, or to leave their name and address and a brief description of their talent at their orderly room.

# Sergeants' Hobby Gets Off The Ground



Steve Budleski works on his plane's 1600 cc Volkswagen engine above. On right is one of the many "spec" sheets used to guide him in the aircraft's construction.



by A1C. Debbie Elliot  
 "I always wanted to own a World War II fighter plane, but it was too expensive. So I'm doing the next best thing—building my own," says SSgt. Steven J. Budleski, 901 CAMS propeller mechanic.

Sergeant Budleski's interest in building aircraft began 20 years ago. His uncle, a B-17 WWII pilot, left a noticeable impression on his young nephew. Steve spent many hours building model airplanes.

Sergeant Budleski's interest in aviation persisted and in 1967 he joined the Air Force to become an air traffic control specialist. In 1974, he became an experimental test cell technician with United Technology Co. The position required testing first version jet engines. He later joined the Air Force Reserve in 1975 as a propeller mechanic.

He was prepared to learn as much as possible about different aircraft, not only at work, but also at home and in his spare time. While reading a Popular Mechanics magazine one night, he came across an article on building flying war replicas. That did it.

The fruit of his labor will be a half-size flying replica of the Focke-Wulf 190, a German WWII fighter plane. "I like playing the heavy, you know, the bad guy. Besides, I already have the scar (from a helicopter accident in Germany)

to go with it. That's why I chose to build a German fighter," explains Sergeant Budleski.

Cruising speed will be 150 mph with a maximum of 185 mph. The miniature Nazi terror will be 17 feet long and have a wing span of 20 feet. Gross weight will be approximately 900 lbs.

The Focke-Wulf will be aerobically stressed for plus or minus six Gs, which means the wings can take six times their own weight in a dive or upward jettison, or 5,400 lbs. of pressure.

"All the parts are in the basement now," says Sergeant Budleski, "But as the plane gets closer to completion, I'll move it into my garage."

Another hobby of Sergeant Budleski

is parachuting. "I do 'demo jumps' for shows out of the Barre-Hiller Airport in New Braintree, Mass., and parachute occasionally for the Shrine Circus, in Springfield, Mass."

But when he is not in the air, he is working on his plane. To date, Sergeant Budleski has invested \$1,500 in his dream that will eventually cost between five and seven thousand dollars.

This is an initial assembly attempt for the 29 year old sergeant, and will take him approximately two years to complete.

"I don't think it's a long time. I think of it as my hobby now. It is something from which I get a lot of satisfaction," says Sergeant Budleski.

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

OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
 PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300



THIRD CLASS-BULK RATE