



THE PATRIOT



439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING

WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE, MASS.

Vol. VI, No. 1

January, 1979

21st ASET at Westover During December UTA

A seven-member Aircrew Standardization Evaluation Team from the 21st AF, McGuire AFB, inspected the 439 TAW's flying squadrons in December. The five-day evaluation was concluded on the Sunday of the UTA.

Lt. Col. Robert McCoy, 439 TAW deputy commander for operations, said, "The ASET for MAC-gained units is one of the 'Big Three' inspections which recur on an 18-24 month cycle. The other two are the Management Effectiveness Inspection and the Operational Readiness Inspection."

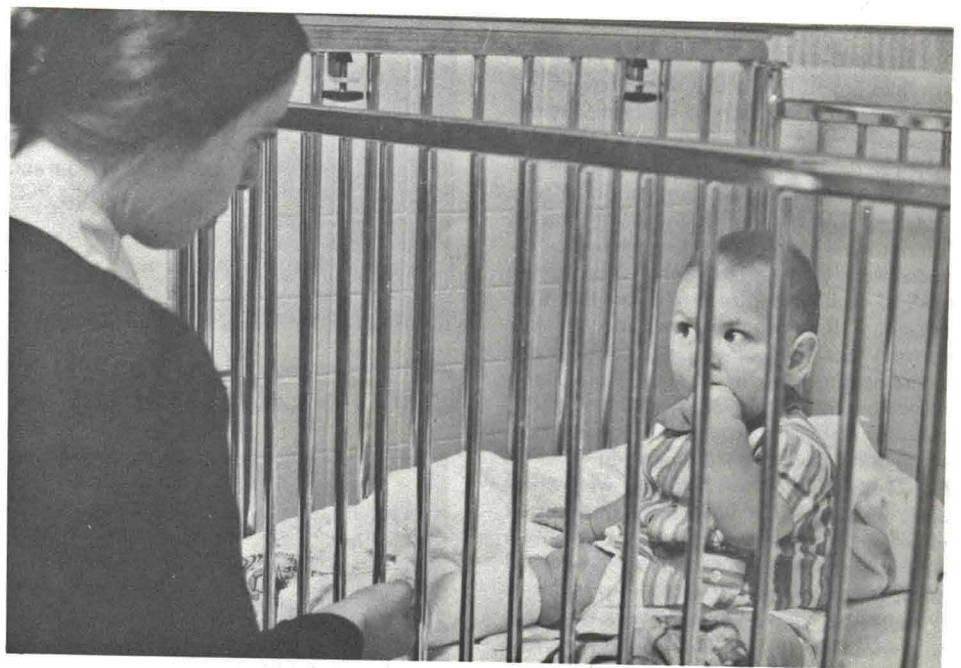
The ASET is an in-depth look at aircrew operations. The end purpose, as in all inspections, is the measurement of the ability to perform the assigned mission. Perhaps the purpose of the test is best explained by comparing the not-so-old days with present flight management practices.

Crew coordination has always been essential to the safe and effective conduct of a flying mission. In the past, much effort was made to fly integral crews—that is, the same people always flew together.

In today's airlift business, this concept is not practical. Individual leave schedules, additional duties, ground training and civilian employers' preferences make the present crew scheduling concept necessary. That concept is called aircrew standardization.

Colonel McCoy stressed that the 439 TAW's program is effective and sound and the crews are qualified, proficient and safe. He stated the wing will use the inspection report as a reference for improving the program and to help keep it that way.

Brig. Gen. Donald E. Haugen, 439 TAW commander, remarked at the ASET's conclusion, "Our crews have shown that they can do the job—there's no question about that. They met every professional standard in the evaluation."



A1C. Debbie Elliot, 439CSG, helps make Christmas time a bit more pleasant for patients at Springfield's Shriners' Hospital for Crippled Children. On Saturday, Dec. 9, 439 TAW reservists wished the children Merry Christmas with a cake prepared by bakers at Westover's dining hall.

