



THE PATRIOT



439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING

WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE, MASS.

Vol. III, No. 10

October, 1976

New Tenants Call Westover Home

Company's coming! The Air Force units located at Westover will have increasing numbers of new neighbors wearing different shades of uniforms. The new people are other Department of Defense organizations expanding or relocating at Westover.

The joint Army/Navy Reserve Center has been active for the past three years. Located in the former SAC Service Club, it is home to the 173d Medical Group and 1049 Army Reserve School. The building, along with 12.4 acres, was purchased from AFRES for \$4 million. Plans now call for the construction of a maintenance garage and parking facility on the vacant lot between the Dining Hall and Base Exchange. Company C, 3d Battalion, 35th Infantry of the 187th Separate Infantry Brigade, from the Army Reserve Center in Springfield, will move in after the building is completed.

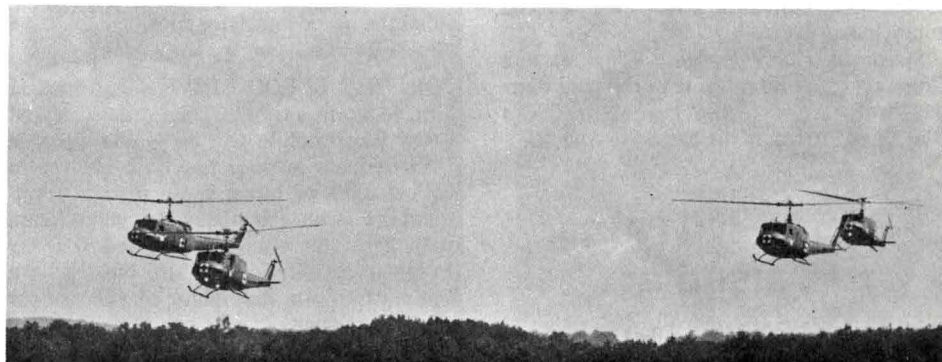
The Massachusetts Army National Guard now claims the old SAC Air Alert Facility and 32 acres surrounding it. Two units, the 1059 Medical Detachment and the Aviation Section of the 3d Brigade of the 26th Infantry, fly eight UH-1 (Huey) and four OH-6 helicopters. The aviation units had outgrown the capabilities at Fitchburg Airport and thus join fellow guardsmen coming from the Holyoke Armory.

Also, the Air Force Reserve Intelligence Production Facility of the Air Force Intelligence Service will have a Westover mailing address. The unit is composed of active duty personnel and reservists and will occupy building 1875 previously used by the SPPF Research and Development Section.

Less conspicuous will be the Defense Contract Administration. Approximately 15 civilians will situate in Hangar 3. The Air Force Recruiting Service is also investigating possible sites at Westover for its 20 to 30 person work force.

The addition of new tenants is the result of two factors. AFRES and 439th personnel have completed their determination of what buildings are no longer essential to the unit's mission and therefore can transfer ownership.

The rising rents and operating costs of non-governmental locations, coupled with scarce allocations and yet increasing space needs have also forced these agencies to seek the most for their dollar. Locating at Westover is one such alternative.



BIRDS OF A FEATHER now flock together at their new home at Westover. Thirteen helicopters are assigned to new base tenants—units of the Mass. Army National Guard.

Tournament Champs Named

Summer encampment sports tournament action included tennis and doubles, racketball, and pool playoffs, as well as challenge matches in softball between several units.

"Tennis was the most popular," reports TSgt. Bob Lester, base gym. "We had a lot of good tennis players and they played outstanding games."

A1C Tony Jimenez, Det 5, 1st Aerospace Comm Group, edged out Brian Loring, dependent, in the finals of singles competition. Some 22 people played in the single elimination tourney, which went to a best two of three sets starting with the quarter-finals.

SSgt. David Fontaine and A1C Ed Aluxek, 905th CAMS, overcame James and Brian Loring in the doubles finals. The 12-team tourney was a best two of three game series.

Racketball competition saw Sgt. Jack Anderson, 439th TAW Intelligence Office, come out on top against Maj. Gale French, 439th Safety Office, in a best two of three runoff.

