

Happy

Holidays



THE PATRIOT



439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING

WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE, MASS.

Vol. V. No. 12

December, 1978

337th Completes Volant Oak

BUNDLES FOR BOLIVIA

Hurricane Greta—it hit the mainland of Honduras on Sept. 17. Within four hours, 15 inches of rain damaged 1,200 homes and coconut and rice crops. With roads, bridges and land masses washed out, the only relief was from the air and from the United States military. The Honduran government requested American assistance through the State Department.

Part of that aid came from the 337 Tactical Airlift Squadron from Westover and the 328th TAS from Niagara International Airport, N.Y.

Their disaster relief efforts were only one part of the flying activities of 439th TAW personnel at Howard AFB, Canal Zone. For six weeks, starting Aug. 26, unit members from the two flying squadrons, the 901 and 905 CAMS; and 905 APF, all from Westover; and Niagara's 914 CAMS participated in the U.S. Southern Command's operation VOLANT OAK.

Their six C-130s flew 65 missions and logged more than 513 hours of flying time. The 439th moved 367.7 tons of cargo, airlifted 715 passengers and airdropped 401 troops.

An On-Going Commitment

The 439th is the latest in a series of Air Force Reserve units to complete a VOLANT OAK rotation. Since Oct. 1977, only Air National Guard and Air Force Re-

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Honduran citizens, victimized by Hurricane Greta, carry folding cots to temporary shelters.

The 337 TAS delivered tons of relief supplies to the stricken area during its SOUTHCOM rotation.

VOLANT OAK photos by TSgt. Mike Longfellow, Det 5, 1265 AVS.





Wing Commander's Message

by Brig. Gen. Donald E. Haugen

Christmas—a time for gift giving and of holiday lights. With Thanksgiving a memory of just a few weeks and New Year's Day approaching, perhaps it is an appropriate time to pause and to reflect on the past and on the future. It is also a time to give thanks.

I have a lot to be thankful for. As the newly-named commander of the 439th Tactical Airlift Wing, these past few months have been hectic, challenging and yet productive. This productivity is due in good part to you. Together, we have accomplished much, including involvement in RE-FORGER, the SOUTHCOM rotation and completion of the Combat Capability Evaluation. Facing new obstacles, together, we will do even more.

Your dedication and hard work, not only for the 439th, but to the Air Force Reserve and to our country, are gifts you give all year through. These are presents money can't buy. These are contributions which won't soon be forgotten.

Members of the 439th are able to participate, I realize, because of the commitment shared by their families. They, too, make sacrifices. Their understanding and support enable reservists to spend UTAs and tours away from home and to participate in the Reserve program.

It is therefore to you, and to your families, that I offer a special Christmas greeting and extend my sincerest appreciation.

I wish you all health, happiness and prosperity. May today's Christmas lights shine brightly for you throughout the coming year.

905 CEF Honored by SAC and ADC

Because of their PRIME BEEF efforts at Carswell AFB, Texas, members of the 905 CEF saved the Air Force \$62,000 in construction and maintenance funds. Because of that savings, the Air Force awarded the unit a special plaque commemorating that accomplishment.

The unit also was honored by Air Defense Command Headquarters for the best fire fighting crew participating in a proficiency training exercise along with regular and reserve firefighting units at Tyn-dall AFB, Fla. Special recognition went to

CMSgt. Albert Aniello, PRIME BEEF NCOIC and SMSgt. Peter Wysocki, fire chief.

The two awards were announced at the ninth annual Engineering and Service workshop held between Oct. 26 and 29 in Pittsburgh. Col. Sheldon J. Lustig, SAC's deputy chief of staff for engineering and services, presented the PRIME BEEF plaque to Maj. Richard Cosgrove, 905 CEF commander. Colonel Lustig was Westover's chief of base civil engineering at the time AFRES took over the base from SAC in 1974.



Lt. Col. Waddell Williams, representing the 14AF(R) commander, presents plaques from SAC and ADC to the 905 CEF. Accepting the awards are CMSgt. Albert Aniello, center, and SMSgt. Peter Wysocki.