Wiehe Gets Distinguished Flying Cross

For his participation in 32 missions over Vietnam and the successful dropping of 15,000-pound bombs as part of the Commando Vault Special operation, TSgt. Elton Wiehe, 901 APF, received the Distinguished Flying Cross. He received the certificate eight years ago. He received the medal at the 439th Commander's Call on Sunday, Dec. 10.

Other unit members were recognized, too. General Haugen presented the Air Force Commendation Medal to TSgt. Russell Markwith, for his contributions as the 905 CAMS avionics communications technician between 1974 and 1978. Also, the award was given to Sgt. Robert Ranck, 901 CAMS, in

recognition of his avionics communications specialist efforts from 1976 to 1978.

SMSgt. Richard Jedrey, 901 APF aircraft loadmaster superintendent and unit first sergeant, earned the Meritorious Service Medal. The UTA marked Sergeant Jedrey's retirement after 30 years in the Air Force Reserve. During that time, he spent 4,474 hours in C-119s, C-123s and C-124s as a flight mechanic, flight engineer and loadmaster.

A third honoree from the 901 APF, TSgt. James R. Lortsher, received his recognition

story and photos
continued on page 3

Air Force Assists in Guyana

Air Force personnel, both active duty and reserve forces, were key elements in the U.S. response to the recent tragedy in Guyana. Among them were MSgt. Frederick Renaud, 59 APS, and Amn. Catherine Doulette, 58 APS. Because the two air cargo specialists were on extended active duty at Dover AFB, Del., they helped transfer the suicide victim remains from the C-141s to the mortuary.

Even as word of the Nov. 18 tragedy was being spread, AFRES units were responding. A C-141 from the 514 MAW, McGuire AFB, N.J., was diverted after a mission and airlifted emergency medical supplies to Charleston AFB, S.C. before the day was out.

Reserve C-141 crews picked up other active missions so that active duty crews could be released for the alert to support Guyana operations.

Before daybreak on Sunday, two crews of the 31st Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, Charleston AFB, were airborne to Timehri International Airport at Georgetown. Patients were loaded; five were taken to the medical facility at Roosevelt Roads Naval Station, P.R., and the remainder to Andrews AFB. The second crew loaded caskets including the remains of slain Rep. Ryan and returned them to Charleston.

Additional airlift was required after the massive suicides were discovered. Twenty-five C-141 and ten C-130 flights were operated. Three HH-53 helicopters transported the remains from remote Jonestown to Georgetown. Reserve C-130s supported the airlift from the Canal Zone.

At Dover, some 100 Air Force men and women, including Sergeant Renaud and Airman Doulette, transferred and cleaned the 900 transfer cases and assisted the 12-person mortuary staff. Volunteers operated a family center for the next-of-kin. Fifteen part-time information specialists assisted the five-person information staff. They handled the 120 news media representatives and over 300 telephone requests.

While everyone has been affected by the Jonestown tragedy, perhaps those working at the scene and at Dover were touched even more so. "It was hard to comprehend how such a thing could happen," reflects Sergeant Renaud. "But everyone did his part and tried to remain in good spirit. It was a nasty job. But it had to be done. And we were the ones who just happened to be there!"



Air Force flight crew, combat control team and medical personnel load a survivor into a C-141 during initial medical evacuation operations in Guyana, South America. The flight crew and combat control team members are from the 437th Military Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, S.C. Medical personnel are Air Force Reservists, 31st Aeromedical Squadron, 315th MAW (Assoc.), also from Charleston AFB. (U.S. Air Force Photo by SSgt. Bill Stephenson)

Gym Complex Addition Approved

AFRES Headquarters has approved funding for renovations and additions to the Base Recreation Complex, the new designation for the Base Gymnasium. According to Mr. Ron Turmelle, assistant recreation director, total cost for the project will be about \$100,000. Groundbreaking is scheduled for February or March, and work will be completed by October 1979.

The complex, conceived by Mike Mc-Nicholas, has been in the planning stages for the past 18 months. It is part of the current expansion program of the Recreation Services Branch of the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Division.