Specialist Chris Hodges, Headquarters Company, 26th Infantry, won the pool tourney when he defeated the 439th CSG's Maj. Jack Pitman in the base gym Aug. 23.

905 CFlt Trains, Praised at Pease AFB

By Sgt. Edward Trahan, 905 CFlt

During our two week encampment, the 905th Communications Flight (CFlt) trained at Pease AFB, N.H. The flight was fully integrated into various 1916th Communications Squadron work stations.

As a result of these efforts, the unit received a Letter of Appreciation from Maj. Frank S. Wilson, 1916th commander. Personal recognition was also given to SSgt. Thomas Helenski, Sgt. David Allen, Sgt. Edward Eldridge, and Sgt. Paul Lenky for successfully completing much needed repair work on two VHF antennas and a closed circuit weather television cable.

The 905th's communications specialists received a Letter of Appreciation for their expertise and helpful management ideas at the Communications Center.

SSgt. James Swope received a similar certificate for his knowledge and diligent performance in the administrative section.

Overall, the active duty personnel were very impressed with our performance and cooperation and invited us back.

BRIEFS

RECRUITERS' EFFORTS have paid off. They have substantially increased the number of new 439th personnel and have received the "2 Per Week, 3rd Quarter FY 76" Award. So honored were : TSgt. Douglas MacDonald, TSgt. Sherman Williams, TSgt. Nathan Writesel, and TSgt. William Rose.

* * * * *

MORE KUDOS TO THE 914th. The unit has been nominated by Eastern Air Force Reserve Region as the top AFRES Resources Conservation Program (RECON) Group. Special recognition was given to Capt. William Ditzen, RECON manager.

* * * * *

FOR THE FIRST TIME, the 901st Aerial Port Flight recently used a cargo parachute twice the more familiar size. The new chute, a G-12, has a deployed diameter of 64' and can handle 2,200 lbs. Upcoming Brave Shield exercise requirements call for larger payloads than normally dropped at Westover. The September UTA provided the needed practice runs.

* * * * *

JOIN THE BLOOD DRIVE . . . From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Oct. 7, the American Red Cross Bloodmobile will be in the Disaster Preparedness area of the Base Hangar to collect units of blood to be used in treatment of burn casualties. In conjunction with Fire Prevention Week, the Disaster Preparedness Division is also putting on a "mini-expo" in the lobby of the hangar near their office.

* * * * *

Commanders' Calls Congratulations. . . Receiving recognition for their scholastic ability were Maj. Richard D. Cosgrove, 905 CEFIt, for his completion of the Air War College program; and SSgt. James F. Freer and SSgt. Frederick A. Flood, 439th CSG, for their successful ending of the Command Noncommissioned Officers Academy Correspondence program.

905 WSSF Gains Active Duty Experience

By TSgt. Gerald Farrell, 905 WSSF

Members of the 905th Weapons Systems Security Flight (WSSF) left Westover on Aug. 15 for their summer encampment and arrived at Little Rock AFB. We were met there by members of the 314th Security Police Squadron—the active duty personnel we would be working with.

As we left our own C-130, we were greeted with quite a sight! Looking down the staging area, as far as the eye could see, there was nothing but other C-130s. Miles of them, four and a half miles and 95 aircraft to be exact, we were later told.

After our composure came back, we headed for our home for the next 12 days. The barracks area was, to say the least, the best I have ever seen. And we were made to feel right at home.

Duty assignments were forthcoming. Everyone would be working in their proper job along with the regulars. Needless to say we had a lot to learn. Here we had the opportunity to experience all aspects of our jobs, including Law Enforcement, Security Prison Control, Accident Investigation, and Security Exercises.

The members of the 905 WSSF were complimented on their appearance and performance of duty.

The average temperature in Little Rock is about 88 degrees and it's very humid. We realized how big the base is and how hot it was. Without transportation, it's a long walk wherever you want to go.

Our tour was very helpful to both us and the 314th. Time passed quickly and on Aug. 27, we headed back to Westover.

* * * * *

GATE CLOSINGS Since Oct. 1, only the Fairview (Main) gate and the Industrial Road gate have been open to traffic. The Sheridan St. and McMillan Drive (Granby) gates will remain permanently closed.

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Maj. Rudolph G. DiLuzio

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Shriner's Hospital: A Personal Visit

By TSgt. Larry Lentz

Their smiles, their laughter are infectious. Within moments, their spirit and enthusiasm miraculously transform a group of hesitant, self-conscious strangers into cordial friends who now look beyond the twisted bones and plaster casts into the world's biggest hearts.

The visitors are members of the 439 TAW. During each encampment, they spend a few hours at the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children in Springfield.

This year, on Aug. 25, the patients are gathered in the facility's courtyard and greet the arrivals with grins and immediate requests to wear each reservist's hat. Most are seated in wheelchairs. But some are forced to say, "welcome," through the protective railings of their hospital bed rolled outside for the occasion.

Soon, the kids overcome the many obstacles and put the elders at ease. The visitors' words of cautious hello slowly become special and relaxed relationships.

Later, over hamburgers, hot dogs, watermelon and cake donated and prepared by 439th volunteers, the conversations also change. Initially, the visitors ask, "What's your name?" and "Where are you from?" But then the youngsters take over. They begin asking the questions. "What's the Air Force like?" "Why did you come today?" What is always intended to be a therapeutic visit for children confined to a hospital a long way from home, always turns into a tremendously moving experience for every airman.

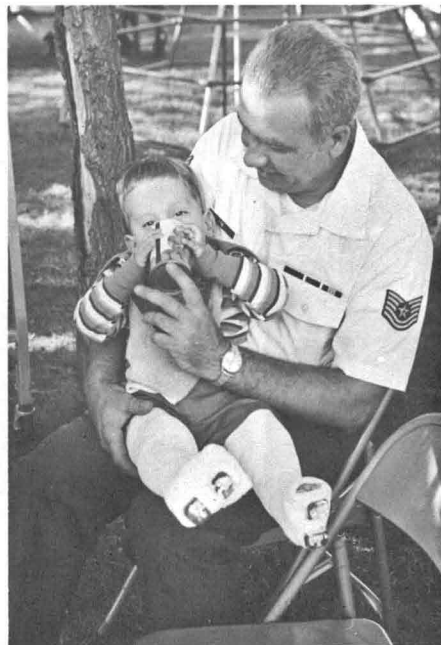
In a few hours, which seem like minutes, the reservists must help return their new friends to their rooms and bid farewell.

For the patients, it's an evening to forget about their recent series of operations and long months of recuperation ahead.

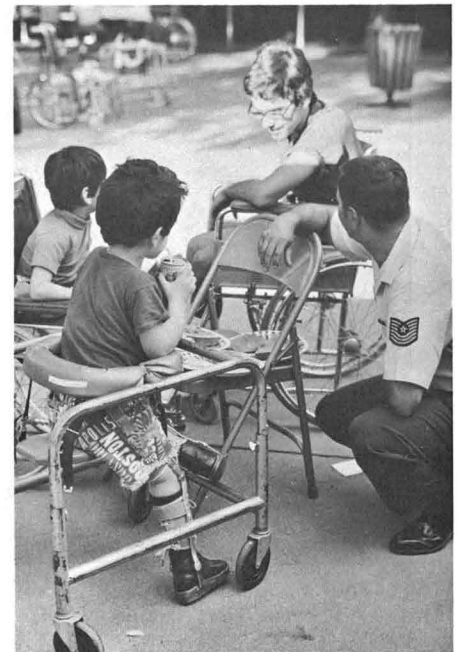
For the reservists, it's an opportunity to make the day a little brighter for a bunch of patients. Many silently reflect on what they see and take personal stock of their own good health and that of their family. One appreciative NCO, deeply touched by the experience, later confided, "I went home afterwards . . . For half an hour, I just hugged my little girl."



Sgt. James Tucker and Sgt. Janis A. Sledge



TSgt. William J. Poe



MSgt. Roger Perrault

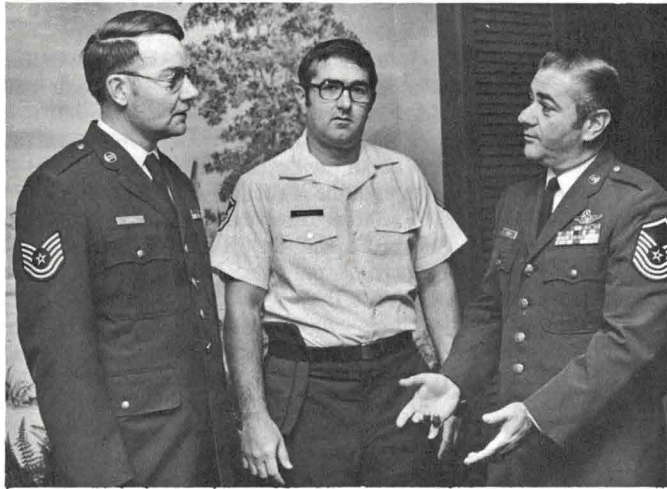


TSgt. LaVerne Cholewa



Amn. Dwight E. Manning and A1C Debra A. Daley

Social Event of the Year



TSgt. Richard Lester, SMSgt. Vincent Viglione, SMSgt. Charles Fusco



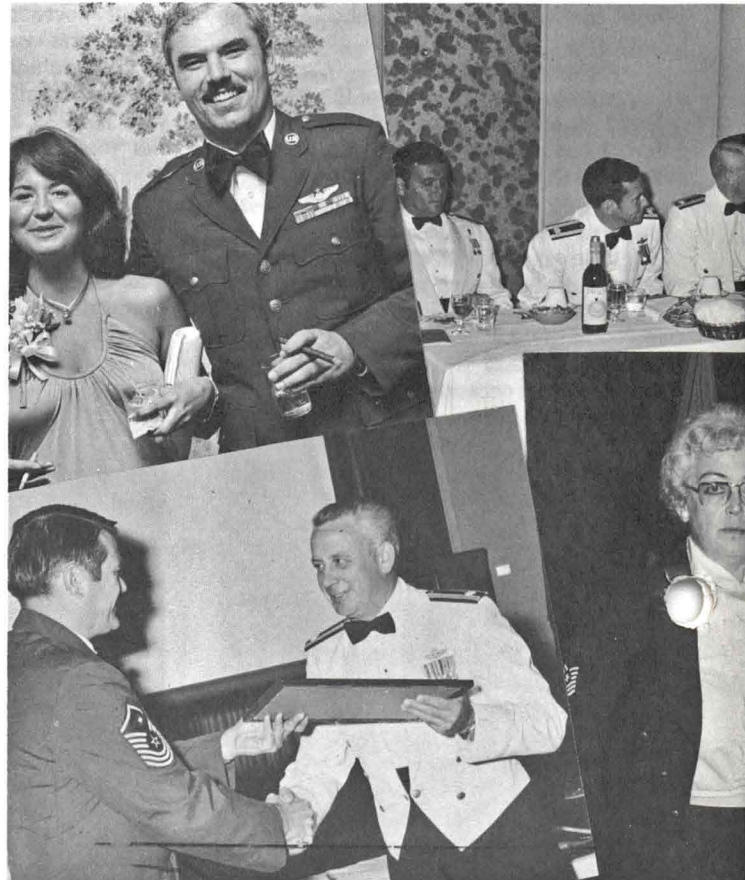
TSgt. Paul F. Alexander, MSgt. Richard A. Dedinas, Sgt. Emery F. Filarski, TSgt. Duane G. Nelson, MSgt. Henry Lapa



SSgt. Andrew P. Hoffman, A1C Sarah F. White, SMSgt. Leland B. Spencer

Dining Out Recogn

(Editor's note: It happens to the best of us. Faulty equipment pre award winners. He was able to complete the assignment, however



TSgt. Paul F. Alexander, Flight Line Maintenance, is C-130 Crew Chief of the Year. His proven aircraft maintenance capabilities have enabled his aircraft to be a leader in C-130 flying production hours. His personal efforts have also contributed to his aircraft being a reliable asset to the wing.

MSgt. Richard A. Dedinas of the C-130 Flight Line Maintenance section, is 439th TAW Maintenance Man of the Year. He supervises 32 aircraft mechanics and is responsible for 11 assigned C-130 aircraft. Sergeant Dedinas has distinguished himself and his section this past year by professionally guiding and directing his personnel through an outstanding May ORI.

TSgt. Richard F. Eaton, NCOIC, Quality Force section, is Personnel Technician of the Year. His responsibilities include control of officer effectiveness reports, monitoring of attendance, officer and airman promotions, and many other special actions.

Sgt. Emery Maintenance Year. His ke tenance and meet mission giant Filarski

SMSgt. Ch SMSgt. Vinc accepted the for their squ neither was good to sh achieved out MEI, May support to th support allo ses aircraft qu regene low-on missi siastically su ty, zero defe programs, ar lic awarene program.

Open Mess, August 28, 1976

nizes 439th's Best

Photographed SSgt. Marshall Hathaway from photographing the Dining-Out when the recipients gathered at the Open Mess on Sept. 12)



SSgt. Michael I. LaFortune, TSgt. Robert L. Mathieu, TSgt. Dale V. Olson



SSgt. Michael E. Smith, TSgt. Richard F. Eaton, TSgt. Sherman R. Williams (SSgt. Richard K. Hayes on TDY)

F. Filarski, 901st Flight Line is C-123 Crew Chief of the knowledge of aircraft maintenance and his desire to have his aircraft obligations have earned Ser-his honor.

les Fusco, 901st CAMS and at Viglione, 905th CAMS, 1976 Outstanding Unit Award winners. The citations read that second best and both were too good for an award. Both units outstanding ratings in the ORI/18, for providing excellent wing mission. This superior led the launch of all positions on time as well as substitution of aircraft for losses. Finally, both units enthusiastically support and participate in safety and resources conservation both actively promote publication of the Air Force Reserve

SSgt. Richard K. Hayes of the 901st Civil Engineering Flight received the 439th Meritorious Achievement Award. Sergeant Hayes voluntarily risked his life on May 17. While delivering mail, he opened the front door at 94 Hammond St., Roxbury, Mass., and was met by a blast of smoke. He called for help and then with disregard for his own safety, entered the building and located two boys, ages two and three, who were alone in a second-floor apartment. Sergeant Hayes led the two children to safety from the burning building. His courageous action and humanitarian regard for his fellow man have reflected great credit upon Sergeant Hayes and the United States Air Force Reserves.

SSgt. Andrew P. Hoffman of the 901st Mobility Support Flight is the wing's Outstanding Noncommissioned Officer for 1976. Sgt. Hoffman has assumed responsibilities (including those of a first sergeant) far in excess of those normally expected

of a staff sergeant. He has been cited for his successful efforts to improve himself and those with whom he works, and for his deep involvement in military and civic affairs.

SSgt. Michael I. LaFortune of the Base Administration Publications Distribution Office, is the 439th's Support Technician for 1976. Sergeant LaFortune's active experience as an OJT trainer has brought to the Base Administration Office a source of pride and accomplishment in mission support to the 439th TAW.

MSgt. Henry Lapa accepted the Maintenance Shop of the Year award on behalf of the Pneudraulics Shop, Field Maintenance Branch. Under his direction, the Pneudraulics Shop technicians have continually demonstrated their superior skills and knowledge in maintaining hydraulic systems on all assigned and transient aircraft.

(continued on page 7)

Inquiring Photographer

The Annual Training. The two weeks reservists spend on active duty usually during the summer. It can be the highpoint of the military year where everything runs smoothly, extra work is taken care of and needed training is accomplished. Or it could be the lowpoint, a wasted two weeks that never seems to end.

Some Westover Reservists replied to the Patriot's Inquiring Photographer's questions: "How was your two week summer encampment productive?" and "How could next year's encampment be made better?"

Sgt. Martin T. Condon, 905 CEFlt, who spent his two weeks at Pruem Air Station, West Germany, thought his summer camp was, "Productive wise, very successful. The Pruem commander was very satisfied with our work. We did considerable maintenance work and we accomplished a great deal. The only drawback was travel time. It took too long. Maybe better logistics planning would have helped."



Another member of the 905 CEFlt, TSgt. Jack Cichaski, was also satisfied with his two weeks of active duty. "I wouldn't change anything," he said, "I stayed at Westover and got a lot done. We're a Prime BEEF unit so we have to keep all our equipment working all the time. We also took care of a lot of loose ends."



Not everyone was completely satisfied with the way summer camp went. Air Operations Specialist, Amn. Mary Beth Wislocki, 439 CSG, thought, "The first week was alright but there was not enough organization during the second week. Instead of training there were too many meetings. Next year there should be more training."



SSgt. Scott E. Barber, a flight chief for the patrol and investigation section of Westover's security police felt satisfied with his accomplishments during the encampment. "Base regulations were enforced stronger than in the past because we had enough manpower for the first time."

Sergeant Barber also feels there could be ways to improve next year's training camp. "I would like more cooperation from unit commanders, section supervisors and civilians in enforcing these regulations."



Another pleased Westover reservist is Major Ruth Ann Munhall, 439 Tactical Hospital, "We had an excellent summer camp . . . we received a lot of training at McDill AFB, Fla. It really helped to work at an active duty base. It would be good to go again next year . . . By the way, Disney World was great."



SMSgt. Henry Scott, 439 CSG first sergeant, said, "The summer camp this year was very productive. My highlight was organizing and seeing a successful parade; it was the most colorful but far from the only important thing accomplished. Next year I would hope to be better staffed with clerical personnel to better handle our work load."



Social Actions Officer, Capt. Benjamin Goff, 439 CSG, felt his office accomplished many of their goals. "We were able to bring Race Relations Training Phase II to about 80% completion. We weren't able to do better because many units were away at other bases. Attendance was better this year because we scheduled by name for the first time. We would like to see more active support from unit commanders in getting people to show up for their training."



Reserve Compensation Study Group Formed

(AFNS) The Department of Defense has announced the appointment of Will Hill Tankersley, deputy assistant secretary of defense (reserve affairs), as chairman of the new Reserve Compensation System Study Group. The group's purpose is to determine the compensation required to provide the numbers and quality of personnel needed for the Guard and Reserve force. The study, directed by President Ford, will be the first comprehensive examination of the principles and concepts of the Guard and Reserves. The group is expected to finish the study by the fall of 1977.

Parachute Shop Begins Wing Christmas Campaign

What better way to have a party than to end it with a substantial gift to hospitalized youngsters! The eight members of the 901 and 905 Parachute Shop did just that.

Each one helped offset expenses for a small party at the end of encampment. Then, instead of returning the unused \$75, they donated it to a newly started program sponsored by the 439th TAW to raise money for Christmas gifts for children at area hospitals.

SMSgt. Hugh Fraleigh, 905 CAMSq, accepted their generous contribution and will contact other shops and offices during the November UTA for similar gifts of toys no longer needed at home.

The early Santa helpers are: TSgt. Thomas Marshall, supervisor; TSgt. Raymond Desrosiers, prop shop foreman; TSgt. Charles Maio; SSgt. Ron Barton; SSgt. Armand Lamothe; SSgt. John Ulshoeffter; Sgt. Wayne Lord and Sgt. David Mee.

* * * * *

WESTOVER LEADS AGAIN The base and all its family—active duty, reservists, civilians and those in base quarters—were responsible for 75% of the AFRES savings in energy conservation this past year. We accounted for \$249,000 of the net amount reported for the command.

New Training for 901 CEFIt

The 901st Civil Engineering Flight (Fire Fighters) (CEF(FF)) has broken up! The unit has been divided into four 10-men crews. Each will train at Westover different weekends throughout each month beginning at 7:45 a.m. on Saturdays for 24-hour shifts. The work period is the same for active duty Air Force fire fighters and federal fire departments.

Previously the base's 62 Reserve fire fighters from the three civil engineering flights trained the same UTA weekend.

"The scheduling change will result in more effective and individualized training for the reservists. It will also provide extra manpower throughout the month for the base's civilian fire fighters," claims SMSgt. Anthony L. Palmieri, 901st CEF(FF) fire chief.



PROMOTED

Lt. Col. Donald L. Ridgeway
Lt. Col. Morgan Seelye
Lt. Col. Ronald C. Wortelboer
Maj. Carla L. Decker
Maj. Andrew J. Kasznay Jr.
Maj. Ruth A. Munhall
Maj. Ann L. Stevens
SMSgt. Michael A. Sicuranza
MSgt. Roland R. Allen
MSgt. Conrad R. Marchand
MSgt. Mary L. Paradise
MSgt. William J. Poe
TSgt. Robert Amaral
TSgt. William M. Gifford Jr.
TSgt. Leonard P. Marchese
TSgt. Thomas Marshall
TSgt. Alfred R. Wood
SSgt. Barry W. Brightman
SSgt. Michael P. Goodro
SSgt. Gary J. Howie
SSgt. Phillip L. LaFlamm
SSgt. James C. Langley
SSgt. Nathaniel Lewis
Sgt. Bernard J. Lucido
SSgt. George A. Perreault Jr.
SSgt. Steven J. Rooney
SSgt. Donna M. Schroder
SrA Robert E. Anderson Jr.
SrA Francis J. Barry
SrA Roger W. Black
SrA Vincent W. Boyle

SrA Roy R. Brosseau
SrA Ron J. Etter
SrA John M. Harris
SrA Curtis B. Hasty
SrA Mark B. Hughes
SrA Michael J. Macuch
SrA William E. Mason
SrA Scott T. Montecalvo
SrA Richard A. Roy
SrA Eugene C. Smith
SrA Ralph A. Stanizzi
SrA Thomas J. Toohey
SrA Thomas P. Valley
A1C Kevin P. Cahill
A1C Mary A. Devore
A1C Raymond F. Dupuis Jr.
A1C Nancy L. Hawks
A1C Roxann J. Henry
A1C Nancy A. Kassiotis
A1C Daniel A. Marcantonio
A1C Sherrie Melton
A1C Dulany Ney
A1C Nancy A. Othouse
A1C Kirt M. Ouellet
A1C Elwyn G. Ralston
A1C Peter S. Schultz
A1C Debra J. Sekcinski
A1C Diane A. Sutherland
A1C Sharon B. Williams
A1C Marybeth Wislocki
Amn. Andrew M. Anderson
Amn. Thomas A. Avezzie III

Amn. Jan L. Bronder
Amn. Rudolph M. Galleguillos
Amn. Robert C. Ladd

ENLISTED/REENLISTED

TSgt. Gilbert M. Anderson
SSgt. Philip R. Bourget
SSgt. Gilbert E. Fortin
SSgt. Stephen L. Garlo
Sgt. Richard C. Hardy
Sgt. Domenic L. Maniscalco
Sgt. Robert F. Walker Jr.
A1C William G. Cantin
A1C Cedric F. Fisher
A1C Rickey L. Knight
A1C John J. Mahoney Jr.
A1C Santiago Malave Jr.
A1C Yvonne M. Swearingen
AB Gerald M. Monterosso
AB George M. Proulx
AB Larry L. Tillman

DISCHARGED

MSgt. Joseph L. Riendeau
SSgt. Gilford J. Gendreau Jr.
Sgt. Stanley W. Bednarski
Sgt. Robert A. Boutin Jr.
Sgt. John E. Kotadenski Jr.
Sgt. Walter J. Lazarz Jr.
Sgt. Arthur L. Martin
Sgt. Charles E. Martin Jr.
Sgt. Charles L. Ratner

Sgt. Thomas W. Swenton
A1C James E. Mahoney
Amn. Michael D. Morehouse

REASSIGNED

Capt. Michael H. Dolan
1st. Lt. Elizabeth A. Hultgren
MSgt. Michael J. Cosetta
SSgt. Ernest H. Bedinelli
SSgt. John H. Ott
Sgt. Paul C. Botelho
A1C Michele E. Billieux

TO STANDBY RESERVE

TSgt. Lawrence D. Lacerra
TSgt. Frederick E. Varney
SSgt. Carl R. Campbell
SSgt. Stephen E. Donahue
SSgt. David P. Farrell
SSgt. Parris M. Gibbs
SSgt. Dale F. LaClaire
SSgt. Melvin A. Millett
SSgt. Gary W. Pike
SSgt. Walter J. Shaughnessy
Sgt. Jackie R. Anderson
Sgt. Michael A. Clark
Sgt. Richard C. Deile
Sgt. Michael H. Hmieleski
Sgt. Freddy E. Mis
Sgt. Cosmo D. Nardella
Sgt. Ralph W. Rogers
Sgt. Anthony F. Rulli Jr.

Dining Out . . .

(continued from page 5)

TSgt. Richard Lester accepted the Outstanding Work Center award for the Division of Morale, Welfare and Recreation, which has produced a responsive, functional and flexible program that caters to the needs of Westover AFB as a whole. Also, efforts of the division's personnel have permitted this base to host and support the AFRES slo-pitch tournament during the encampment.

TSgt. Robert L. Mathieu, 74th AES, is the Medical Technician of the Year. He has a 100% participation record with the squadron, and maintains a dual qualification in the C-123K and C-130B aircraft. He is a flight examiner, the highest position for a medical technician in the aero-medical evacuation system. TSgt. Mathieu is also assistant NCOIC for the Stan/Eval section of this unit.

TSgt. Duane G. Nelson, 439th Quality Control Section, is the 439th's Safety Support Man of the Year. Sergeant Nelson has personally established a working safety program within the maintenance complex and has maintained a close relationship with the Base Safety Office.

TSgt. Dale Olson, C-130 Flight Line Maintenance section, is the 439th TAW Training Technician of the Year. The emphasis in the Air Force today is on training, and Sergeant Olson has enabled his

section to have one of the most successful training programs in the wing.

SSgt. Michael E. Smith is the wing's Outstanding Supply Technician. He is the senior NCO in the Research Section of the Accounting Branch of Base Supply. Attached to the 905th Mobility Support Flight, Sergeant Smith's excellent knowledge of supply functions has earned him this distinction.

SMSgt. Leland B. Spencer of the 905th CAMS, is the 1976 Outstanding Senior Noncommissioned Officer. Sergeant Spencer has demonstrated management and programming capabilities, has been active in the recruiting program, has shown leadership at the C-130 Maintenance Review Conference, and involves himself in civil and base affairs.

A1C Sarah F. White, 439th CSG, has been named the Outstanding Airman for 1976 for her initiative, persistence and sense of responsibility in reactivating the graphics shop, which has been out of operation for two years. In doing so, she expended much of her own time on a voluntary basis without compensation.

TSgt. Sherman R. Williams, is the wing's top Recruiter of the Year. This award is presented for outstanding achievement in the procurement of Air Force Reserve personnel.

Parade Ends Tour, Praises Ferguson



EYES RIGHT Members of the 439CSG, along with other wing personnel, pass by the parade's reviewing stand.

A pass-in-review parade on Saturday, Aug. 28, ended two weeks of annual training for the 439 TAW. It also concluded and recognized the Westover career of Lt. Col. Jack P. Ferguson, base commander, prior to his reassignment as 908th TAG commander at Maxwell AFB, Ala.

Colonel Ferguson was part of a five man honor flight to receive special recognition. His accustomed role of Parade Troop Commander was handled by Lt. Col. Charles Parrott, wing vice commander.

The Air Force Commendation Medal (First Oak Leaf Cluster) was awarded to Col. Russell L. DiMattio. The former 901st TAG member distinguished himself while assigned to AFRES headquarters as Air Force Liaison Officer to Massachusetts from 1974 to 1976. He

also received certification of his retired reserve status.

"Transfer to the Retired Reserve" was also awarded to MSgt. John A. Martiniak, 59APSq, while Civil Air Patrol member Joseph E. Gura received his organization's Billy Mitchell Award.

On behalf of Lt. Col. Robert Heyner, commander, and all members of the 731st TAS, past and present, Lt. Col. Howard E. Mangin, squadron operations officer, received the AFRES Commander's Plaque for the unit's 75,000 hours of accident free flying. Although Maj. Gen. Edwin R. Johnston, EAFRR commander, had previously presented the award at a 731st formation, Brig. Gen. Billy Knowles, wanted the entire wing to share in the honor.

"Words of Recognition," offered to Colonel Ferguson, concluded the ceremonies. In part the tribute proclaimed "You have been an effective manager and commander. Under your direction the transfer of Westover to Reserve management has been completed—efficiently and expeditiously. You have been an able administrator and a respected leader. You are an appreciated colleague as many have turned to you for advice and counsel. Through it all you have been a friend."

The pass-in-review, led by the AFRES band, was in his honor. One of Colonel Ferguson's last official acts at Westover was to review the troops prior to their return to civilian careers and his departure to the next plateau of his own career.

**HQ 439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING (AFRES)
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