



# THE PATRIOT



439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING

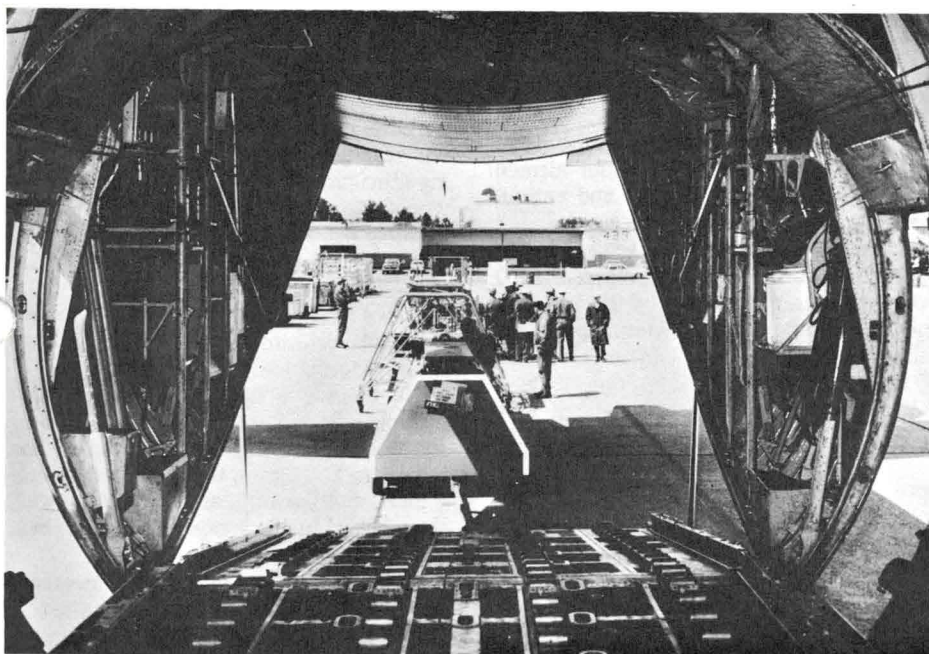
WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE, MASS.

Vol. III, No. 5

May 1976

## WESTOVER BLUE IN GREEN PARADE

(Story — Pages 6 & 7)



OPEN WIDE . . . . A C-130 easily accommodates its designated cargo during April's mobilization exercises. The training was as realistic as possible in preparation for the upcoming 439th TAW ORI. (Additional photos of the weekend work on page 3.)

**BIG SHOTS . . . .** TSgt. Grete Bohannon gets some pointers on the M-16 rifle from Base Firing Range Instructor MSgt. Ronald Snell, 439th CSG. Along with other members of the 905th CE, Sergeant Bohannon completed the annual training required of everyone involved in mobilization exercises.



# Enlisted Force Change In Structure Planned

WASHINGTON (AFNS)—The enlisted force structure is getting an overhaul. There are several major changes scheduled to take effect starting June 1.

For the past few years, Air Force non-commissioned officers have expressed a feeling of continuing loss of prestige in job and rank. They've said they were confused over their roles and responsibilities. Their talents weren't being used, they thought.

A number of things tended to fuel this feeling. For one, the regulation describing NCO responsibilities gave just one description for all NCO grades. There was also a question of whether an E-4 is really an NCO.

Some NCOs say "everyone" is a sergeant and this lessens the prestige of being an NCO. There has also been debate over whether an E-7 is considered a "senior" NCO.

To solve these kinds of problems, the Air Force has now more clearly defined NCO responsibilities, resolved confusion of the status of E-4s and E-7s, and provided a framework for future enhancement of the NCO force.

## Structure 3-Tiered

The major change is a new three-tier enlisted structure. The new structure, including specific responsibilities for each grade, is being spelled out in a revised regulation (AFR 39-6) that will take effect June 1.

The three tiers are: apprentice-trainee (E-1 through E-4 senior airman); technician-supervisor (E-4 sergeant through E-6); and supervisor-manager (E-7 through E-9).

The Air Force has already begun to take steps to use senior NCOs more effectively.

One program started in January. It's the Chief's group at the Air Force Military Personnel Center (AFMPC). The group is working to individualize assignments for all chief master sergeants. To support this program, major commands are identifying their most demanding E-9 jobs

around the Air Force. The AFMPC group will match specific talents of the best qualified chiefs to these key jobs.