Renovations will include permanent sepa-

rate facilities for women such as toilets, showers, locker room and sauna. The squash courts behind the weight room will be removed to make a larger weight and general exercise room. In addition to renovations in the weight area, a second Centarian Universal Gym is on order. Mr. Turmelle says that 30 to 40 percent of the gym's utilization is attributed to the weight room.

Between the two existing wings at the front of the building, an arts and crafts area and an expanded lobby will be constructed. Macrame and ceramics will be part of the new crafts program. Additional office space will also be installed.

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.

439 TAW Commander
Brig. Gen. Donald E. Haugen

Base Commander
Col. J. Frank Moore

Wing Information Officers

Maj. Robert D. Hafner

Maj. Rudolph G. DiLuzio

Editor

MSgt. Lawrence H. Lentz

Base Information Officer

Miss Betty O'Connell

Staff

TSgt. Marshall Hathaway

SrA. Dean M. Mauro

A1C. Deborah Elliot

A1C. Patricia Joyce

Jan. UTA — 6 and 7
Feb. UTA — 3 and 4
Mar. UTA — 3 and 4

Honored at Commander's Call



Sgt. Elton Wiehe, 901 APF, receives the Distinguished Flying Cross from Wing Commander Brig. Gen. Donald E. Haugen. The award recognized his service in Vietnam.



SMSgt. Richard Jedrey, 901 APF, receives the Meritorious Service Medal, culminating 30 years service with the Air Force Reserve.

Wiehe Gets DFC . . .

(continued from page 1)

for being selected as the 439 TAW OJT Technician of the Year.

Sergeant Wiehe's Vietnam experiences began in 1966. As a loadmaster with the 463 TAW at Clark Air Base in the Phillipines, he and other C-130 crew members rotated to Cam Ranh Bay for 16-day periods.

Their bombs cleared heavily forested jungle areas which were later used as landing zones for assault helicopters.

After active duty, in March 1970, Sergeant Wiehe joined the 901 APF. Now, he is a parachute rigger inspector and checks air-drop loads prior to and after loading on aircraft.

At his unit, SSgt. George Yiannacopoulos, the 901st's awards and decorations NCOIC, found out that Sergeant Wiehe's medal had never been awarded. He put in the necessary paper work to correct the eight-year oversight.

AFLC-Gained USAFR Units Reorganized

Six combat logistic support squadrons have been established in the Air Force Reserve as part of a reorganization which affected AFLC-gained units of 14AF(R).

The new squadrons will perform aircraft crash or battle damage repairs, intermediate level maintenance, and aircraft modifications in actual combat theater during war or crisis situations, if mobilized. Each squadron specializes in the type of aircraft serviced by the air logistics center where it is located.

Air Force Reserve units inactivated include six Logistics Command augmentation squadrons, seven mobile maintenance squadrons and seven supply squadrons. There will be little or no economic impact to the various locations because personnel of these units are being reassigned to the activated squadrons or to other reserve positions. Some of the personnel will train with units of the 439th.

New 14AF(R) units include the 401 CLSS, assigned to Rickenbacker's 302 TAW, but located at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, and the 402 CLSS, Robins AFB, Ga., assigned to the 94 TAW, Dobbins AFB, Ga.

Inactivated 14AF(R) units include the 4th Maintenance Squadron (mobile) and 4th Supply Squadron (mobile), both at Wright-Patterson AFB; 34th Maintenance Squadron (mobile) and the 34th Supply Squadron (mobile), both at Robins AFB; 1st ALC Augmentation Squadron, Spence Field, Ga.; and 2nd ALC Augmentation Squadron at Fort Drum, N.Y.

She Gets A Kick Out of Judo

by A1C. Patricia A. Joyce

It's late and dark and you're alone. Perhaps you shouldn't have come out tonight. But, nevertheless, you did. You hear footsteps behind you. You're scared; not prepared.

A1C. Dorothy Ridley, 905 CF communications specialist, is prepared. What makes Airman Ridley different from most men and women is a brown belt in judo. In short, Airman Ridley is adept in the martial arts.

