



# THE PATRIOT



439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING

WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE, MASS.

Vol. VIII, No. 10

October 1981

## Wing starts move toward newer, improved aircraft inventory

A major step towards the 439th's conversion to C-130E aircraft was taken on September 14 when Westover hosted a pre-conversion conference.

The wing will be switching from the C-130B aircraft to the E models in late 1982. The purpose of the four-day conference, attended by 30 representatives from 14th and 21st Air Forces, was to formulate plans for the switch-over.

At the time of conversion, the 439th will receive 16 C-130E models and give up its 16 C-123s and 8 C-130Bs. The planes scheduled for transfer to Westover are currently assigned to the

442nd TAW at Richards-Gebauer AFB, MO.

"The conferees visited all the functional areas in the wing which will be involved with the conversion," said Major Sandy Whittier, 337th assistant operations officer. "We discussed what will be expected and how to continue the on-going preparations," he said.

The major noted that one key area which will require considerable planning will be the 337th's increase in size from 12 to 32 air crews.

"That aspect alone will require that

we schedule a minimum of 40 pilots, 20 navigators, 20 flight engineers and 20 loadmasters for school and training. The 731 TAS will be the primary source for the additional C-130 aircrew members needed," Major Whittier said.

The newer models have a flight range that is 1,000 nautical miles greater than their predecessors, and they can carry an additional 20,000 pounds of cargo. The new planes will also feature an updated avionics package and external fuel tanks.



This view from 7500 feet above Westover is one of a composite group of photographs taken on August 23rd during Condor Redoubt. It depicts the 'maximum-on-the-ground' effort needed to accommodate the exercise's many visiting aircraft and was taken by an RF-4 aircraft from the Minnesota Air National Guard's 148th Tactical Reconnaissance Group, Duluth International Airport.



## Wing Commander's Message

By Brig. Gen. Donald E. Haugen  
Super!

That's the adjective which I am using to describe the spirit, morale and performance which I observed at Westover during Condor Redoubt '81. Furthermore, I don't believe that anyone who witnessed the exercise would take exception with my assessment.

A massive and complex operation like Condor just didn't "happen." It took months of planning, preparation and just plain hard work by everyone at Westover to make it a successful reality.

And successful it was! Despite long and hectic days, and the constant demands which were made upon our facilities and our personnel, we certainly proved that the base, and the entire

439th, is ready and most capable of handling such a large-scale exercise.

Throughout the entire two-weeks, I was constantly impressed by your professionalism and dedication. I was constantly gratified by your "can-do" attitude. It would take much more space than is available in this entire edition of the *Patriot* to detail the countless examples of how our people — Reserve and civilian — rolled up their sleeves and worked far beyond the call of duty to get the job done.

The fact that things ran so well and so smoothly is a tribute to each and every man and woman at Westover. We can be justifiably proud that our base "was the perfect host" for the entire Air Force Reserve during Condor Redoubt.

At the end of the exercise, several people inquired about what types of exercises might be planned for the future. "How," they asked, "do you follow a tough act like this?"

I don't have an immediate answer. But since we are constantly training and striving to enhance our skills, it goes without saying that there will be other tests, and other challenges, for Westover and the 439th in the near future.

Based on what I've just seen, I am totally convinced that we are more than ready for them.

## Expertise wanted to save chapel windows

"The stained glass windows of Westover's former main base chapel are going to waste," said Joe Kulewicz, president of the local Air Force Sergeants Association chapter. Since the building was closed, most of the windows have been boarded up and no longer serve the purpose for which they were designed.

Research revealed that several Air Force base chapels were built using identical plans including Pease AFB, New Hampshire. The Pease chapel has clear glass windows and is very interested in obtaining interchangeable stained glass.

The former chapel now houses a day care center on Chicopee property and the tenants are willing to allow the removal of the stained glass windows.

The Westover chapter of the AFSA desires to accomplish the project.

AFSA international headquarters officials were sold on the idea and promised to promote the project through the monthly Sergeants Magazine. Retired CMSgt. Kulewicz stated, "We are concerned that the windows might fall prey to vandalism or some other catastrophe. After all they were donated by Air Force people and represent Air Force history."