BRIEF

Who better to officiate at her reenlistment than her husband, thought SSgt. Leda G. Partridge, 439 CSG base operations dispatcher. So, on Oct. 30, Col. Gordon L.

Partridge (RTO), did the honors. (That's at least the second ceremony they were in together!)

THE PATRIOT is an Official Class II U.S. Air Force newspaper published monthly for the personnel of the 439th Tactical Airlift Wing (AFRES) at Westover AFB, MA 01022. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily represent those of the U.S. Air Force.

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Dec. UTA — 9 and 10
 Jan. UTA — 6 and 7
 Feb. UTA — 3 and 4
 Mar. UTA — 3 and 4

901st CE Makes Flight to Squadron

The 901st Civil Engineering Flight is no more! In its place is the 901st Civil Engineering Squadron. The new designation reflects the reorganization of Westover's civil engineers and fire fighters and the expanded role they'll play in the Air Force mission.

Previously, the 901 CEF consisted only of firefighters. The 905 CEF also had firefighters among its members, as did the 439 Combat Support Group.

Under the Unit Detail Listing, the 901 CES will be authorized 54 firefighters drawn from all three units.

A primary reason for the merger has been the creation of a 21-person Rapid Runway Repair (CF-1) Team and a 36-person Mobile Military Engineering (CF-3) Team. They will include reservists with career fields such as construction equipment operators, pavement technicians, site development technicians, inventory management specialists, plumbers, carpenters and refrigeration and heating specialists.

The firefighters are divided into four 12-person (C-5) teams and two three-person Command and Control (CF-6) Teams.

Civil Engineers will be highly mobile — "prepared to go in 28 hours," reports Maj. George Dillon, Jr., squadron commander. "Our training will take a major effort by everyone. Some will cross train into new careers. And we'll have to increase our recruitment effort to fill new positions. But soon, the 901st will be better organized and better equipped to meet any wartime commitment anywhere in the world."

BRIEFS

A new Federal law authorizes a three-year experiment on various variations of the government workweek, named **Flexitime**. Included will be alternate four and five day workweeks of 8-3/4 hours a day, four-day 10-hour a day weeks, and other variations. The new Office of Personnel Management will conduct the experimental programs, selecting specific departments and agencies to participate in the pilot project. Based on its findings, the OPM will make its recommendations to Congress on what kind of **flexitime** program should be adopted as permanent law. Not only will those in the federal service be closely watching the experiment, but private industry executives and employees will be intensely interested. The law could change the work pattern and habits of the entire country.



Maj. Gale French, left, accepts the plaque symbolizing his latest accolade as the Chief of Air Force Reserve Man of the Year, from Maj. Gen. Willaim Lyon, AFRES chief.

French Named Man of the Year

Maj. Gale French, 731 TAS standardization and evaluation officer, has been selected by Maj. Gen. William Lyon as "Chief of the Air Force Reserve Man of the Year." The latest honor comes to him for his "significant contribution to the Air Force Reserve."

The presentation, made at a commander's conference at Homestead AFB on Nov. 2, was a surprise to Major French. He was invited to brief the commanders on the airborne emergency of his C-123 on Oct. 11, 1977. He is credited with successfully returning the flaming aircraft to Westover and preventing the loss of life.

Major French finds himself in exclusive

company. This is only the third time the unique award has been presented. Prior recipients were Col. Orlando P. Loretto, AFRE comptroller, and Maj. Gen. John S. Patton, who was a mobilization augmentee to the assistant chief of staff for intelligence, HQ USAF.

The award, according to Major French, wasn't actually a total surprise. "When I found myself at the conference banquet, seated with Sen. Barry Goldwater (Maj. Gen., USAFR, Retired); and General (James A.) Hill, vice chief of staff, UASF; General Lyon and General (Maj. Gen. Richard) Bodycombe, vice commander of AFRES, I knew something was up!"

* * * * *

(AFNS, Washington) Women's optional pantsuit uniform combinations 1A and 2A have been authorized for wear during formations and ceremonies, if women agree to purchase the uniform combinations at their own expense, or if the items are provided at no cost to the individual. Air Force officials say the change to Air Force Regulation 35-10 is not intended to pressure women to obtain the uniform. It allows commanders additional latitude in prescribing the dress for particular formations.

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Bundles for Bolivia . . .

(continued from page 1)

serve units have conducted the tactical airlift support in Latin America. Each agency is responsible for one half of the year's operations. They assign a unit for a six-week period. The units deploy six C-130s, seven aircrews and maintenance and support personnel for a minimum two-week rotation.

The 439th's commitment began on Aug. 19 with the arrival of its first contingent. They operated, for the first week, under the 433 TAW from Kelly AFB, Texas. That was a transition period as the 433rd was finishing their six-week tour. Three 337 TAS Hercules, four aircrews and half of the combined 901st and 905th maintenance personnel assumed responsibilities previously held by the Texans.

On Aug. 26, the 439th took command with the arrival of three C-130s from the 328 TAS and the 914 CAMS. For the first time in five years, C-130A models were operating in SOUTHCOM.

The 439th crews were pressed into service almost immediately. They organized a search and rescue effort for a helicopter missing from its American tuna boat. 1st Lt. Kenneth Ryngala and his crew flew eight hours of night search. Then Capt. Dante Mazzochi's aircraft continued the effort the following morning until the chopper was located.

Seventeen channel missions took 439th crews to 16 Central and South American countries. These missions are scheduled cargo and passenger airlifts arranged through the Military Airlift Command in support of American embassies.



Capt. Edward Custer, 337 TAS, mans the co-pilot's seat on a VOLANT OAK flight.



A Howard AFB Search and Rescue Control Center officer briefs 337 TAS crews prior to their search for a downed helicopter. From left, in flight suits, are Capt. Dante Mazzochi, Lt. Col. Theodore Beck and Capt. Allen Hoffacker.

The Patriot Wing reservists also flew five airborne support missions. These high altitude troop drops from 10,000 feet supported the Army's 193rd Regimental Combat Team.

When another helicopter tipped over on its tuna boat landing platform and injured two crew members, another 439th rescue mission sent Lieutenant Ryngala and his crew to Manta, Ecuador. They returned with one of the injured to a Howard hospital.

Taking on Greta

The most significant mission during the 439th's stay was the disaster relief effort.

The unit completed six missions which were flown by two crews in two aircraft. They delivered more than 100,000 pounds of cots and bedding, water, generators, pumps, a water purification trailer and chemicals, and a 13-man disaster assistance team to a dirt runway in a small Honduran village.

Because of the flooded airfields, on one mission, a combat control team was air-dropped before landing. They determined that the runway, after three days of rain, could support the C-130s.

The supplies were then distributed by the Honduran armed forces using helicopters and C-47s.

Following one mission, amidst the hustle of the cargo unloading activities, TSgt. Jim Lynch, flight engineer, found time to be a goodwill ambassador and hosted a C-130 tour for curious children.

The rain bested the 337th only once during the operation. Capt. Robert Cole's Hercules sank firmly into the mud. It had to be shoveled out by hand.

While there was plenty of activity in the

air, there was as much on the ground.

Aerial port members worked in shifts around the clock while maintenance personnel were kept busy for 16 hours daily. Maintaining the C-130s in a remote location created many problems which all had to be overcome. In one case, TSgt. Carlo Torre, 901 CAMS, completely rebuilt a hydraulic activator in six hours. Usually, the aircraft were readied overnight and were ready for the next day's missions.

In a few short weeks, the 439th was welcoming incoming personnel from the Tennessee Air National Guard. It was another period of transition. This time it was the 439th's turn to relinquish command as the reservists headed for home.

They returned home with a mission effectiveness of 90.7 percent. "That's the percentage of on-time departures," says Lt. Col. Ronald Wortelboer, VOLANT OAK project officer. "Normally, units only average an 85 percent."

They returned with the praise of Gen. William G. Moore, Military Airlift Command commander-in-chief, for their heroic assistance during Hurricane Greta's aftermath.

They returned home with words of commendation from Maj. Gen. Edward Dillon, 14AF(R) commander, for their participation in VOLANT OAK and the enhancement of the total force policy.

The reservists of the 439th also returned home with the appreciation of the Honduran people and that of Ambassador Janamillo. "The sight of your military aircraft, supplies and rescue team coming to aid hurricane victims made me proud and earned the gratitude of Hondurans. Well done to all."