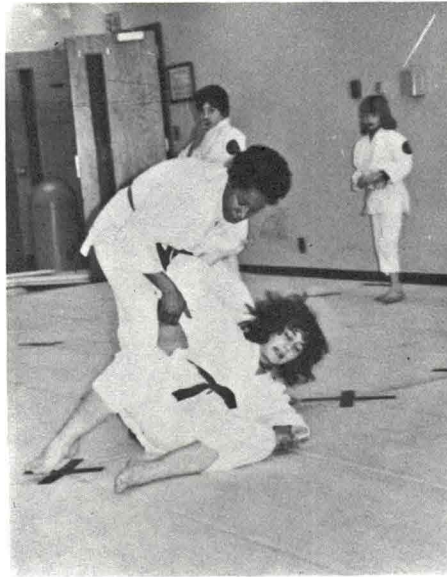
Judo and karate are the martial arts, but they differ. Judo is primarily self defensive. It involves blocks and throws. Karate is more offensive and uses more kicks, punches and chops.

Colored belts determine each judo student's proficiency. The levels of belts range from white (lowest) to red (highest). Each belt characterizes degrees of skill from third (lowest) to first.

For the past 12 years, Airman Ridley has been interested in judo. She mastered the brown belt in six of those years. "The violence around sparked my interest in judo. Instead of street fighting, I felt I should learn the correct way to protect myself," said Airman Ridley.

So she began her studies at the Lynn (Mass.) YMCA. She continued her studies toward a brown belt at the Shodah Kahn School of Judo in Marblehead, Mass., where she achieved her third degree brown belt.

Airman Ridley has shared her knowledge of judo. She taught judo to children at the



A1C. Dorothy Ridley, left, hip-throws a volunteer to the floor during a YWCA Judo class.

Lynn YMCA and adults at the Nahant (Mass.) YMCA and the Lynn Community Cultural Center.

Presently, she works toward a bachelor degree in rehabilitation counseling at Salem State College, Mass. She is a teacher and counselor at the Lynn "Operation Bootstrap" program.

During her reserve assignment, she mans

the base switchboard and transmits messages to various bases for the 905th communications center.

Airman Ridley has participated in judo competitions against men and women at the Lynn YMCA. In the last competition she took second place.

"I don't feel competitions are the purpose of judo, though. Judo should be an overall part of your personal growth. It teaches you self-discipline and control, readiness and coordination. These accomplishments are more important to me than winning competitions," she said. "It hasn't been an easy road toward my brown belt, but it's a real achievement to know even when it got hard I stuck to it. I would like to see more women study the martial arts. A brown belt is not an unreachable goal, like some people think," she added.

The real payoff for Airman Ridley is her peace of mind. She doesn't have to fear being alone on a dark, sometimes scary night.

BRIEF

Perhaps his son, Mark, will write the next chapter in the LaFortune military yearbook. While in Air Force basic training, he was one of 30 security policemen selected for the Air Force Honor Guard at Bolling Air Force Base, D.C. (see story on page 8)



Capt. Michael A. Roy, 439CSG, extends a Christmas smile to a patient at the Shriners' Hospital.



SrA. Dean Mauro, 439CSG, behind the camera, gets the attention of three youngsters who were having a holiday chat with A1C. Guy Sico, 439CSG.

Disaster Preparedness Gets "OK SAV"

The 439 CSG Disaster Preparedness Division received a staff assistance visit from members of the 21st Air Force, McGuire AFB, N.J., Nov. 8-10. According to TSgt. Thomas Sutton, team member, the visit emphasized the disaster preparedness 901 and 905 MOBSF teams, equipment and training.

Sergeant Sutton stated the division's training program is "well ahead" of many other 14AF(R) units. "From what we've seen, Westover's Disaster Preparedness is well above average status."

The SAV team felt the rapport between the division and other base units is excellent, and the office gives superior support to other wing elements.

The 21 AF personnel were impressed with Westover's maintenance of equipment that active forces didn't have yet. They attributed Westover's early equipment acquisition to Mr. John Wilson's (439th disaster preparedness officer) requisition when the equipment was first available.