To help recognize "fast burners" in the lower grades, an early promotion to E-4 has also been announced. Under this E-4 below-the-zone promotion, unit commanders can nominate up to 10 per cent of their eligibles for promotion up to six months early. A board will make the final selections based on a local quota. The quota depends on the number of eligible people on a given base.

## E-4's To Be Split

Another proposed change is a split grade for E-4s. This change splits the grade into E-4 "senior airman" and E-4 "sergeant."

The program works like this: for the first 12 months that a person is an E-4, he will be a "senior airman." Senior airmen will have all existing E-4 pay and entitlements, but will not be called sergeant.

To become an NCO, these senior airmen wait 12 months as an E-4, complete NCO orientation training, have a record that shows potential, are recommended by their reporting official, and are certified by their unit commander.

When all these squares are filled, they will attend a formal ceremony and receive a certificate appointing them to the NCO corps. After that, they can wear the NCO insignia and be called "sergeant."

The differences in the new airman and NCO insignia are as follows: senior airmen and below will wear the basic current insignia designs with a blue star in the center; sergeants and above will wear the grade insignia now in use with a silver star in the center of the stripes.

The new system is designed to make NCO status an earned achievement rather than automatic designation. It also gets the unit commander involved in the system and provides an incentive for people to advance to NCO status.



## Wing Commander's Message

By Brig. Gen. Billy M. Knowles

As you learned during the April UTA, we have received the MAC IG warning order of our ORI/MEI inspections for the May 14-15-16 UTA.

The adrenaline should be running high. I know mine is. As stated many times before, nothing is more important than this comprehensive inspection. Its two-fold purpose is to determine if we can meet our readiness criteria and are we managing efficiently and cost effectively. In other words can we do, and do we do, what it is we've been organized, funded and trained to do. You and I are prone to say "Yes!" to both but now we have to put up or —

All we have to do is prove it through professional performance. Not only the technical performance by every man and woman in the 439th Tactical Airlift Wing but the professional character of our units and their personnel, as perceived by the inspecting team is on the line. By the latter I mean the outward manifestations—what they see, observe, experience and hear while here.

AFM 35-10 grooming and appearance standards are part of that manifestation. Routinely only about 5% of our 2000 officers, noncommissioned officers, airmen and airwomen fail to comply with these standards, but 1/5 of 1 percent is not good enough nor fair to the unit or fellow reservists.

Courtesy is another. Not just military courtesy and custom but humanistic courtesy and behavior. The courtesy you display to the team and to yourselves is an index of our collective character.

Finally, there is no adversary role between the USAF inspector and the inspected. That's passe. Today, in the active force, the Guard and Reserve, the inspected strives to demonstrate to the taxpayer (public), the Congress (The Constitutional Purser for the armed forces), the Service Component (USAF) through the inspection process, that the unit is capable of performing its assigned mission. Similarly, the I team strives to objectively evaluate that readiness and report accurately what is observed.

It's really a very straight forward process. They know what they're doing. Let's show them we know what we're doing.

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.

### Commander, 439th TAW

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### Base Commander

Lt. Col. Jack P. Ferguson

### Base Information Officer

Betty O'Connell

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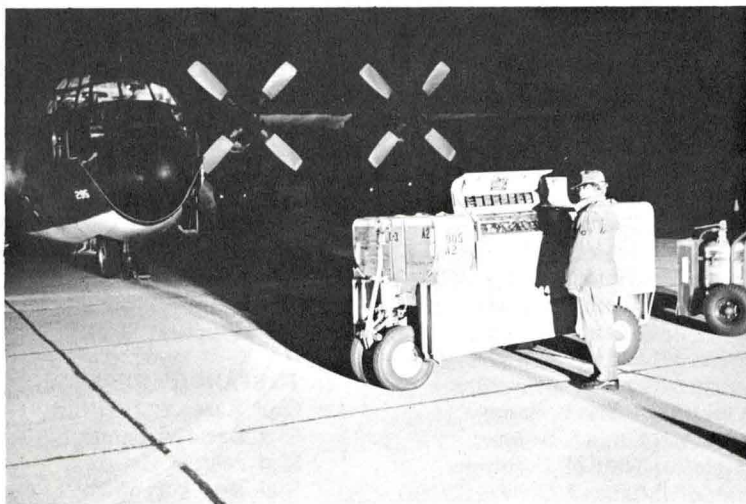
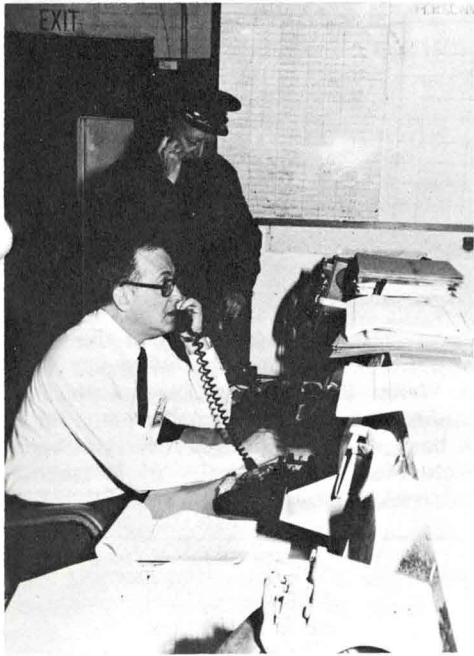
### Photographers

