



# THE PATRIOT



439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING

WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE, MASS.

Vol. VI, No. 2

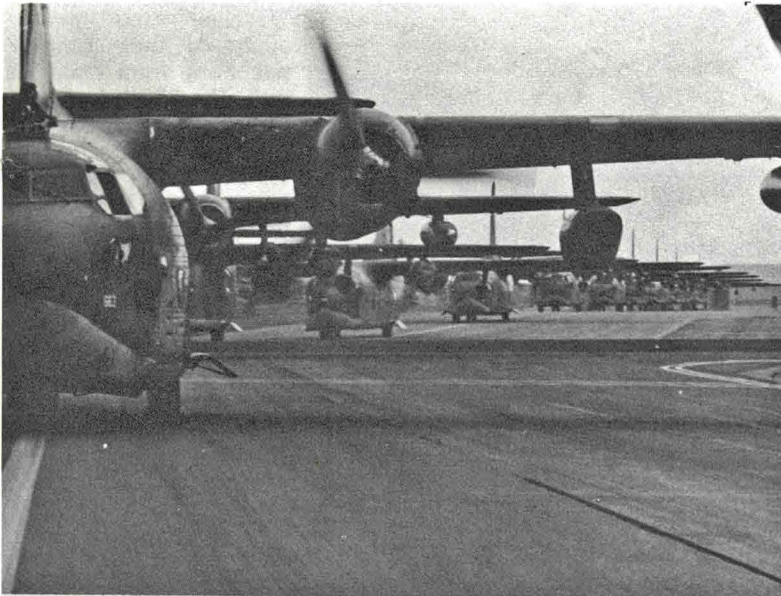
February, 1979

*Fifty months ago, Nov. 1974, the 439th TAW Patriot was first published—just seven months after the unit's formation. Since then, 50 consecutive monthly issues have been distributed. Our purpose: Document the unit's past; explore its future; and serve as a viable communicative tool between and for all members of the 439th family.*

*From that beginning, the unit has grown and prospered. We hope The Patriot has reflected that growth, and in turn, has developed in its own stature and dimension.*

*To mark this 50th issue anniversary, we present some photo highlights which best represent, in part, some of the 439th's and Patriot's proud achievements.*

*The Patriot Staff*



The 439th flies unique. No other Reserve Force unit has three types of aircraft. Since its activation in 1974, the wing's 337 TAS has flown C-130B models more than 16,000 hours, while the 731 TAS, flying C-123Ks, has completed more than 20,000 hours. When the 914 TAG at Niagara Falls International Airport, N.Y., joined the unit in June of 1976, it brought C-130A models. Since then it was flown more than 9,000 hours.





# ACHIEVEMENTS



The 439th passed both of its Operational Readiness Inspections. The wing broke numerous Air Force records during the May, 1976 ORI. The 439th launched all of its C-123s and C-130s for an outstanding 94 percent effectiveness rate. In November, 1977, as part of Operation Brave Shield, the wing deployed 16 C-123s and eight C-130s in a new, more extensive ORI.



The 731 TAS was honored for its 75,000 accident-free flying hours, over an 18-year period, in August 1976. Maj. Gen. Edwin R. Johnson, then Eastern Air Force Reserve Region commander, presented a plaque to Lt. Col. Franklin R. Heyner, then 731st commander, in recognition of the accomplishment.



Westover reservists demonstrated their capabilities away from home as well. The 439th took part in Volant Oak rotation to the Panama Canal. In September, 1978, unit members travelled to Germany for NATO's REFORGER exercise. Maintenance crews jacked up their C-123 to test its leading gear hydraulics at Wiesbaden AB.



The Air Force Outstanding Unit Award went to the 439th in 1977 for its service to the country in 1975 and 1976. The wing was honored for providing 90 percent of the overseas tactical airlift requirements of the Army's 10th Special Forces Group, and was the only Air Force tactical airlift organization on ready reserve to participate in NATO exercises. Brig. Gen. Billy M. Knowles showed off a giant-sized replica of the ribbon at the December, 1977 Officers' Dining Out.