337th Gives Trainees Christmas Present

Thanks to the generosity of the 337 TAS, Air Force basic trainees and technical school students living in the Westover area had free transportation home for the Christmas holiday.

A C-130 picked up passengers at Lackland AFB, Texas; Sheppard AFB, Texas; Vance AFB, Okla; and Little Rock AFB, Ark. They flew back, again courtesy of the 337th, shortly before New Year's Day.

"We have a lot of latitude in determining which bases we fly to as long as the required training objectives are performed," said Lt. Col. Robert G. McCoy, 439 TAW deputy commander for operations. "The same thing was done last year, but on a smaller scale. It's great to be able to provide transportation to troops who would otherwise not be able to make it home."

SAVE ENERGY



CAR POOL IT!

BRIEFS

MSgt. Ronald J. Koper, 439 CSG, is the new senior recruiter, replacing **MSgt. Sherman Williams**, who transferred to the 58th Aerial Port Squadron. Sergeant Koper comes from the 512th Military Airlift Wing, Dover AFB, Del. He was a recruiter for 2½ years and feels that, "With the experience I've had, I can give the Air Force Reserve more service in the position of supervisor." Sergeant Koper will be supervising eight recruiters.

* * * * *

Get well wishes to **MSgt. Charles Maligno**, NCOIC of the 439 CSG Security Police, and to **SSgt. Raymond Chevalier**, 439 CSG vehicle operator. Both are recuperating following hospitalization. Condolences to **Lt. Col. Fred Marek**, former 905 CEF commander on the loss of his wife.

* * * * *

Throughout 1978, 12 of the 18 military members assigned to the 1917 CS received a promotion. Promotions, all the way from the commander to personnel in air traffic control, went to: **Maj. Michael F. Choffel**, **MSgt. Thomas P. Bullock**, **MSgt. Emory W. Holmes**, **SSgt. William R. Mitchell, Jr.**, **SSgt. Timothy K. Patten**, **SSgt. Stanley W. Schoolcraft, III**, **Sgt. Larry W. Stephen**, **SrA. Jeffrey C. Hampson**, **SrA. Clem E. Poston**, **SrA. Kenneth P. Sizemore**, **A1C. Timothy W. Cone** and **A1C. Patrick D. McMahon**.

* * * * *

Base Law Aided by AFRES and 14AF

Westover Security Police, Reserve Law Enforcement Section, and the 901st and 905th WSSF received a helping hand from AFRES and 14AF(R) in December. During a three-day staff assistance visit, Dec. 7-10, the base agencies took advantage of considerable assistance from the three-man team, according to Harold Voelker, WAFB chief of security police. Chief Voelker also said base personnel concerned were anxious to improve their procedures.

The team, headed by Mr. John L. Steele, AFRES/SP, stated the personnel are effectively performing their mission and protecting 439 TAW resources.

MEI For Comm Flights

Two four-man teams from HQ AFCS at Scott AFB, Ill., conducted a Management Effectiveness Inspection of the 901st and 905th Communications Flights, Dec. 8-10.

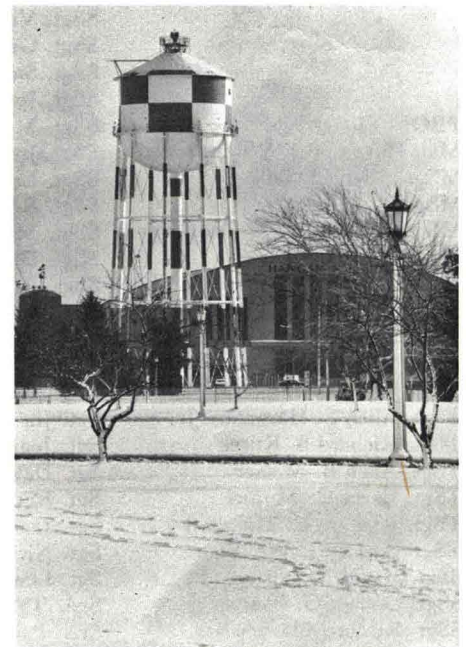
Capt. Stanley Hanson was team chief for the 901 CF inspection, and Capt. Scott Stern headed the 905th's.