Sgt. Barry W. Brightman

Sgt. James Langley

# ORI PLANNING AND REHEARSAL

*(Editor's note: Operational Readiness Inspection — Management Effectiveness Inspection . . . . Six words which sum up a year of training for AFRES units. Whether on the flight line, processing line or chow line, only the conscientious efforts of all 439th members will "make or break" the vital inspection. In all areas at Westover, the April UTA was devoted to refining skills and double checking procedures in anticipation of the big day in May.)*



## BICENTENNIAL BASE BEAUTIFICATION BEGINS

If you've noticed that Westover looks a bit brighter these days, it's because the Base Beautification Committee has been very, very busy. Chaired by Maj. Robert Motley, 337th TAS, the committee is a part of Westover's Bicentennial Council and receives funding from the Council's Finance Committee.

The first and present beautification project is the painting of some existing facilities with a predominance of red, white and blue. Falling prey to feverish paint brushes, wielded by a volunteer force, are hydrants, signs, posts, standpipes and dumpsters. Many items within the housing area such as bleachers and athletic equipment are also undergoing cosmetic surgery.

A future project is the major renovation of land between Central Avenue and the Ellipse. Trees will be planted and land leveled. Eventually, a monument, placed on this spot, will serve as a foreground for the parade ground's flagpole.

Because the base boundaries have been redrawn, the gatehouse will be relocated further down Central Avenue. This move will necessitate new landscaping. Lt. Col. Jack Ferguson, base commander, estimates this project to begin by June, 1976.

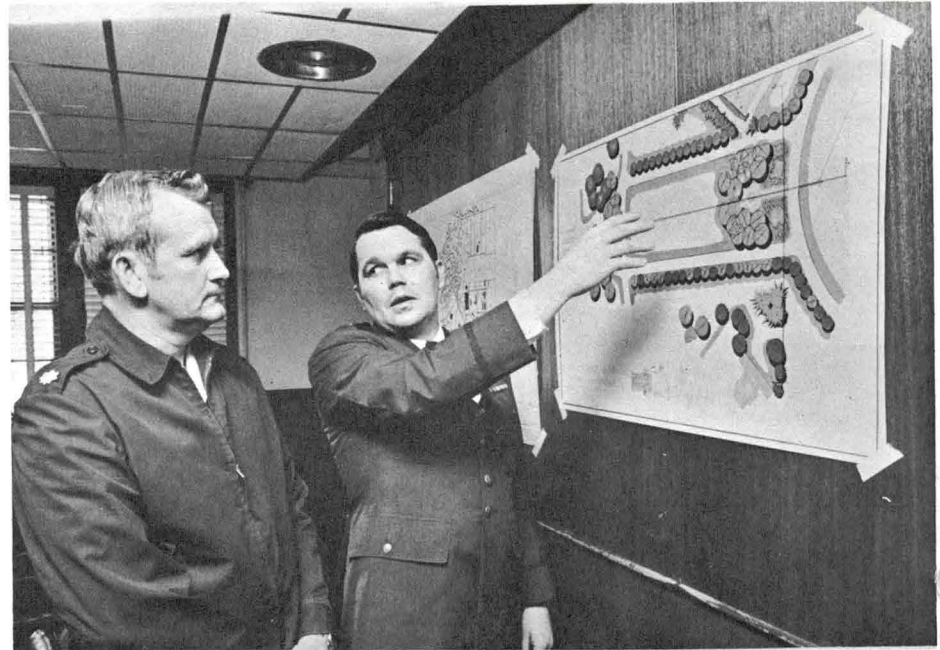
Some of the designs for the landscaping were proposed by Capt. Walter Bumgardner, 439th CSG. As a civilian, he is an assistant professor of landscape architecture at the University of Massachusetts. Two of his graduate students, David Miller and Lisa Dreisli, have also drawn up plans and will receive college credits towards their master's degrees.