People Produce the Product

by AIC Debbie Elliot

Statistics and scores of an evaluation are important, but they are only the end product of individual input, varying attitudes and unplanned circumstances of people involved.

During the November UTA, the 439 TAW conducted a Combat Capability Evaluation.

Evaluators stationed at Westover and visitors from the 914 TAG at Niagara, gave some insight.

Lt. Col. John P. Pless, the 914th's deputy commander for resources, commented on the mobility portion of the exercise, "There were minor discrepancies, primarily in the cargo terminal area." But on the other hand, "There were many new people involved. It was like a football game. To be 'good,' you have to practice a while with the same team."

Lt. Col. William L. Shunk, 914 TAG director of safety, said, "The CCE was a learning experience for the evaluators as much as the people being evaluated."

Capt. Robert P. Simpson, 914 TAG weapons systems security flight commander, was "very impressed with the job knowledge of the sentries from both Westover WSSF flights."

The 439th's chief of command and control, Lt. Col. Charles T. Meeker, observed, "Our Crisis Action Team (providing a nucleus for on-the-spot action) was operating under revised guidelines. It worked out very well."

Another evaluator, Maj. Bernard A.

Kain, Niagara's aircraft maintenance officer, said: "The maintenance people seemed to have a handle on everything that was going on. For the most part, they did a very fine job."

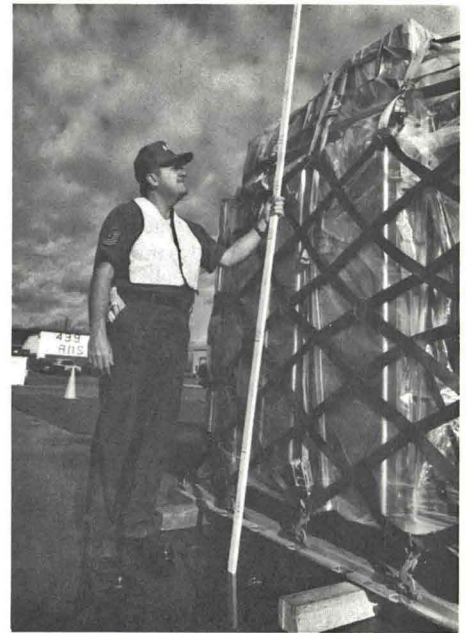
Participants in the evaluation, such as Maj. Jay A. Johnson, 731 TAS operations and training officer noted, "It was an all out effort by the 731st. We were right on schedule. Everything went very well."

Lt. Col. Robert Motley, 337 TAS squadron navigator, observed that except for a few minor problems, his unit's missions were successfully accomplished.

Lt. Col. Robert G. McCoy, 439 TAW deputy commander for operations, concluded, "We had the chance to look at ourselves from another person's point of view. It is understandable that minor problems can go unnoticed. With the guidance gained from this evaluation, we identified areas where we could improve."

After being briefed on the results, Wing Commander Brig. Gen. Donald E. Haugen commented, "I would like to view our combat capability evaluation as a scrimmage rather than as a regular game. The final score is not as important as the opportunity to exercise all of our functional areas. Each unit and section had an opportunity to play and learn where more practice is needed."

"I was pleased with the weekend activity and believe we will be ready for the regular game (inspection)."



MSgt. Richard H. Tegtmeyer, 439th resource management technician, checks the height of a pallet load during the Nov. 18 mobility exercise. The loading at the marshalling area was part of the Combat Capability Evaluation.

Advisers Advise During Assistance Visit

The 439th received the oncover during November's UTA. Actually, the unit received the oncover 53 times as it hosted 53 advisers from the 14 AF(R), Dobbins AFB, Ga.; 21 AF, McGuire AFB, N.J.; and the 317 TAW, Pope AFB, N.C. The visitors comprised the largest staff assistance visit team to ever visit the 439th.

"We identify problem areas and suggest solutions in all aspects of the unit's operations. Each team member is a specialist in a particular area. Because they have been exposed to similar difficulties in other units, they are able to point out difficulties and offer recommendations," explained Lt. Col. Frederick S. Repasky, 21 AF advisory team chief. "Our findings are only recommendations, however, and shouldn't be considered as an inspection."