"As with any undertaking, the prime concern is cost. Therefore the chapter is seeking expertise from anyone who is willing to contribute ideas and suggestions. Volunteers are also needed to remove the stained glass windows and replace them or brick up the holes," concludes Joe Kulewicz. If you believe you can help, contact: (retired) CMSgt. J. M. Kulewicz — 583-4464; Fire Chief Haskell Jenkins — 557-3818 or TSgt. Marshall Hathaway — ext. 2072.

## Wing members recognized

Three Air Force Commendation Medals were awarded by Brig. Gen. Donald E. Haugen, 439th TAW commander, during the September UTA.

TSgt. Daniel J. Early received the medal as a result of his distinguished accomplishments as instructor loadmaster and flight examiner for the 731st TAS.

TSgt. Donald L. Edwards 901st avionics navigation systems technician, was awarded the medal due to his outstanding dedication and leadership. His efforts contributed to the mission accomplishment of the communications/navigation section of the avionics function.

TSgt. James R. Maynard was recognized for his exceptional technical knowledge and leadership abilities as a member of the 901st CAMS.

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

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MSgt. Lawrence H. Lentz

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## Patriot Profile

# Sergeant Dave Graber: He ain't Heavy, He's a Brother

By Capt. Rick Dyer

At 6'1" tall and a trim but burly 215 pounds, Dave Graber looks every inch the tough cop that he is.

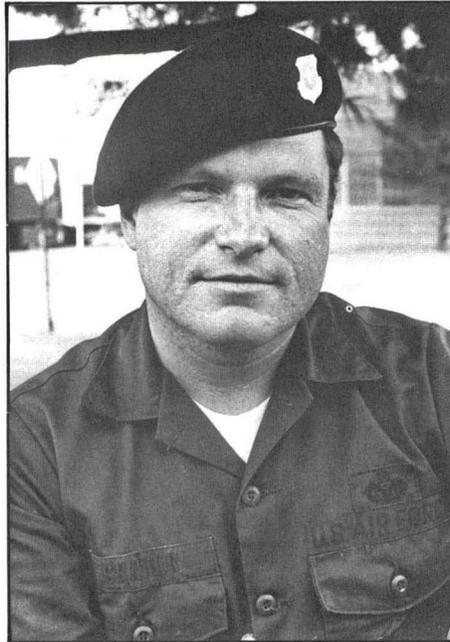
SMSgt. David Graber, an Air Force Reservist and NCOIC with the 913th WSSF at Willow Grove, Pa., recently spent a two-week active duty tour at Westover patrolling the flight line during Condor Redoubt '81.

Armed with a revolver and sometimes an M-16 rifle, he made his rounds protecting the 200 aircraft assembled here for the exercise. He even patrolled a remote operating area on horseback, a job similar to one he did 10 years ago while serving on active duty at Clark AB in the Philippines.

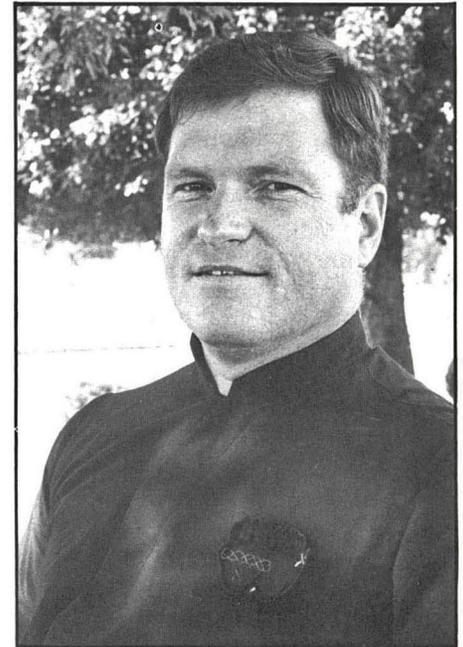
But while the sergeant loves the excitement and comradery of his job as Willow Grove's "top cop", it is not his only calling. In civilian life, he is Brother Dave Graber, a member of the Missionaries of the Sacred Hearts.

As Brother Dave, he lives in a Linwood, N.J. religious community teaching religion to 6th graders at a parochial school and working with parishioners of Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church. He does not, however, see any inconsistencies between his religious vocation and his Reserve avocation.

"It gives me exposure to things that members of a religious community do not usually get," he said. "I am just



SMSgt. Dave Graber, a tough cop, Air Force Reservist and NCOIC with the 913th WSSF, Willow Grove, is also a compassionate religious brother with the Missionaries of the Sacred Hearts in Linwood, N.J., where he teaches parochial school children.



Photos by TSgt. Marshall Hathaway

one of the guys to the members of my unit, and so I get to hear about the day-to-day things in their lives. It allows me to bring another dimension to my duties as a brother."

Brother Dave had joined another religious order in 1965 after he graduated from high school. "But I wasn't ready

to make a final commitment then, so I left after a year," he said.

In 1967, he entered active duty with the Air Force, where he spent four years on various assignments, including stints in Viet Nam. "I always liked my work in the Air Force," he said. I  
(continued on page 7)

## 900,000 vets lose GI Bill this year

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Time is running out for some 900,000 veterans to use educational benefits of the GI Bill, now in its 37th year.

About one-fifth of 4.3 million eligible veterans will lose their eligibility for benefits this year, according to the Veterans Administration. The law permits a veteran to use the education benefits within 10 years following discharge from service, or by Dec. 31, 1989, whichever is earlier.

From June 22, 1944, when the first measure was signed by President Franklin Roosevelt, through June 30, 1981, 18 million veterans had received assistance under the GI Bill. About 35 percent of all trainees have been Viet-

nam Era veterans. This year the GI Bill will assist the education of more than 800,000 Vietnam Era veterans.

More than 7.8 million World War II veterans were trained under the original measure, about one-half of all those eligible. Another 2.4 million, or 43.4 percent of those eligible, studied under the Korean plan, and nearly 7.8 million Vietnam Era and post-Korea veterans have used the current program. Some 65 percent of eligible Vietnam Era veterans have received training.

A new program, which requires financial participation by service personnel, is available for those who entered the military after Dec. 31, 1976.

Veterans who need information on

GI Bill eligibility should contact the nearest VA regional office.

## Unit vehicle ops takes first place

The 439th TAW's Vehicle Operations Section was named the best in the Air Force Reserve in its recent transportation competition.

James Oster, vehicle operations foreman; Tom Hull driver tester; and MSgt. Leroy Johnson, NCOIC, were primarily responsible for the first place showing.

The section oversees the training and certification of all operators; and the operation of both the drivers' school and the motor pool.

## Danger is their business

By TSgt. John Wallace Spencer

"A great deal of the time we don't have anything to do and that proves we're doing a fine job," said William B. Morrissey, Westover assistant fire chief. "The test of a good fire protection program is how many times fireman don't have to be called upon to put out major fires within the confines of their jurisdiction."

Since the 439th Combat Support Group civil engineering section took over the operation of the Westover Fire Department in 1974 there have been no major fires on base and just one major aircraft fire incident.

Thirty-six DOD firefighters work shifts of 24-hours on duty and 24-hours off. During UTAs and annual active duty training, 54 Air Force Reserve firefighters of the 901st Civil Engineering Squadron (CES) are assigned to the fire department for training. Effective October 1, 1981, all personnel of the 901st CES will be consolidated into the 905th Civil Engineering Squadron.

Donald Cloutier, assistant chief of training, is responsible for reservist firefighter training and to ensure their proficiency, should they be called on to deploy or assist in any type of opera-

tion. Reservists receive actual fire-fighting experience on the base's fire training field using ignited contaminated fuel.

"We work alongside reservists and incorporate them into our schedules," reported Cloutier. Training includes egress drills on C-123 and C-130 aircraft using P-2 and P-4 combination crash and rescue fire trucks.

Fire department personnel inspect all on-base structures for potential hazards. Every deficiency is reported to Base Civil Engineering for rapid follow up corrective action.

"The most common violations are those of human error," said Assistant Chief Morrissey. As a form of education new personnel assigned to Westover are briefed by a Reserve firefighter during all welcome center orientations.

The technical services branch educates active duty military personnel in the housing area and civilian personnel during incoming briefings.

"Annual fire prevention weeks such as the upcoming event, October 4-10, is an important fire prevention tool. Posters and literature will be distributed and lectures and demonstrations

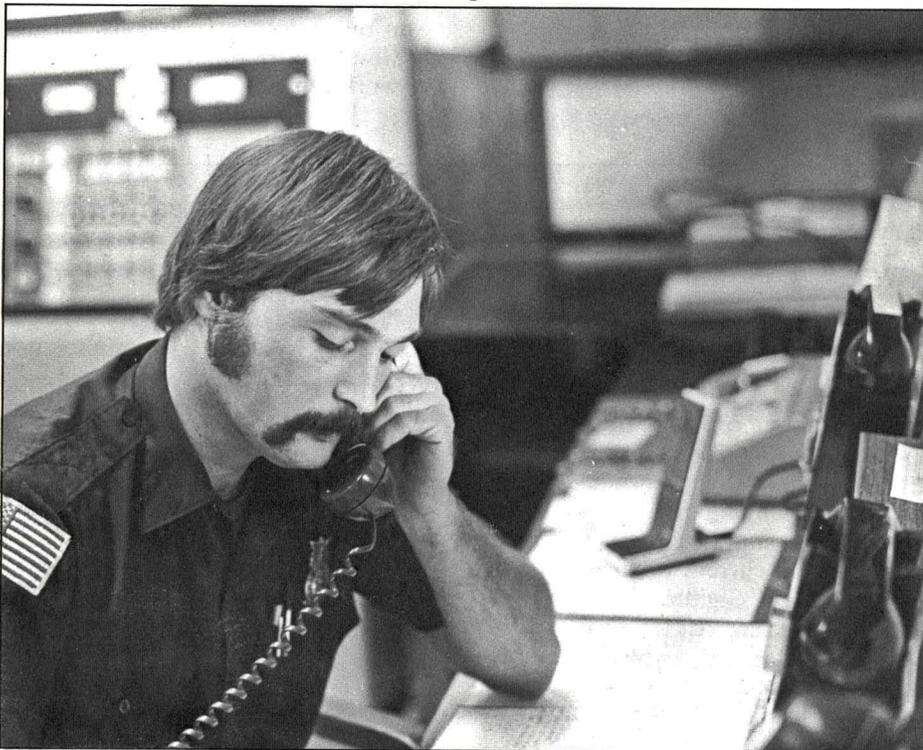
will be held publicizing the theme, Operation E.D.I.T.H. (Exit Drill In The Home)," said Joyce N. Saccoccio of the Technical Service Section.

Other activities sponsored by the base fire protection branch include a parade, a babysitters' fire prevention seminar, live fire training, building evacuation and emergency first aid rescue techniques.

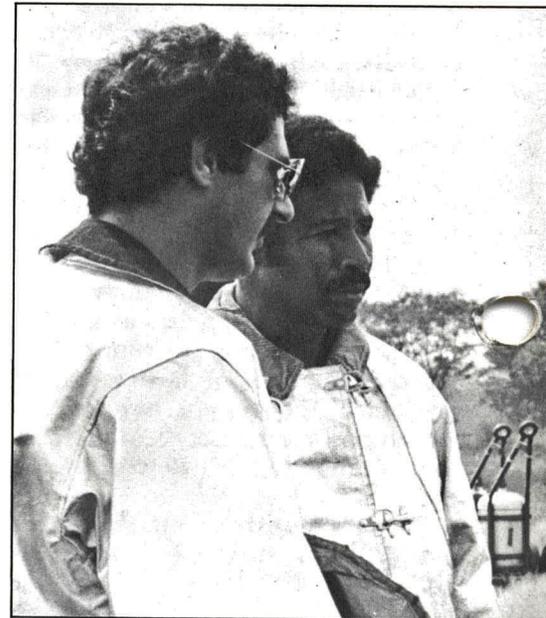
Ms. Saccoccio, Westover's first woman fire inspector, said, "The main event will be the fire prevention display contest between all assigned units."

Fire Chief Haskell Jenkins is proud of Westover's fire assistance to local communities. He said, "Our fire department has mutual aid agreements

All Photos by SSgt. Howard Gabarsky



Firefighter Peter Cavaliere, dispatcher, answers an emergency call at the base fire station.