Termining the inspection very thorough and complete, Maj. Michael F. Choffel, 1917 CS commander said, "The flights proved they are substantially ready to support their mission in a wartime environment."

When briefing 439 Combat Support Group Commander Col. J. Frank Moore following the inspection, the team chiefs made special mention of the outstanding support furnished the flights by Major Choffel and the personnel of the 1917 CS, who along with **MSgt. Bertrand Therrien**, Air Force technical advisor, provide support and assistance to the flights.

The 1917 CS, which provides continuous hands-on training to the 901CF and 905CF, was recognized on Dec. 9 when Maj. Alan M. Salus, commander of the 901 CF, presented a plaque to the squadron, expressing "Appreciation for Outstanding Continuous Support" for the period from Dec. 1973 to Dec. 1978.

Both flights are housed in the Avionics building, but receive their local training at the 1917's Telecommunications Center.



The scene is serene, but whoever left these tracks was probably on the way to warm up as temperatures plunged Sunday afternoon of the December UTA.

Reserve Now Covered by UCMJ

We've all heard of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. We will be hearing more about it soon.

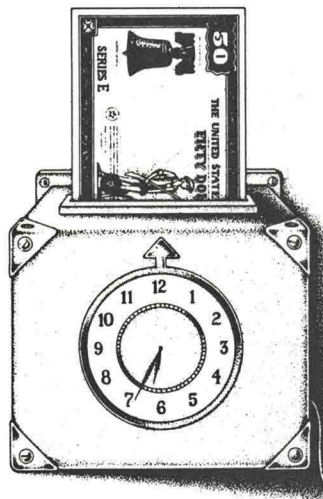
Previously, during its monthly training periods, UTAs, the Air Force Reserve was governed by civilian laws. During the annual active duty tour, however, the UCMJ was enforced.

Now, such offenses as driving under the influence of alcohol, assault and battery or drug abuse are punishable by an Article 15 and/or a reduction in rank. The customary fine or imprisonment can also be imposed.

The traditional, administrative method of handling infractions such as insubordination or absence from a drill, in some cases, also will be treated more severely.

The wing's judge advocate, Lt. Col. Edward D. Sullivan, will explain the UCMJ's boundaries and limitation to all unit members. Its administration and enforcement will be the responsibility of his office.

Works overtime.



**Take stock in America.
Buy U.S. Savings Bonds.**

Project STOP LOSS Team Activated

A STOP LOSS team, dedicated to identifying deficient areas that do not lend themselves to proper protection and safeguarding of government assets, has been established at Westover AFB.

After these areas and procedures are identified, the team will take corrective actions, determine resources required and set up "get-well" dates.

Headed by Capt. George W. Caldwell, resource plans officer, the team also includes representatives from Base Supply, Transportation, Security Police, Civil Engineering, Budget, Maintenance and Services.

Captain Caldwell cautions, "Each commander and agency chief must effectively and economically manage government supplies and equipment. Each one of us must treat supplies, tools and clothing items as if we paid for them out of our pockets. After all, these items were bought out of our hard-earned tax dollars."



PROMOTIONS

Maj. Raymond J. Whitney
MSgt. Michael Gallagher
MSgt. Ted Gilfoy
MSgt. William A. McLaughlin
MSgt. Dale V. Olson
MSgt. Allen M. Sanders
TSgt. William Batchelder
TSgt. Paul A. Bates
TSgt. Richard Berryman
TSgt. Jack E. Cooper
TSgt. Allen S. Hamilton, Jr.
TSgt. Richard S. Kurek
TSgt. Allen B. Misner
TSgt. Larry C. Muniec
TSgt. Richard E. Thoresen
TSgt. Stanley J. Whittman
SSgt. David Backus
SSgt. Donald G. Bascom
SSgt. Richard Blankey
SSgt. Margaret A. Comeau
SSgt. