

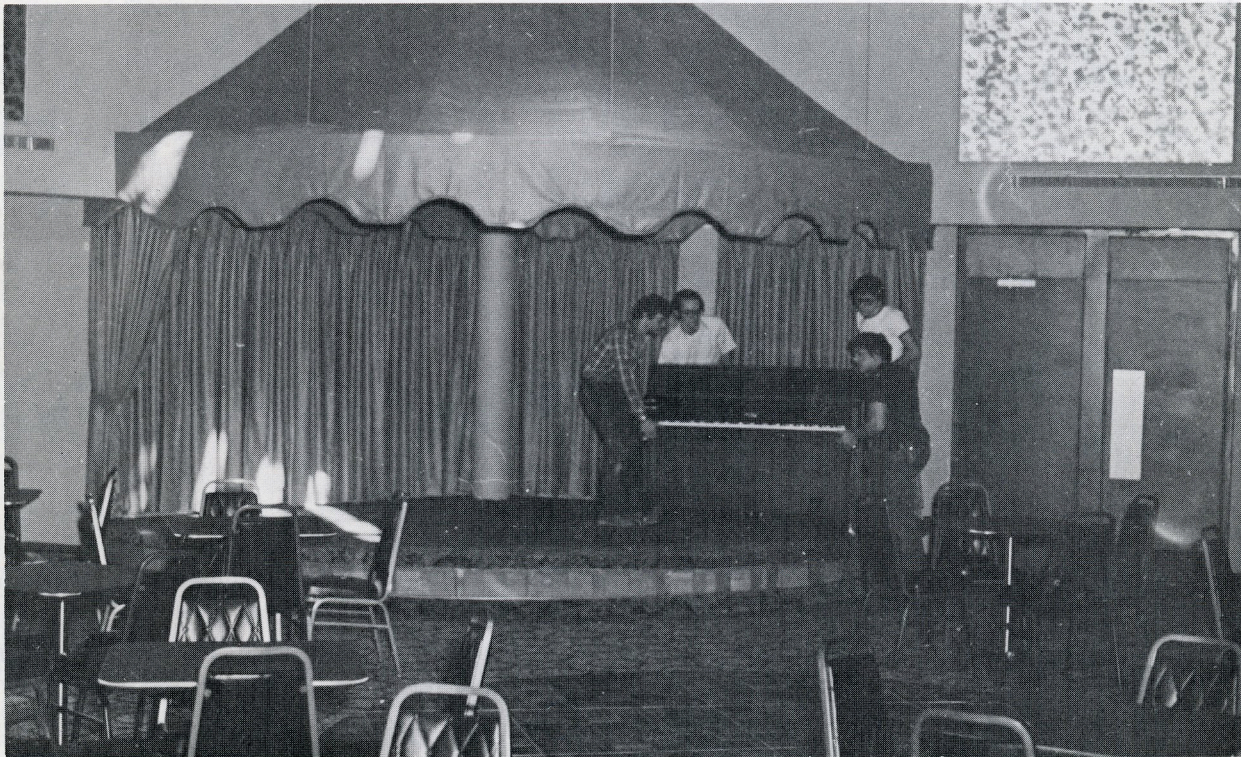
# THE PATRIOT



439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING  
WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE, MASSACHUSETTS

Vol. 1, No. 1

November 1974



WORKMEN BUSILY put the last-minute touches on Westover's new Consolidated Open Mess. The facility will open officially on 30 Nov. 74 and will service active and reserve officers and enlisted men, retirees, and the base's civilian personnel.

The first event at the club was the Air Force Sergeants' Association dinner dance on Saturday evening, 16 November. The beautiful club has bookings right up through the holidays. (See story on page 6.)



# THE PATRIOT

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.

## THE PATRIOT

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## AN INTRODUCTION . . .

### A BEGINNING

Volume one, number one. We're very proud to announce the establishment of a newspaper prepared by and for the personnel of the 439th Tactical Airlift Wing and its assigned and attached units. Our "game plan" is to publish articles and relevant material of particular interest to members of the 439th, but we won't neglect our tenant friends. The PATRIOT is also intending to record many of the daily activities and special events which are a vital and integral part of the reserve functions at Westover.