At right: A general took command of the 439th in March, 1976 when Col. Billy M. Knowles was promoted to brigadier general. Lt. Col. Jack Ferguson, 439 CSG commander, pins the stars as Mrs. Knowles smiles her approval. Brig. Gen. Donald E. Haugen replaced General Knowles in June, 1978.



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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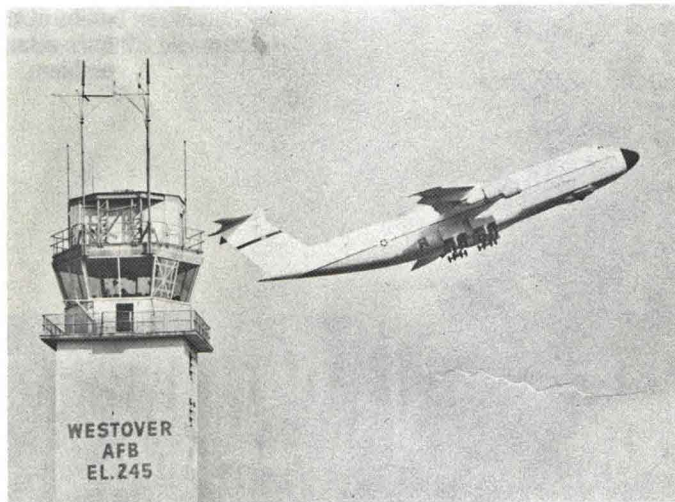
A1C. Deborah Elliot  
A1C. Patricia Joyce



# THE BASE



Since 1939, when "Westover Field" was established, it has gone through many changes, including the transition from MAC to SAC to an Air Force Reserve base.



Many aircraft have passed by our control tower, including this C-5 Galaxy, on display during an open house. Previously, this was home territory for KC-97s and 135s, P-38s, C-47s, C-54s, C-118s, B-24s, B-52s and B-58s, among others.



The beauty of winter is evident in this majestic sunset over Base Supply, top right, but . . . . 0 degree temperatures and ferocious storms were a real problem. Crew members de-ice a C-130 during the "Blizzard of '78", bottom right.



# COMMUNITY

One of the most important facets of "teill platform. Commanders at Westover I



Members of the 439th have visited the Shriners' Hospital for Crippled Children in Springfield, Mass. and the Newington Childrens' Hospital in Newington, Conn. throughout the years. These visits have brought the children picnics, Christmas gifts and Santa, firefighting demonstrations, magicians and clowns.

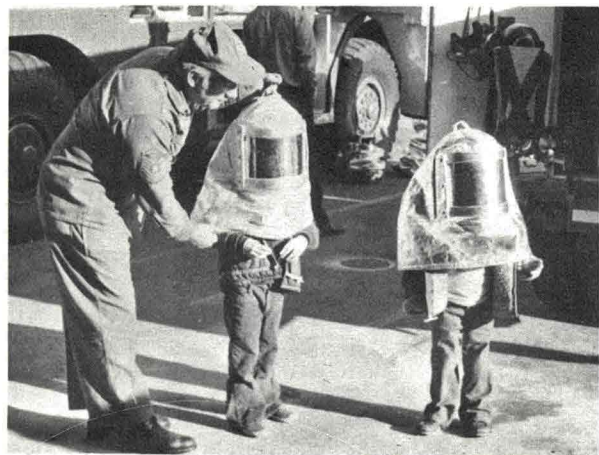


The wing has par to various commu eral towns in Vete vances. Among t Westover Flo trade in 1976. n built by base pe units of the wing, bore a large reprc emblem.

People of all ages travel to Westover for tours of the base. Popular stops on the itinerary have been the aircraft, life support, the tower and the fire department. Base tours are arranged through the Office of Information.



Westover's first Spouses' Day on Aug. 12, 1978, hosted 175 wives and husbands. After meeting with General Haugen, the spouses were treated to a firefighting demonstration, airdrops and landings, a tour of the life support section, static displays and visits to several work areas.