The team's visit has other benefits. Unit members can express problem areas and concerns and get immediate assistance. This direct, upward communication also develops a closer, more efficient relationship between the advisers and their equivalents on the unit level.

Capt. David Barnard, OIC of Personnel Utilization, realized the value of the team's visit to the mobility processing exercise on Saturday. "These outsiders, with a critical eye, pick out the snag in our mobility line. Because of the advisers' feedback, those snags won't be there the next time."



Children wait their turn for a "grand tour" of a C-130, conducted by TSgt. Jim Lynch.

Medals Presented at Commander's Call

Westover and Camp Drum reservists were honored at the November Commander's Call for their work with their units.

Two members of the 439th Combat Support Group were awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. Lt. Col. Joseph F. Hellauer, Jr., received his for outstanding service as commander, 905 CF and as base executive officer. Lt. Col. Jack R. Pitman earned his award for his distinguished performance as Westover's chief of administration.

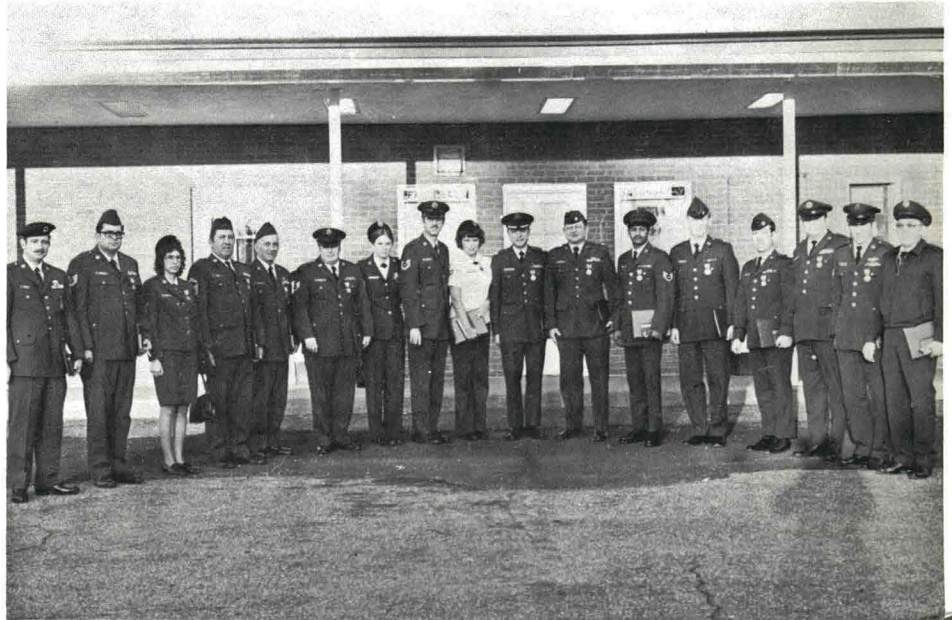
Several Westover reservists were presented the Air Force Commendation Medal at the ceremony. Receiving the awards were: SMSgt. Francis E. Babin, 439 CSG food service superintendent; SSgt. Roy Brosseau, 901 WSSF security specialist; TSgt. Martha A. Daugherty, 439 CSG NOCIC of CBPO's Customer Assistance Section; CMSgt. Richard Dupre, 901 CEF first sergeant; SSgt. Hubert Jaundoo, 901 MOBSF inventory management specialist, base supply.

Also, SSgt. Vincent G. Lingley, 439 CSG food service specialist; SSgt. Faith E. Longfield, 439 CSG personnel specialist, CBPO; SrA Ann T. Myers, 439 CSG administrative assistant; SMSgt. Anthony L. Palmieri, 901 CEF fire protection superintendent; TSgt. Ronald C. Perrault, 439 CSG food service supervisor; and TSgt. Robert W. Schofield, 439 CSG administrative technician.

Four members of the 2nd Air Logistics

Center Augmentation Squadron, Fort Drum, also earned the Air Force Commendation Medal. The award was presented to MSgt. Robert E. Brown, Jr., inventory management supervisor; Maj.

Laban C. Haverstock, aircraft maintenance staff officer; Maj. Douglas E. Kabel, communications systems staff officer; and MSgt. Edward D. Veaudry, Data Automation NCOIC.



Seventeen awardees from 439 CSG units and the 2nd ALCAS were honored at the Nov. 19 commanders call. Two officers received the Meritorious Service Medal and 15 officers and airmen accepted their Air Force Commendation Medals. One recipient was absent for the ceremony, one of the largest ever for these honors.



REENLISTMENTS

CMSgt. Alcide F. Patenaude
SMSgt. Gaetano Iannuzzo
MSgt. George R. Bixby, Jr.
MSgt. Donald H. Chase
MSgt. James T. Cillett
MSgt. Raymond N. Laurin
TSgt. Edmund D. Baczynski
TSgt. William M. Gifford
TSgt. John S. Indomenigo
TSgt. Richard J. Matte
TSgt. Charles T. Radabaugh
SSgt. Robert E. Brown
SSgt. Vincent P. DePillo

ENLISTMENTS

SSgt. Luciano Giovannucci
SSgt. Robert R. Tiffany
SSgt. Terry A. Vander Leest
SrA Bruce W. Goodwin
SrA Quentin J. Oakley
SrA Lionel N. Paul
A1C Bruce R. Latorella
AB Linwood Daly
AB Arthur J. Fleming
AB Henry H. Renaud, III
AB Donna M. Stewart

PROMOTIONS

Maj. Michael F. Choffel
Capt. David J. Keefe
MSgt. Robert L. Mascaro
TSgt. William Grabowski
SSgt. Michael E. Cavallo
SSgt. Verncel Creveling
SSgt. David D. Lapa
SSgt. Kathleen M. Wood
Sgt. Michael C. Albert
Sgt. Michael W. Crowley
Sgt. Edward R. Gaulin

Sgt. James F. Hniedziejko
Sgt. Timothy J. Kay
Sgt. Alan G. Ladoucer
Sgt. Richard A. Lotko
Sgt. Stephen A. Moniak
Sgt. Joseph C. Vouteur
Sgt. Charles W. Walker
Sgt. Dianne M. Wise
SrA Nina B. Tomaszewski
A1C April J. Jones
A1C Steven A. Lavelle
A1C Howard H. Robinson
A1C Frank Watkins, Jr.

DISCHARGED

SSgt. Kenneth W. Rysz
SSgt. Robert G. Hull
SSgt. Richard C. King
SSgt. Larry C. Muniec
SSgt. Leda G. Partridge
SSgt. Robert P. Patenaude
SSgt. Allen J. Roy
SSgt. Noel J. Underwood
SSgt. Eugene W. Walker
Sgt. Lawrence J. Clairmont

Sgt. Gordon L. Spousta
Sgt. Frederick J. Sullivan
SrA Kenneth D. Cornell
A1C Hugh G. Cullen
A1C Michael J. Thomas
Amn. John J. Junta

STANDBY RESERVE

Maj. Ann L. Stevens
Capt. David L. Beatty
MSgt. Thomas F. Koerber
SSgt. Michael C. Alessi
SSgt. Robert L. Goudreau
SrA Eric D. Scoville
AB Jessie L. Kennedy

REASSIGNED

Lt. Col. Jack R. Pitman
SSgt. Kenneth N. Abbott
SSgt. Richard D. Fuhrman
SSgt. Douglas J. Vile
Sgt. Scott H. Paine
SrA Edmond D. Healey, Jr.
A1C Guy R. Sico
A1C Raymond C. Viens

More Bucks to Lower Grade EMs, Key to New Reserve Pay Study

The Department of Defense has proposed widespread changes on the ways military reservists are paid. But the proposal has yet to be endorsed by the Pentagon, much less sent to the Congress in the form of specific legislation.

The Reserve Compensation System Study (RCSS) covers every facet of reserve components. This first-ever report on reserve compensation says the reserve forces are in trouble in quality and quantity of personnel.

The study points out that recruiting practices successful for the active force simply do not work for reserve forces —

mainly because reservists look upon reserve duty as moonlight jobs. Benefits and privileges don't mean as much to most reservists as the active force members, the study says.

Even so, personnel shortages are not across-the-board, with reserve components having no problem attracting senior NCOs and officers.

Since the shortages come in the lower enlisted grades, principally first termers and in the combat arms, the study basically recommends that pay be structured for junior members in combat units rather than old timers who are dubious mobilization assets.

The study suggests a set of alternatives for Pentagon manpower experts. They include such recommendations as increased "training pay," "retainer pay," "selective enlistment bonus," "selective reenlistment bonus," and "lump sum retirement bonus" at an early age.

All of these proposals have to be worked out in detail. Pentagon officials emphasize it is too early to tell how the study recommendations will be finalized.

The RCSS is clearly addressed to paying more now to new, young people in combat arms units and to plateauing pay for senior enlisted and officer reserve personnel.

Pre-Basics Learn the Basics

by A1C Patricia A. Joyce

At Lackland, they call them rainbows, because when they arrive at "basic" they are dressed in a various array of civilian clothes. At Westover, they call them "pre-bees." What is a pre-bee? It's not a developmental stage toward becoming a bumble bee. It's an orientation program designed to give non-prior service enlistees a taste of the Air Force and a brief preview of what Basic Military Training has in store for them.

The "Pre-Bee program" was modeled after the pre-bee program at Rickenbacker AFB, Ohio and was initiated here in January 1975.

Lt. Col. Larry W. Bryant heads the program. "It's important to these newcomers to participate in the program. It makes basic training easier," said the colonel.

Junior grade officers (1st and 2nd lieutenants) are in charge of the training and orientation of the pre-bees. They escort them to the Welcome Center, where they are greeted by representatives of various Westover units—CBPO, Social Actions, Office of Information, Chaplains' Office and the Fire Department.

The pre-bees learn about such matters as Base Exchange privileges, geography of the base, reserve pay procedures, and whom to contact on personnel problems. The session touches base with items of immediate importance to the enlistee.

After the session the pre-bees are totally familiar with the entire base and understand all AFRES policies. Not quite, but by now they have a sense of familiarization and belonging.

Another facet of the pre-bee agenda is a series of films, including Basic Training, which gives a realistic picture of what to expect at Lackland AFB. Also, films are shown on various careers on base. These come in handy for prospective reservists who may go into one of the fields, such as

firefighting, aerial port and civil engineering functions.

The new enlistees tour the Life Support unit, 74 Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, Maintenance, Aerial Port Squadrons and Security Police. Some of the pre-bees have an opportunity to see what they will be doing at their jobs from parachute folding to making military ID cards.

They really get down to business on the drill pad. Teamwork is stressed and once in a while their friendly lieutenant-trainer sounds like their seemingly not so friendly flight training instructor, otherwise known as the "T.I."

"I was impressed to find that without actually addressing the theme of teamwork, the trainees just picked it up," said

2nd Lt. Louis Villano, pre-bee training instructor. "Most of them have never marched before and it seems awkward at first. Soon they develop the fundamentals and stepping off with their left foot becomes natural."

"At first we thought it was a joke, marching and taking orders. When we got to basic, we found out it was no joke, though, and we were glad we had that preliminary training," said A1C Dorothy Ridley, 905 CF, communications specialist.

AB Helyna A. Stecewycz, 901 CAMS avionics navigation systems helper, says of the program, "It acts as a gentle introduction into the military lifestyle. The shock in transferring from civilian to military is greatly diminished."



The "pre-bees" practice drill movements during the summer's annual tour. Amn. Walter L. Miller, Jr., 439 TAW administration specialist, doubles as the training instructor.

President Signs SBP Extended Coverage for Eligible Reservists

ARPC, DENVER, COLO—President Carter signed Public Law 95-397 on Sept. 30, 1978 providing optional, expanded coverage under the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) to persons who qualify for retired pay at age 60. The change is effective Oct. 1, 1978.

The primary advantage of the Law is that eligible persons may now ensure that a portion of their retired pay goes to their surviving dependents whether the designator lives to age 60 or not. To be eligible, participants must be in possession of a 20 year letter (Notification of Eligibility for Retired Pay at Age 60). The plan offers three options for the persons eligible to participate.

A. Defer election until age 60.

B. An annuity payable to the survivor which begins on the 60th anniversary of the deceased designator's birth, or the day after the designator's death if his or hers age exceeds 60 years.

C. Annuity payable the day after the participant's death, no matter the date, even if prior to age 60.

Another major benefit, in addition to the annuity selection, is that dependents will receive medical and dental benefits after the 60th anniversary of the designator's birth.

Costs for the Survivor Benefit Plan are based strictly on actuarial tables. That means they will be based on age at selection time, age of beneficiary, amount of coverage selected, etc. Costs will relate to the base amount of coverage selected. Retired pay recipients may designate their entire retired pay as a base amount. If their retired pay would exceed \$300, they may designate a lesser amount than the entire pay, but a \$300 minimum base amount is required. Those with a retirement pay of less than \$300 must designate their entire pay as base amount. The designator pays nothing on the plan until he or she starts drawing a retirement check, when actuarially determined costs will be deducted. Benefits will be up to 55% of the selected base amount less actuarial costs.

Any person who was eligible for retirement pay, but not yet age 60 on Oct. 1, 1978, is eligible to participate. Those who have received their 20 year letter will be contacted by the Survivors Benefit Office at ARPC. Those who will become eligible in the future will be notified by ARPC's Retirement Branch and given the opportunity to make an annuity option.

Joggers Run in Circles, Winners Get Bird

"Westover's first 'Turkey Trot,' went very well," said TSgt. Robert P. Lester, 439 CSG, NCOIC of the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Division.

Six first place winners each took home a Thanksgiving turkey along with the corresponding first place ribbon. Second and third place winners also received appropriate ribbons.

Among the 45 participants, it was notable that nine out of the 18 winners were from three Westover families.

Brig. Gen. Donald E. Haugen, wing commander, placed third; his wife Judy, third; their son Brian, third; and daughter Diane, first, in their individual categories.

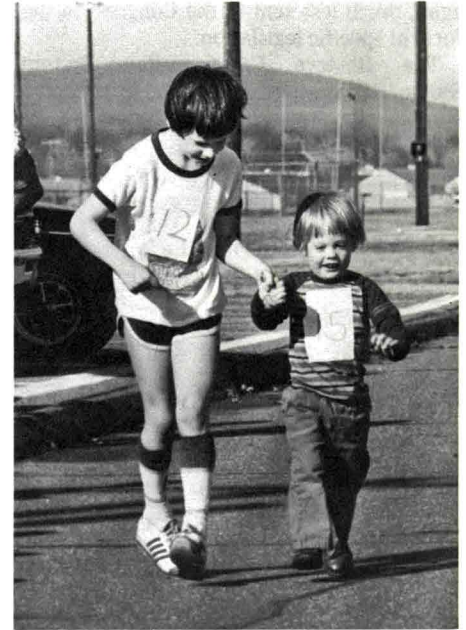
Mr. Ted Buckhout, 439 CSG/LGT, placed second; his son Daryl, third; and daughter Diane, second, in their respective categories.

Mr. Ed Strabel, a one-time long distance marathon runner, and his wife Glynn, both took first place and consequently, took two turkeys home with them.

The categories were: men, ages 26-35, and 36 and over; women, 15-25, and 26 and over; children up to 14 years old, boys and girls.

Other winners were: Men, 26-35, Mr. Ron Senoski; 36 and over, first, Mr. Richard Kalnok. Women, 26 and over, second, Kay Burch. Children: boys, first, Patrick Markey, 14 years old; second, Mike Hale, 13; and girls, first, Penny Moore, 14; and second, Michelle Nagel, eight. A special effort award went to two and a half year old Barrett Burch for running a half mile.

"The trot was just another one of the ever expanding services of MWR," concluded Sergeant Lester.



Andy Burch, nine, gives an assist to his brother Barrett, two and a half, as they near the finish line of the Thanksgiving jog on Nov. 18. Andy had already finished the race, but returned to help his brother. They are the sons of Lt. Col. Edgar and Karolie Burch of Westover. Their father is an adviser to the Army National Guard.



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