Haskell Jenkins, chief of the Westover Fire Department drill held on the September UTA.



### PROMOTIONS

Maj. Nelson H. Newhouse  
A1C. Monica F. Dragone  
A1C. James R. Fleming  
A1C. Donald V. Guerin  
A1C. Patricia M. Pittsinger

with neighboring municipalities pledging to provide assistance to each other in time of fire emergency." He told how Westover assisted Springfield's fire department on April 10, 1979 when a fire engulfed a chemical plant and was threatening a large lumber yard and a one-million gallon gasoline storage tank less than 50 yards away.

"Our department was asked for help and within twenty minutes we were in the middle of the blaze. We all knew that if that gasoline tank exploded it would have been curtains for us," said Assistant Chief Morrissey.

"We were able to clear a path and knock the fire down so that Springfield firefighters were able to close a valve



Westover Reservists clad in heat resistant suits, spray foam on blaze during a training session designed to simulate an aircraft fire.

and stop the liquid from leaking and igniting," explained Chief Jenkins.

In August 1980 six Westover firefighters responded to the Bay Oil and Chemical Company fire in Ludlow with their P-4 firetruck and a 5,000-gallon tanker. "It was fully involved when we arrived at the scene," Chief Jenkins said. "Everything was in danger. It could have been a total disaster."

For nearly five hours Westover firefighters used 1,900 gallons of foam and 400,000 gallons of water from hydrants before the fire was brought under control.

"We stand ready to assist the local

civilian community during fire emergencies in every way," explained Assistant Chief Morrissey. This past spring there was a major fire requiring all of Chicopee's firefighting equipment. This left their firehouses empty and in the event another fire broke out, they would have been in big trouble. We dispatched fire trucks to two Chicopee firehouses and stood by just in case we were needed," said Assistant Chief Morrissey.

"We will jump into action whenever and wherever needed but when we don't have anything to do, we're doing a good job," Morrissey quipped.

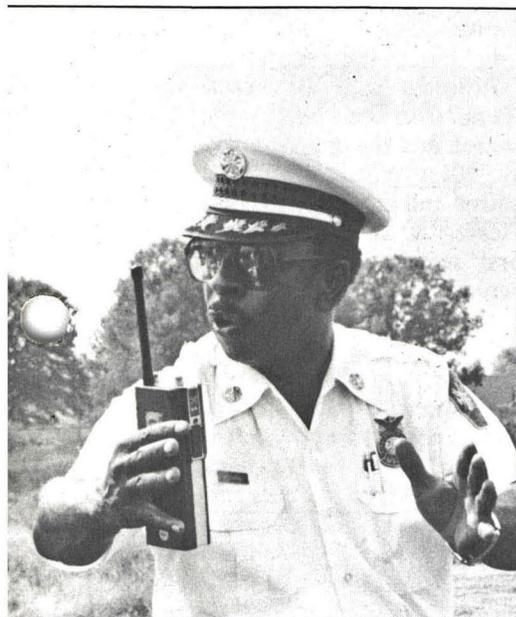
## Wing vs Group: continuance of a tradition

By David Keefe

During Condor Redoubt, amid the activity of the largest Air Force Reserve exercise, the 439th TAW and the 439th CSG hammered away at each other in their annual softball tournament.

With faces grimaced and muscles strained, the players excelled in another of the successful series within the unit.

In the final outcome, wing surprised group by sweeping the three-game series. But the victory was incidental to the spirit that always accompanies the games. Like other sports competitions such as the Red Sox vs the Yankees or Ali vs Frazier, the wing vs group series has become a classic confrontation. But this one will be long remembered by its participants as the unique mix of comraderie and esprit de corps.



... makes a point to firefighters during a training

### ENLISTED

TSgt. Anna S. Lutz  
 SSgt. Michael J. Hearn  
 SSgt. James C. Wolfe  
 A1C. Donna J. Davio  
 AB Lauraine N. Armstrong  
 AB Theresa E. Dean  
 AB Karen V. Duclos  
 AB Marilyn A. Luchi  
 AB Lauren A. McDonnell  
 AB Thomas E. Motyka  
 AB Deborah A. Perron  
 AB Collette J. St. Pierre

### REENLISTED

TSgt. Jesse B. Henman, Jr.  
 Sgt. Peter F. Barbuto, Jr.  
 Sgt. Richard R. Dunning  
 SSgt. Roland F. Gregorie  
 SSgt. Stephen G. Pothier  
 Sgt. Allen T. Barnes

# ASK THE AIRMAN

## China experience to air at dining-out

The Rev. Oscar Guinn of Needham, Mass. will be the guest speaker at the NCO/Airman Dining-out November 7. The reverend will talk on his experiences in China where he spent several years as a missionary.

The Dining-out will open with a cocktail hour at 6 p.m. followed by a prime rib dinner. The highlight of the evening will be the annual wing awards to Senior NCO, NCO and Airman of the Year in addition to the work center of the year.

MSgt. Edward Guenter is president of the mess with MSgt. George Copeland acting as Mr. Vice. After the formalities, music for dancing will be provided by the lamplighters.

Protocol will be represented by members of the 439th law enforcement section and the color guard courtesy of the 901st WSSF. Formal dress is required and attendance is limited to 250. Tickets at \$15.00 are available from first sergeants and committee members.

During the September UTA, SrA. Donna Stewart of the Public Affairs Office asked 439th reservists, "What did you think of Condor Redoubt '81?"

**SSgt. Rick DeGrace, 59th MAPS** — "I think it was super . . . I worked in protocol which gave me an excellent chance to see the overall picture. It was very educational. Once you observe an exercise like Condor Redoubt, you get a better perception of the reserve mission. It was a very proud time for me. It all came together so well, now I know why I'm a reservist."

**SSgt. Mike Flyer, 905th CEF** — "I thought it was very good. We needed it to show the strength of AFRES."

**AB Maria Rosa, 439th CSG** — "As a new reservist, I was really impressed by the professionalism and teamwork that everybody displayed. I learned a great deal about the reserve mission and our capabilities during the two weeks."

**SrA. Leslie Howe, 74th AES** — "The exercise was very informative and provided very good training. I was glad I could take part in it."

**SSgt. Carleton Lavin, 439th CSG** — "I was a cook at Dogpatch. After spending seven years with the Army National Guard as a cook, I was really impressed with the set-up here. There was a lot of esprit de corps and everybody was willing to help. I really enjoyed the two weeks."

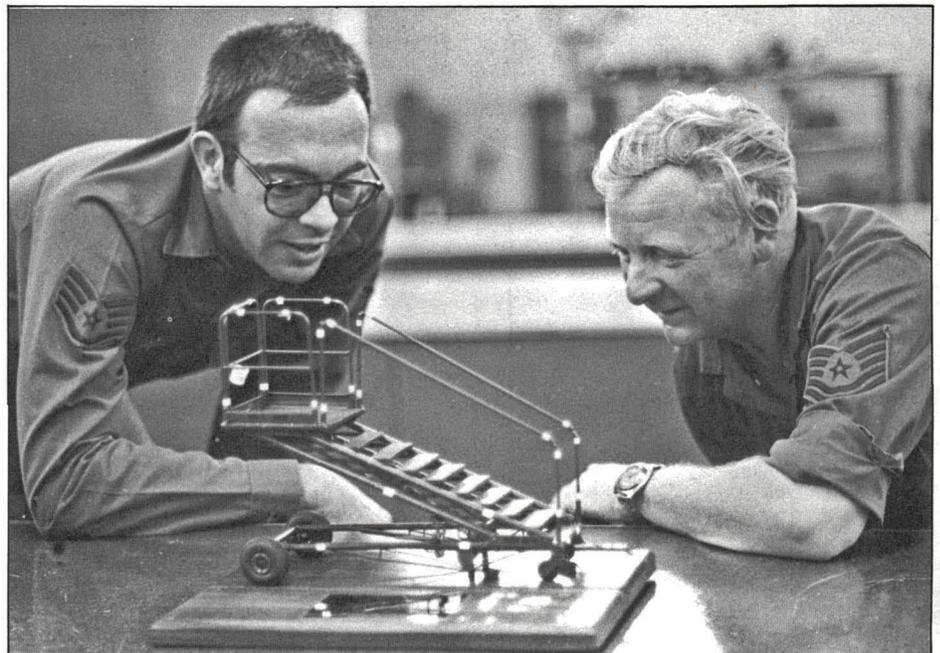
**A1C. Heidi Perreira, 439th CSG** — "I worked at the Airlift Control Element, which was the nerve center of aircraft movement. I think the teamwork and planning involved was excellent and contributed significantly to the overall success of the exercise."