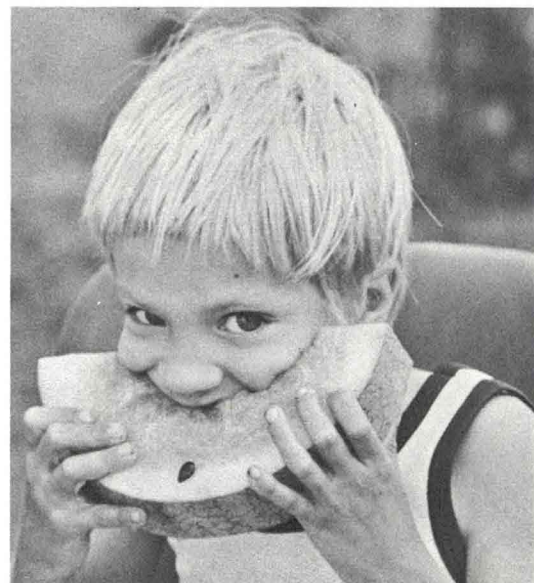


# RELATIONS

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we consistently stressed these programs.*

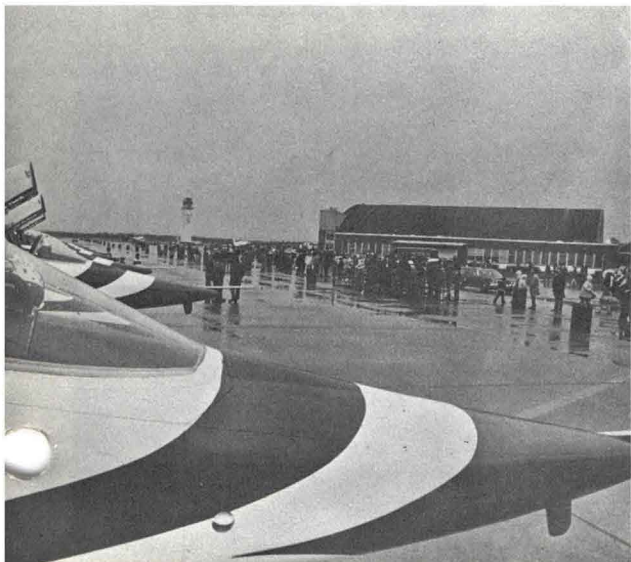


The cutting of a 650-pound, U.S. shaped birthday cake kicked off Westover's celebration of America's bicentennial July 3, 1976. The cake, prepared by base personnel, was sampled by about 2,000 guests. Other events included a parade of fire apparatus from Westover and several surrounding communities, field events, model airplane flying demonstrations, tag sales and flea markets.



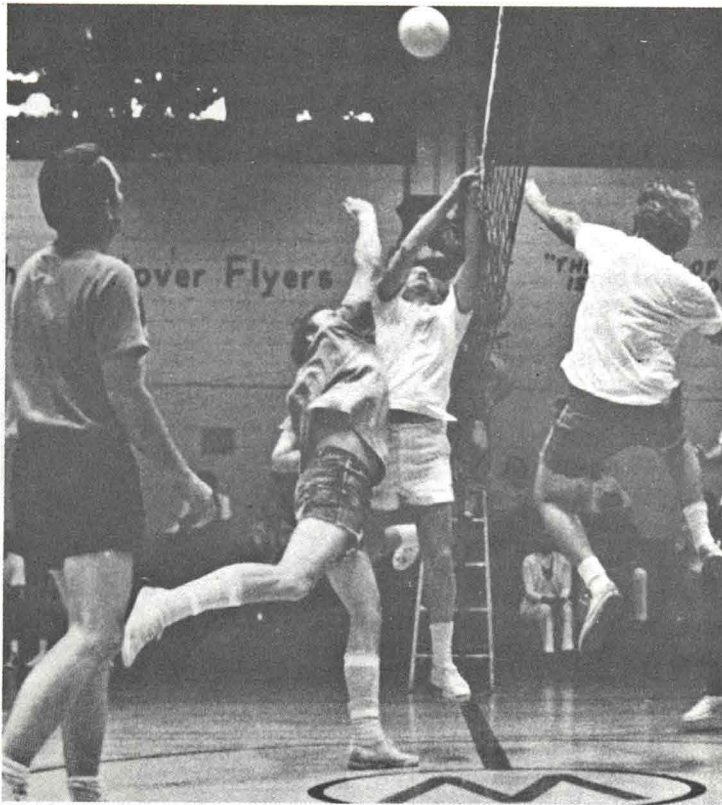
icipated in parades, sent speakers  
ty functions and joined with sev-  
ns' Day and Memorial Day obser-  
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nnel. It carried representative  
liss Westover and her court, and  
action of the AFRES bicentennial