How well this paper will be able to represent you and your thoughts is entirely up to you. We sincerely hope that all personnel will feel that they are a part of the "news gathering team" and will submit information and suggest ideas to

the Information Office. Please remember: Information and stories which you may feel are commonplace and not worthy of publication might not necessarily be routine to someone else. Rather, others not aware of your activities and role could gain a better understanding and appreciation of your responsibilities and accomplishments.

With your input and support, THE PATRIOT will accurately reflect the past and unfolding successes of the 439th as well as helping all of us to add to these notable achievements.



## UNIT ASSIGNED NEW ORGANIZATIONAL EMBLEM

Along with a new name and new mission, the 439th recently received its official organizational emblem from the Institute of Heraldry. Each insignia is especially designed by that office to symbolically represent each unit's unique mission and other distinguishing characteristics.

Prominently displayed in the emblem are gold wings alluding to the 439th's mission "to provide command and staff supervision of all the tactical airlift squadrons." The red chevron with white trim represents the aeromedical evacuation responsibilities. The three gold rectangular symbols in the base are in reference to the tactical airlift support for personnel, equipment, and supplies. The chevron and bars are in a field of blue surrounded by a border of gold trim. Blue and gold are extensively used as they are the Air Force colors.



# COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

This is my first opportunity to address the members of this wing via this publication and it is a welcomed one.



**Colonel Billy M. Knowles proudly displays new unit flag embroidered with 439th emblem. (See story page 2)**

As you notice we are together involved in a wide range of activities: preparations for inspections/reinspections (ORI/MEI DEC UTA), staff assistance visits, training towards mobilization mission requirements, direct support for the national defense effort, Westover AFB Open House (30 Nov. 74), accelerated

recruiting/retention programs, in some instance basic mission conversion, etc., etc., etc. But isn't it refreshing and exciting to realize the President's total force policy is not a play on words but a definition of the reliance upon reserves in today's force structure.

You are not only unusual people but vital to the needs of the times; unusual in that unlike many of your neighbors you must chew gum and walk upstairs at the same time — you're the better parts of both the civilian community and the military community and vital to the needs of the times in that reliance upon the reserves is an expedient resulting from very real economic pressures to reduce overall defense dollars. In regards to the latter, the Air Reserve Forces make up 75 percent of the total strength of the Tactical Air Command (TAC) and 38 percent of the surge capability of the Military Airlift Command (MAC). Instead of force structure comprised of 100 cent dollar standing active forces, we have a force mix of active and reserve who do the same job for 65 cent dollars.

Because you and your mission are so important, I am confident that together we will measure up in every way. We will meet our mission commitments, we stand ready when needed, and we can assure our fellow taxpayers that their defense investments are rewarded in kind.

**BILLY M. KNOWLES, Colonel,  
USAFR  
Commander**

*(SPECIAL NOTE: We intend to recognize and pay proper tribute to our many unsung heroes, the unit administrators, in the next issue of this publication.)*





Major Delman Wolfe (left), commander of the 901st CAM and Lt. Col. Charles Parrott (center), commander of the 731st TAS receive the congratulations of the 439th Commander, Col. Billy M. Knowles. The two accepted the Air Force Flying Safety Award for the period 1971-1972 on behalf of the former 901st TAG.

Col. Knowles (right), presents a similar Air Force Flying Safety Award to Capt. Ronald Frederickson (left), commander of the 905th CAM, and Lt. Col. Richard P. Stevens, 337th TAS commander, representing the former 905th TAG.



**TO BE MISSED BUT NOT FORGOTTEN . . .** TSgt. Leonard Gill, Jr. (center) proudly displays an Air Force Reserve plaque presented by Colonel Knowles (right). The plaque was given in appreciation of dedicated service to the 439th as a C-123K Flight Mechanic Advisor. On 18 Nov., TSgt. Gill departed for the 3902 OMS at Offutt AFB for a new assignment as a C-131 Flight Mechanic/Crew Chief. CMSgt. Peter Fontana proudly looks on.