"I was quite pleased with their ideas. We're very fortunate to have them," pro-

claims Colonel Ferguson. "Other ideas are now being discussed. We'll be announcing more short and long range projects very soon."

The bicentennial council has been striving to increase the sense of pride everyone who works at Westover has for the base.

The base beautification projects are one such means. But more volunteers are needed for the many proposals. Those interested should contact Lt. Col. Charles Collins, extension 3540; Mr. Roy McCord, extension 3978; or 2d. Lt. Ernest Delvecchio, extension 3978.



**PREVIEW**—Maj. Robert Motley, 337th TAS navigator, and chairman of the Westover Bicentennial base beautification committee, casts an approving eye at a landscape architectural drawing, as Capt. Walter Bumgardner, Reserve chief of the 439th CSG division of Morale, Recreation, and Welfare, explains plans for a facelifting operation on a portion of the base. Captain Bumgardner is also an assistant professor of landscape architecture at the University of Massachusetts. The plans were drawn by graduate students Lisa Dreisli and David Miller.



### PROMOTED

MSgt. Clayton M. Baummer  
 TSgt. Michael F. Flarida  
 TSgt. David W. Garnett  
 TSgt. Raymond R. Marquis  
 TSgt. Dale V. Olson  
 TSgt. Joseph R. Paul  
 TSgt. John P. Sambor  
 TSgt. Jim P. Thornhill Jr.  
 SSgt. James A. Bonafini Sr.  
 SSgt. Roger J. Bunk  
 SSgt. Francis A. Favara

SSgt. Richard K. Hayes  
 SSgt. William J. Kollios  
 SSgt. Edward Koziatek  
 SSgt. Stanley G. Lasko  
 SSgt. John J. McCarthy III  
 SSgt. Herbert F. Montena  
 SSgt. Jack J. Nottingham  
 SSgt. Kenneth W. Rysz  
 SSgt. Albert Sparks  
 SSgt. Wade W. Tate  
 SSgt. Edward S. Wabeck  
 Sgt. William F. Bair Jr.  
 Sgt. Frank A. Brown  
 Sgt. Gerhald A. Kohler  
 Sgt. Sara L. Miller  
 A1C Carol E. Cole  
 A1C Debra A. Daley  
 A1C Beverly K. Hope  
 A1C Edward D. Rohan  
 A1C James J. Sirois  
 A1C Andrew C. Trushaw

### ENLISTED

SSgt. Carl H. Berg Jr.  
 SSgt. Joseph J. Divittorio Jr.

SSgt. Walter J. Shaughnessy  
 SSgt. Elton W. Whiehe Jr.  
 Sgt. Paul D. Bryant  
 Sgt. Donald D. Burroughs  
 Sgt. Lovell H. Dunton  
 Sgt. Thomas F. Galloway  
 Sgt. Ernest L. Lederer  
 Sgt. Kevin Lunardini  
 Sgt. Bruce C. McCrae  
 Sgt. James R. McCoon  
 Sgt. Phillip E. Russ  
 Sgt. James A. Stanhope III  
 A1C William T. Coleman  
 A1C Brett Delves  
 A1C Lester H. Eldridge Sr.  
 A1C Timothy J. Kay  
 A1C Keith J. Provost  
 AMN Bruce F. Caney  
 AB Andrew M. Anderson  
 AB Carol B. Armstrong  
 AB Robert L. Bashaw  
 AB Karen S. Bowman  
 AB Susan M. Desormier  
 AB Nancy J. Donovan  
 AB Judith A. Driscoll