Since the inception of the wing, about 159,000 people have attended five open houses. The Thunderbirds have twice graced these events. Open houses have included static displays, firefighting demonstrations, drill teams, live music, airdrops and a variety of displays in the hangars. All of the armed services and several veterans' groups have participated.

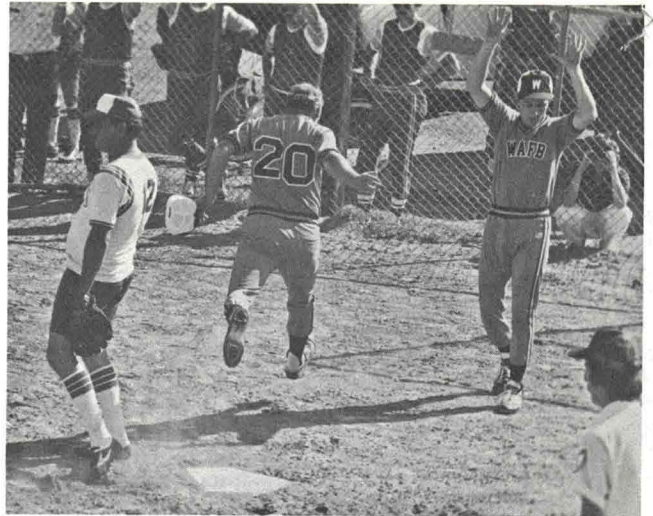




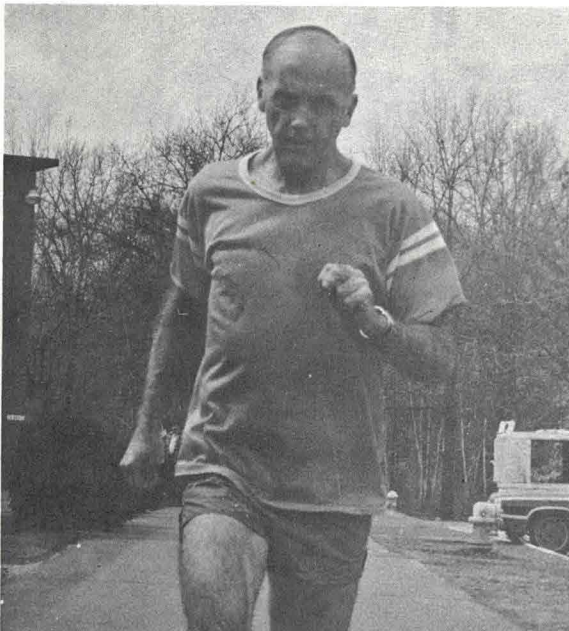
# SPORTS



Westover's men's volleyball team, "The Flyers", placed first in the six-team AFRES Volleyball Tournament in 1977 and the eight-team competition in 1978. Other volleyball action is the traditional playoff between 439 TAW units, including long-time rivals 439 TAW and 439 CSG.



It's victory for both Westover's men's and women's softball teams during the annual AFRES Softball competition. 1978 was the first year for the women's competition, and they dumped Pittsburgh, Minneapolis-St. Paul and Niagara Falls in three easy victories. For the men, 1978 was the second consecutive year they placed first in the competition as they beat Pittsburgh 23-11 in the deciding game.