**HEADING SOUTH TO POPE AFB, N.C. . . .** Major James D. Watts who served as a TAC C-130 Pilot Advisor at Westover for two years, has been transferred to Pope AFB. He was

formerly attached to the 905th TAG. Upon his recent departure, he was presented an Air Force Reserve plaque in recognition of his contribution to the mission at Westover.



# 439<sup>TH</sup> TO HOST OPEN HOUSE

You, your family and friends are cordially invited to participate in a most extraordinary day. On 30 November 1974, the 439th TAW will sponsor an open house of unparalleled proportions.

The all-day event is planned to graphically illustrate Westover's continuing and very vital responsibilities to the USAFR, the Air Force, and the country. With the phaseout of SAC's mission at Westover, many community residents are under the mistaken belief that Westover's illustrious career would be coming to a close. Rather, with the change of command to the Air Force Reserve, many activities, including flying activities, have and will continue to increase at the base.

To help explain and clarify the new role of Westover as well as the 439th's contribution to our nation's defense efforts, over 200 newspaper, radio, and television station reporters, representing all the New England states and New York, have been invited to attend specially prepared briefings and demonstrations of the unit's capabilities and Westover's facilities.

In addition, a long list of dignitaries have graciously accepted Colonel Knowles' invitation and also will be attending. Included among those converging on Westover from all over the country are Dr. David P. Taylor, Asst. Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Maj. Gen. Homer I. Lewis, Chief of the Air Force Reserve, and CMSgt. Robert I. Boyle, Senior Airman Advisor to the Commander, Air Force Reserve.

Members of the public and 439th personnel have not been left out of the festivities. Announcements of the open house have been mailed to all regional media for distribution.

Static displays and exhibits will be available for inspection. Every type of aircraft currently in the Reserve inven-

tory will hopefully be represented. The C-5A, C-141, C-121, HC-130, A-37, C-7, F-105, as well as the 439th's own C-123's and C-130's will be parked on the ramps for a quick close-up peak or a detailed tour.

A General Electric trailer of various aircraft engine replicas and a Pratt and Whitney demonstration will augment the many exhibits located in the hangars. The unit's engine and electrical shops have also been preparing for the day and will be presenting special displays.

Throughout the day, the Air Force Reserve Band will serenade Westover's visitors, and Boy Scout troops will be manning the snack bars.

But what's an open house without a lot of flying activity!!! Westover's extravaganza will be no exception. Advanced preparation and coordination of a series of training activities will highlight the day's events:

- 1340 - C-130 Assault Landing and Combat Off-Load.
- 1345 - C-130 Taxi and East Ramp.
- 1350 - C-123 Assault Landing and Combat Off-Load.
- 1355 - C-123 Taxi to East Ramp.
- 1405 - C-130 Heavy Equipment Drops.
- 1415 - C-130 Assault Landing and Short Field take-off.
- 1430 - C-123 Personnel Drops (60).
- 1440 - C123 Assault Landing and Short Field Take-off.
- 1515 - C-130 & C-123 aircraft taxi.
- 1530 - C-130 Take-off.
- 1531 - C-123 Take-off.
- 1550 - C-130 & C-123 CDS Drop
- 1600 - C-130 & C-123 aircraft land.

The open house will be held rain or shine and will certainly be one of the biggest and best views of Air Force capabilities Westover has ever seen. It surely will be one long remembered by everyone attending. The invitation is out. Hopefully, you too will be on hand and be one of those to leave with many memories of this most remarkable day.



## GALA CELEBRATION OPENS NEW 'MESS'

A cocktail reception and ribbon cutting ceremony will officially open Westover's new Consolidated Open Mess on 30 Nov. 74. All club members and their spouses are cordially invited to attend the much anticipated event.

At 1900, the Base Commander, Lt. Col. Jack P. Ferguson, will 'do the honors' and cut the all important ribbon.

The opening will cap the activities of the 439th Open House also scheduled for that day. It is expected that many of the visiting 'V.I.P.'s' will be on hand and participate. Many of the newsmen especially invited to the Open House will also be present.

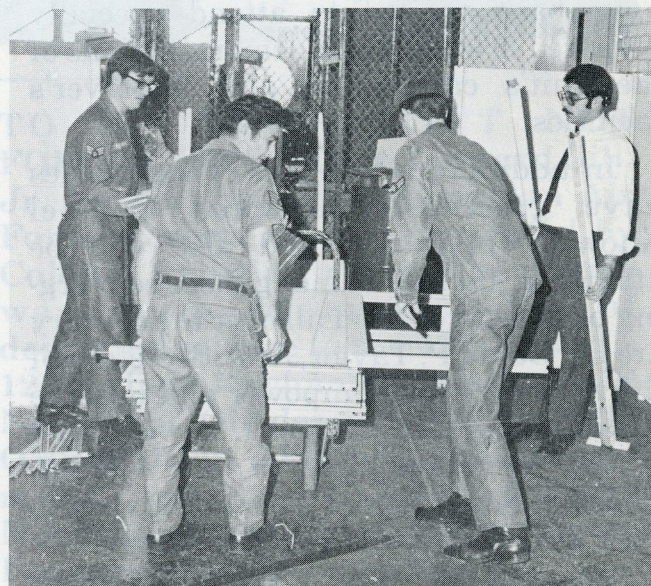
The dress for the evening affair will be 'semi-formal'. Therefore, class A uniforms are respectfully requested.



Boys and Girls from Longmeadow, Mass., toured the base's facilities on November 10. Always popular on the itinerary, Westover's fire fighters take time out of their schedule to explain and demonstrate many pieces of equipment as well as offer words of advice on fire safety. SMSgt. Anthony Palmieri, 901st CE, checks for a 'proper fit.'



Practice Makes Perfect . . . Members of the 439th Cargo Terminal refine their required procedures during a mobility exercise. Processing the paper work are (left to right) SSgt. William Kusmik, SMSgt. Leo Bourret, Sgt. Robert Mosely, MSgt. Carol Hawreluke, MSgt. Deane Wallwork and Sgt. Tom Owens.



Rearranging The Furniture and partitions used in the mobility exercise are (left to right) Sgt. Jim Tatangelo, TSgt. Tom Stigliano, SSgt. John Frasco, and A1C Ed Hallacy.



# COLONEL KNOWLES ADDS 439TH TO DISTINGUISHED CAREER

The histories of the 439th and its predecessor units have been highlighted by years of excellence and achievement. These successes are partly attributable to the experience and expertise of the unit's commanding officers. The September 1974 appointment of Colonel Billy M. Knowles and Commander of the 439th TAW upholds this tradition.

The Air Force background of Col. Knowles dates back to Feb. 1943 when he entered active duty with the U.S. Army Air Corps. He was commissioned a second lieutenant and earned his pilot's wings at the age of 18 through the Aviation Cadet Program. From Sept. 1944 until Nov. 1945, Col. Knowles flew combat missions over Europe.

After an honorable discharge as a first lieutenant during demobilization in Nov. 1945, Col. Knowles attended Lee Junior College in Baytown, Texas, and Texas A & M in College Station, Texas. Later, he worked for a number of private companies in the southwest and operated his own business in Lafayette, La.

Colonel Knowles served as a reservist pilot and flight commander with the 446th TAW at Ellington AFB, Texas, from Oct. 1952 until Nov. 1961 when he entered the ART program as operations officer with the 434th TAW at Bakalar AFB, Indiana. He returned to the 446th in March, 1968 in the ART capacity of chief of flight operations of the one-of-a-kind C-130 Combat Crew Training School. He then moved to the 403 TAW at Selfridge AFB, Michigan in March, 1971 as wing Director of Operations and then served as Director of Operations for Air Force Reserve Headquarters at Robins AFB, Georgia from Nov. 1971 until March, 1974.

Prior to his transfer to Westover, Col. Knowles joined the 302nd TAW at Rickenbacker AFB, Ohio as Senior Air Reserve Technician and Wing Vice Commander.

In July, 1974, Col. Knowles was elected to the position of National Vice President for Air Force Affairs in the Reserve Officers Association.

The 439th's newest commander is a command pilot with a record of over 6,000 flying hours. He has flown the C-130A, C-123, C-119C/G, YC-119K, C-45, C-46, B-17, and B-25 aircraft.

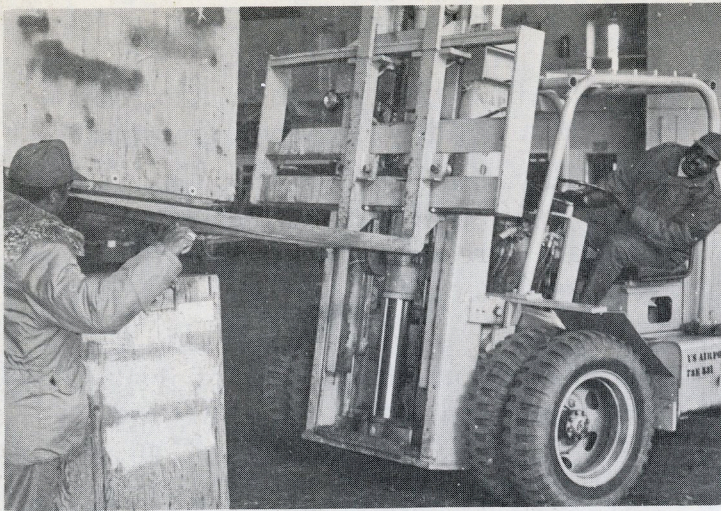
Among the 14 awards and decorations representing his career, are the Meritorious Service Medal with one Oakleaf Cluster; an Air Medal with three Oakleaf Clusters, and the Air Force Commendation Medal with two Oakleaf Clusters.

Col. Knowles is married, has five children, and three grandchildren.

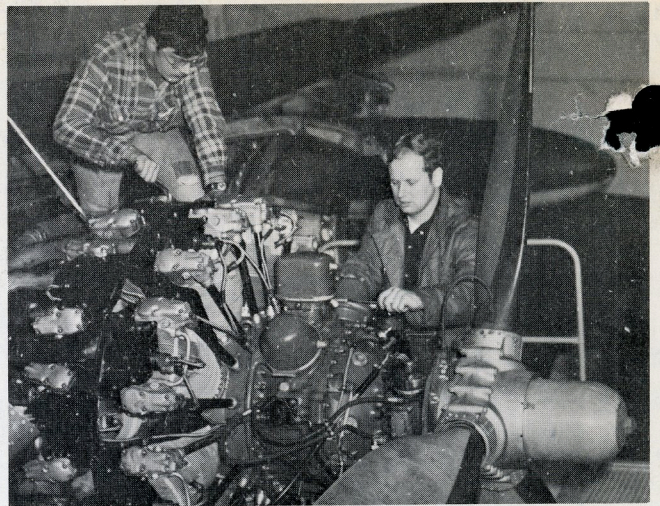


**THE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL** for Outstanding Service was awarded to Major Richard H. Hoffman (right) by Col. Billy M. Knowles, Commander of the 439th at Commander's Call on 10 Nov. 1974. The citation was in recognition of Major Hoffman's achievements during the period Aug. 1972 through June 1974.





**MEN AND MACHINE** combine effort and get the job done. TSgt. Leroy Johnson (right) assists TSgt. Frank Collings palletize two crates of filters. Their participation was in response to the mobility exercise.



**BUSINESS AS USUAL** for personnel from the engine shop of the 905th CAM. (left to right) Sgt. James Carroll, Sgt. Robert Cartier and Sgt. Derek Wilson give their 'patient' careful scrutiny.

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

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