AB Celio G. Hernandez  
 AB Robert C. Ladd  
 AB Robert V. Lang  
 AB Kathleen M. McGee  
 AB Linda R. Parent  
 AB Catherine H. Parker  
 AB Theresa L. Patenaude  
 AB Sandra A. Price  
 AB Gerald W. Ripley  
 AB Eric D. Scoville  
 AB Karen A. Volino  
 AB Augusta M. L. Weldon

### REASSIGNED

Sgt. Robert G. Erhardt  
 Sgt. James A. Stanhope III  
 A1C Sara L. Miller  
 AMN Denise P. Steeley

### TO STANDBY RESERVE

Capt. Karen K. J. Griffin  
 SSgt. David M. Barger  
 SSgt. John R. McGroary  
 SSgt. Donald T. Mitchell  
 SSgt. Steven R. Porterfield

# BREAKFAST BRIEFING

"There aren't enough hours in the day"—a complaint heard frequently at West-over as everyone attempts to complete all that's required. In addition to the demanding complement of military obligations, the full schedule of bicentennial activities has increased everyone's responsibilities and efforts.

The 439th's unit commanders have long realized this dilemma. Recently, they've done something to alleviate some of the problem. Instead of their duty day beginning at the usual 8 a.m., the commanders now meet Saturday mornings of the UTAs at 6 a.m., prior to sign-in.

These monthly meetings are held at the Open Mess, include a small buffet breakfast, and accomplish many objectives.

The gathering permits an immediate forum for the sharing of information affecting all the units. Each commander presents relevant material about upcoming activities. An imminent mobilization exercise was discussed recently by Lt. Col. Harry Judd, assistant deputy commander for resources, while Lt. Col. Robert McMullen, deputy commander for operations, covered other details of the ORI practice.

Events needing special coordination receive the explicit attention of everyone involved. For example, at the April meeting, Lt. Col. Jack Ferguson, base commander, asked fellow commanders to send airmen to human relations classes. Later, unit assignments for retreat ceremony participation were formalized.

### Chain of Command Communication

The briefings are a primary means of communication for Brig. Gen. Billy Knowles, 439th TAW commander; and Lt. Col. Charles Parrott, 439th TAW vice commander. "At each meeting, we discuss a

different aspect of command," explains Colonel Parrott. "Programs, such as career counselling, retention and recruitment are thoroughly evaluated at the command level before implementation throughout the units. Our efforts also involve more than just talk. Following discussion of the food services, all the commanders were invited to the mess hall for an unannounced on-the-spot examination as breakfast was being served."

Recently, General Knowles voiced his concern over the long, exhausting hours the ORI practice required of troops not accustomed to the hectic flight line events and changing weather conditions. He urged the 25 assembled commanders to

personally insure that proper safety procedures are followed in the units.

The communication flow also goes two ways. In April, General Knowles asked for, and received opinions regarding the value and accomplishments of the Friday evening drill.

The early hour briefings provide more than information. By meeting before their own activities begin, the commanders return to their units by the start of the day and are readily available to their own people.

The only difficulty—it makes a long day even longer. But the commanders all agree. The breakfast briefings are well worth missing those "40 extra winks."



**PASS THE SALT AND INFORMATION . . . . 439th TAW commanders discuss impending UTA events over breakfast.**

### REENLISTED

- CMSgt. Alcide F. Patenaude
- SMSgt. Mariano Delmonte
- MSgt. Paul T. Babin
- MSgt. Richard J. A. LaJoie
- TSgt. Gerard R. Farrell Jr.
- TSgt. Michael Gallagher
- TSgt. Thomas F. Koerber
- TSgt. Donald F. MacGillivray
- TSgt. Charles S. Maligno
- TSgt. Frank S. Rys
- TSgt. Robert H. Tetreault
- TSgt. Bruce B. Wood
- SSgt. James E. Carucci
- SSgt. Thomas J. Chrzan
- SSgt. John J. Connors Jr.
- SSgt. Richard E. Emery
- SSgt. Joseph E. Enderle Jr.
- SSgt. Norman R. Fioroni

- SSgt. Albert D. Guzzo
- SSgt. Richard K. Hayes
- SSgt. Thomas F. McCoy
- SSgt. Roy C. Menard
- SSgt. John C. Miller
- SSgt. Joanna I. Suszczynski
- SSgt. Dennis M. Wallace
- Sgt. Barry W. Brightman
- Sgt. Gilberto Colon Jr.
- Sgt. James I. Faye
- Sgt. Kenneth M. Huckins
- Sgt. Nathaniel Lewis
- Sgt. Freddy E. Mis
- Sgt. Herbert F. Montena
- Sgt. Michael G. Vento
- Sgt. Jeffrey C. Walker

### DISCHARGED

- TSgt. Kenneth M. Gates

- SSgt. George P. Adduci Jr.
- SSgt. Paul A. Bates
- SSgt. Audie E. Boudreau
- SSgt. Philip R. Bourget
- SSgt. Dennis P. Cedrone
- SSgt. Richard J. Delrossi
- SSgt. Phil L. Ferrari
- SSgt. James F. Juhas
- SSgt. David J. Maggio
- SSgt. Ronald K. Nelson
- SSgt. James B. Parizo
- SSgt. Edward D. Verro
- SSgt. Stephen D. Vose
- SSgt. Michael E. Wzorek
- Sgt. Mark A. Bielinski
- Sgt. Robert T. Chisholm Jr.
- Sgt. John J. Crovo Jr.
- Sgt. Richard E. Fortier
- Sgt. Joseph D. Gelinas

**ANOTHER FIRST FOR THE 439???**  
A C-130 from the 337th TAS flew the Berlin corridor during April as part of its mission to airlift TAC special forces. When the crew landed the plane at Tempelhof Airport, it became what we believe was the first Air Force Reserve C-130 to have flown this route. At press time, we weren't able to confirm that our men were the first reservists to fly into Berlin.

\* \* \*

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GOOD NEIGHBORS . . .** The 1917 Communications Sq. has received the North Comm. Area Ground Safety Award for a perfect record of no reportable accidents during calendar year 1975.

# WESTOVER BLUE

Sunday morning of March 25 looked promising as the mildest temperatures in many years greeted the 25th anniversary of the Holyoke (Mass.) St. Patrick's Day Parade. Volunteer members of Westover's color guard, marching unit, float contingent and a Civil Air Patrol unit began assembling with numerous other units before the start of the parade. An atmosphere of excitement began to build as the fruition of base parade planning was about to be realized.

Participation for the event started at a January meeting of the Westover Bicentennial Council. SSgt. William Rose, chairman of the Military Honors Committee assured the presence of the color guard and Mr. Ralph Nugent, 439th CSG/DOZ, presented drawings for a float. In subsequent meetings, the float's design and construction was approved, a base marching unit was formed under the direction of 2d. Lt. Michael Rosen, 439th TAW/CE-W and the Civil Air Patrol volunteered another marching unit.

Now at last, it was time to step off. The parade was under way.



**IN STEP . . .** Led by Capt. Ronald Frederickson, 905th CAMS commander and chief of maintenance; and Guidon Bearer SSgt. Paul Atkins, 58th APS, the base marching unit was made up of volunteers. 2d. Lt. Michael Rosen, 439TAW/CE-W, first row, center, formed the group.



**CROSSING THE GREEN . . .** Sgt. David Eckles, 905th MOBSFlt, pilots the Westover float over shamrocks painted at the intersection of High and Dwight Streets. The militia men flanking the side are Tad Witowski and William Davidson.

The color guard led off the Westover section under the direction of TSgt. Sherman Williams. They were followed by the base and Civil Air Patrol marchers. The base contingent was Capt. Ronald Frederickson, 2d. Lt. Michael Rosen, 2d.

Lt. Benjamin Pagoni, MSgt. Peter McCavick, MSgt. Richard Filiettaz, MSgt. Roger Perrault, TSgt. John Nagy, SSgt. Paul Atkins, SSgt. Richard Hurst, SSgt. John Prechtel, Sgt. John Kotaseni, Jr., Sgt. Lawrence Parker, Sgt. Leroy Rose,

Sgt. Howard Cormier, Sgt. Theodore E Erhardt, Jr., Amn. Katherine Barber, Amn. David Miller, and Amn. Debra Sekcinski.

Base Commander Lt. Col. Jack Ferguson marched with Chicopee Mayor Howard Redfern and other city dignitaries in another parade section.

Finally came Westover's float representing the efforts of Mr. Howard Altman, MSgt. William Davidson, 905th CAMS, SSgt. Stanley Parkinson, 901st MOBSFlt., and Sgt David Eckles, 901st MOBSFlt. They were aided by many volunteers who helped with the finishing touches such as painting and decorating.

Westover's participants passed crowds estimated to be nearly 200,000. Lieutenant Rosen expressed his satisfaction in the day's outcome. "It was a good show. I thought we looked exceptionally well and the crowd seemed very favorable to us. I think the majority of viewers stood up and took notice."

## "RAIN ON MY PARADE"

The Westover contingent were among the lucky ones. Some marchers never made it through the entire route. Shortly after the base group ended their trek an ominous black cloud approached with incredible speed. Although only midafternoon, the area was quickly plunged into near night time darkness and seconds later a strong wind and torrential rain ended the parade.

# ST. PATRICK'S GREEN

Although the float, color guard and Miss Westover and her court will represent the base in several other bicentennial events, they are already looking to St. Pat's 1977. Hopefully, for them, next year's "wearing of the green" wouldn't be so wet.



**SHARP . . .** Looking good in front of Holyoke's City Hall is the WAFB Color Guard. They are, from left, recruiters SSgt. Paul Couture, TSgt. Sherman Williams, SSgt. William Rose and TSgt. Nathan Writesel.

**EAC UPDATE . . .** The EAC will elect new officers in June. Any person interested in filling an office should contact one of the committee members: SSgt. Carl Peterson, 439TAW/CC; TSgt. James V. DiVita, 439CSG/HC; or TSgt. LaVerne Cholewa, 439CSG/DPM.



**UP FRONT . . .** A Westover wave to the thousands of parade viewers is given by, from left, Capt. Michael Kiely, 731st TAS; SSgt. David Gaboury, 905th APFI; Lt. Col. Robert McCoy, 337th TAS; Amn. Louise Young, 439th Tactical Hospital; SSgt. Daniel Early, 731st TAS; and 1st. Lt. Mary Griffin, 74th AES. Also riding, but hidden from view were TSgt. Martha Daugherty, 439th CBPO and SSgt. Anthony Symasko, 439th CSG/DA.



## BRIEFS

**GERONIMOOOOOOOOOO . . . . .** Plans for the establishment of a Westover Parachute Club are being finalized. The club will be open to all reservists, active duty, retired military, DoD civilians and their dependents. For the latest details, drop in on Sgt. Steven Budleski at the 901st CAMS or call extension 2054; or contact Mr. Gary Readio at extension 3938.

\* \* \*

**A SOFTBALL LEAGUE PITCH . . .** A base "slow pitch" softball league has been formed for reserve, active duty, dependent and civilian personnel. Up to ten teams will compete on Mondays and Thursdays between May and August. Equipment will be provided by the base gym. Mr. Mike McNicholas, at the gym, has more info and applications.

\* \* \*

**IT'S OFFICIAL . . .** Our Patriot Editor, TSgt. Lawrence Lentz, has been selected as AFRES Information Specialist of the Year. Congratulations, Larry, and thanks for the recognition you've brought to Westover, the 439th and our unit newspaper for the part you've played in the vast improvement in The Patriot.



**QUEEN AND HER COURT . . .** Miss Westover and her court enjoy their role from the rear of the float. Seated behind the bicentennial medallion are, from left, Miss Mary Reardon, representing the Gold Star Wives; Amn. Linda Ammon, 439th CBPO; Miss Westover, Amn. Debra Wiernasz, 337th TAS; and Amn. Reba Yates, 74th AES.

# 439th Personnel involved in Community Affairs

This letter to Major Arthur Sorenson, 439th assistant director of operations, from Polly Cooper, Volunteer Coordinator for WGBY TV-57, tells it all:

"The Great Spring Auction of '76 is over and we have declared it a major success! We met our financial goal and had a great deal of fun accomplishing such a major feat. But it certainly was not all our doing! Rather, the whole effort depended upon the many hours of help donated by our volunteer staff. Thank you for helping to organize a superb group! They were a great bunch.

"I hope that the community realized that the Air Force Reserve does serve its community in a variety of ways — including the 57 Auction! From the role of auctioneer to that of table assistant, the men and women helped us out in all sorts of areas. We all hope that it was an enjoyable experience for everyone involved. Please express my thanks to the others who were involved with the Auction and volunteered their time to help out."



**TOP THIS!** A1C Nancy Olzewski receives one of the 901st CAM's new squadron caps from MSgt. Mike Sicuranza, first sergeant, center. TSgt. Sal Palumbo watches the royal treatment. The caps, royal blue with gold lettering, were purchased by everyone in the unit.

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