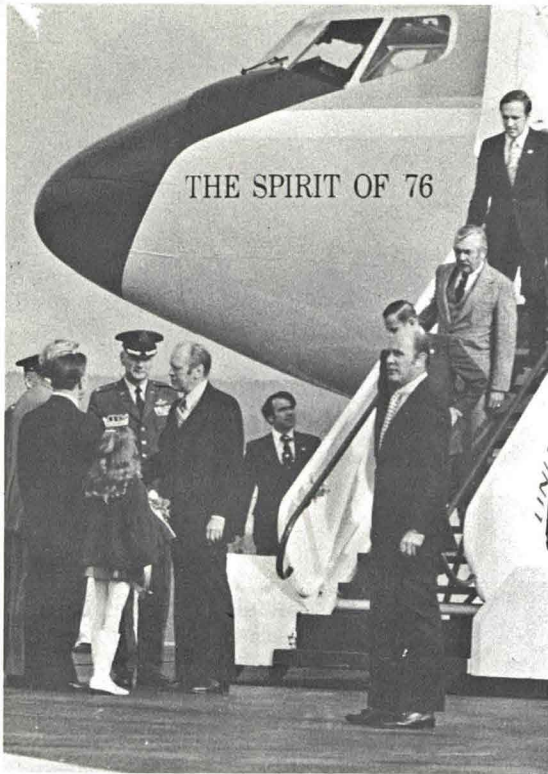
MSgt. James Boudreau, 439 CSG, trains for his first Boston Marathon in 1975. He completed the grueling race in four hours and nine minutes. Since that time, Sergeant Boudreau continues to run marathons and averages 70 miles a week. Not bad for a man who began his jogging career at age 49.

At right: Today, "Westover Turkey Trot"; tomorrow, the Boston Marathon. All DoD employees, reservists, base residents and their dependents were eligible to race in last November's UTA "Turkey Trot." The race was divided into three categories: men, ages 26-35; and 36 and over; women, 15-25, and 26 and over; and children up to 14 years of age.



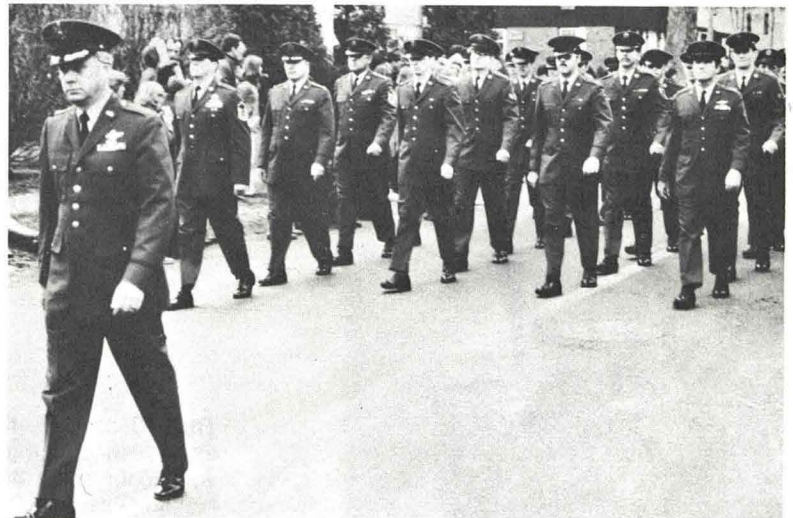
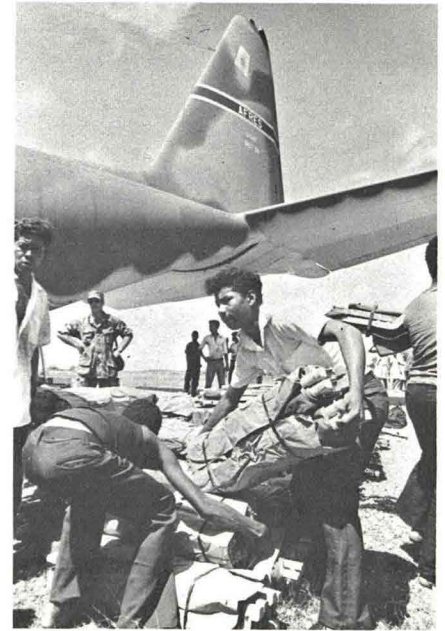