## Dennis feted with unusual gift

Although plaques and trophies are traditional gifts at retirement ceremonies, the one given to TSgt. LeRoy Dennis recently when he retired from the 905th CAMS was anything but ordinary.

Instead of the traditional token of appreciation, the sergeant's co-workers surprised him with a model of a B-1 maintenance stand welded from scrap metal by SSgt. Paul Wiater of the 905th CAMS.

The scale replica was constructed in detail, complete with a FOD bucket hanging from a rail. "It will sure bring back fond memories," Sergeant Dennis said.



SSgt. Paul Wiater (left) and TSgt. LeRoy Dennis view the scale model of a B-1 maintenance stand (made by Wiater) which members of the 905th CAMS recently presented to Dennis to commemorate his retirement from the unit.

## Four Seasons featured at Westover



Richard Puta, manager of the Four Seasons Store, displays some of the recreational equipment for rent.

By A1C Mary L. Borelli

"We need a tent, a lantern, some cooking utensils and a couple of sleeping bags. We want to get in one more weekend of camping and sightseeing before the snow flies."

This is often heard at Westover's Four Seasons Store, a facility which offers a variety of year-round sporting and camping equipment for rent.

During the winter, the equipment available includes ice skates, skis and snowshoes. For spring, summer, and fall there is camping equipment, campers, canoes, games, bicycles, sailboats, rowboats plus inboard and outboard motor boats.

"All members of the base community, including reservists, active duty personnel, dependents, retirees and DOD civilians may rent this equipment," said MSgt. Robert P. Lester, NCOIC of recreational services. "All they need is a current ID card."

Items can be rented on a daily or weekly basis from Four Seasons Store which is open weekdays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon. The store is located in the front part of the Security Police building which is across from the base hangar. The telephone extension is 2974.

### Sergeant Dave . . .

(continued from page 3)

guess that's why I wanted to continue with the Air Force Reserve even after I returned to religious life."

Grabber said that he joined his present religious order after his discharge from active duty in 1971, and took his "final vows" (of poverty, chastity and obedience) last year. "It's hard to explain why I chose religious life," he said. "It's an inner feeling, a calling. I guess I just felt that this is the best way I could serve myself and others."

He noted that his religious superiors support his involvement in the Reserve. He also believes that he is probably the only brother security policeman in AFRES.

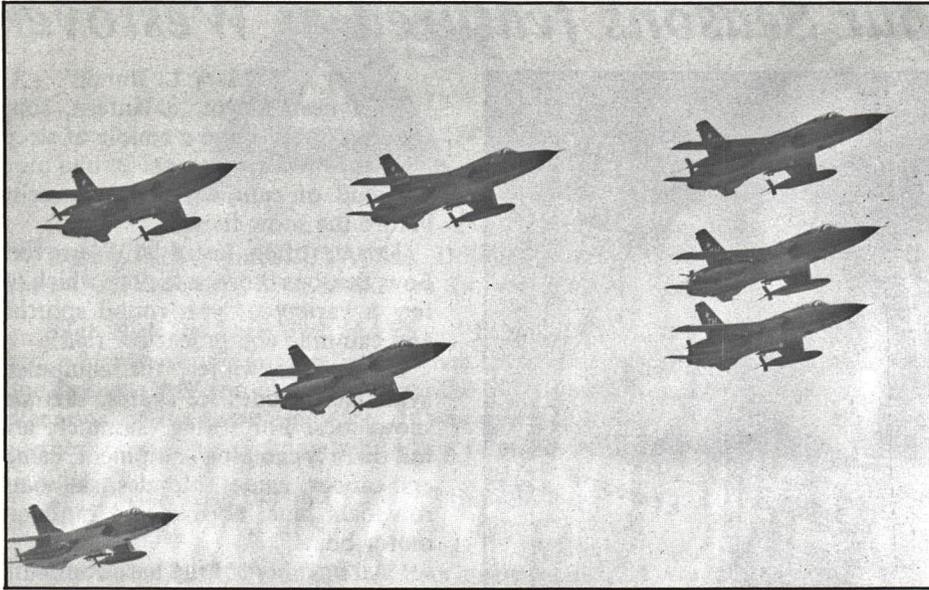
"There are Catholic priests who are chaplains, of course, and I've heard of nuns who serve as nurses or in other capacities, but I believe that I'm the only brother in this type of position," he said.