# SPECIAL EVENTS



"The Spirit of '76" landed at Westover with President Gerald R. Ford, en route to a Springfield speaking engagement on Nov. 7, 1975. Other dignitaries with the President were Representatives Silvio Conte and Margaret Heckler; and former Mass. Governor John Volpe. An estimated 2,500 visitors extended their greetings.

At right: Westover personnel participated in many exercises around the globe during the past five years. One was Volant Oak, the SOUTHCOM rotation. During that time, the 337 TAS delivered tons of supplies to the stricken area. Honduran citizens, victimized by Hurricane Greta, carried folding cots to temporary shelters.



At right: America's Bicentennial celebration began in Concord (Mass.) on April 19, 1975. Among the 6,000 marchers reviewed by then President Gerald R. Ford and 125,000 well-wishers, was a unit from the 439th, led by Lt. Col. Jack P. Ferguson.



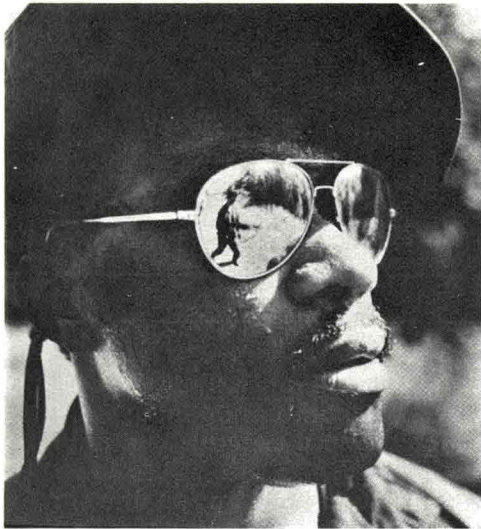
General Haugen administers oath to SrA. Darlene Wison, 74 AES, who reenlisted in the Air Force Reserve during the dining out.



The Melha Highlanders, from Springfield, march with the 59th Aerial Port Squadron to a retreat ceremony on Sept. 17, 1977.



# PEOPLE



It's the people behind the Air Force blue and green that make things happen at Westover. Their duties range from security watch in brisk November winds to annual tour training maneuvers.

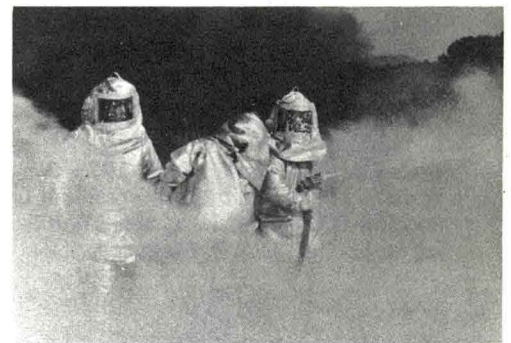


When Suzanne Henderson joined the 439 TAW, she had no idea that she was about to receive world-wide attention. This photo taken by TSgt. Marshall Hathaway, 439 CSG information technician, was twice released by the Associated Press wire service, and was reprinted in the Air Reservist magazine and newspapers throughout the country, including the New York Daily News. SSgt. Louise Young, medical specialist, who is five feet even, needed a boost to measure Airman Henderson, 6'2".



Successfully landing their fire-wracked C-123 at Westover earned its crew, Maj. Gale French, Capt. Richard Gavin and SSgt. Gary Miller several well-earned awards, including the Distinguished Flying Cross and Kolligian trophy for Major French.

The 901st CEF firefighters extinguish a simulated fire with foam spray during UTA training exercises.



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

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