A former high school football player who still "kicks a soccer ball around" with the kids in his parish, Brother Dave has made hundreds of arrests and even had to draw his gun once while on active duty in the Phillipines.

"I believe in using force when it is necessary to defend myself or others. But I've always believed that words are my greatest weapon," he said with a smile.



Ann. David Spoier of the 914th WSSF at Niagara IAP (left) and Sergeant Grabber patrol the remote "Dogpatch" area at Westover on horseback during the Condor Redoubt '81 Exercise.



F-105 fighters from the 301st TFW streak through the skies above Westover on Aug. 28 in memorial tribute to 1st Lt. Dennis Mason of Fruit Heights, Utah. The Lieutenant's fighter crashed off the Danish coast on Aug. 26 during exercise Condor Redoubt '81.

## 905th CF has meaty training

By G. Mark LaFrancis, 905thCF

The 905th Communications Flight had plenty of company Sept. 12-13 when it conducted its field radio and telephone training.

Flight members were literally surrounded by tens of thousands of fair-goers at the 7th Annual World Kielbasa Festival behind the Fairfield Mall, Chicopee.

For the second consecutive year, the flight established an enclosed field telephone system for the festival sponsors, the Greater Chicopee Chamber of Commerce Fireball Club.

The system of 14 field phones and a field switchboard allowed festival workers inside ticket booths to simply telephone the Chamber's "bank" and

office trailers for money or assistance.

The link greatly improved security throughout the festival grounds, according to Chamber President Joseph M. Topor, Jr., who added that festival workers also saved considerable time communicating with other workers throughout the large festival grounds.

In addition, flight radio operators established a Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) station inside the Westover Air Force Base disaster preparedness van. From the van, operators sent messages for festival-goers and introduced them to the worldwide MARS system.

"All around, it's a good training tool," said 905th communications-operations officer Capt. Jack N. Sannocki. "And besides, it's a fun field exercise."

## 337th to fly with Bold Eagle

Around the clock flying for three days will highlight the 337th TAS's participation in this year's BOLD EAGLE, the annual Joint Chiefs of Staff exercise.

Four aircrews flying two C-130s will join three crews and two aircraft from the 439th TAW's 911 TAG, Pittsburgh, and four other planes at the Ft. Campbell, Ky. staging area. They'll shuttle paratroopers and equipment of the 101st Airborne Division to sites throughout the Eglin AFB, Fla., complex.

"During the exercise's first three days, an aircraft will take off and land every 15 minutes, 24 hours a day. Our planes will be in constant use," explains Lt. Col. Robert Motley, 337th TAS operations officer. "We'll just rotate crews, every 16 hours, during this period."

Following the employment stage, the reservists will fly resupply missions to the soldiers in the bivouac areas.

## Wing CCE at Niagara

By TSgt. Alan J. Sorensen

In an effort to assure combat readiness within the wing, a Combat Capability Exercise team from Westover visited the 914th TAG at Niagara IAP during the September UTA.

The CCE team, consisting of 48 Westover personnel, was led by Lt. Col. Jerry Bryant, commander of the 337th TAS. The inspectors tested all aspects of 914th's ability to respond to an emergency mobilization.

A similar exercise took place earlier this year when Westover personnel visited the 911th TAG at Pittsburgh.

## Recruiting squadron moves to Westover

Westover gained another tenant last month when the 3512th Recruiting Squadron, an active duty unit, moved to the base.

The squadron is responsible for Air Force recruiting in Connecticut, Rhode Island and areas of Massachusetts.

Staffed with 19 military and three civilian members, the unit is located on Hangar Avenue diagonally across from Hangar Seven.

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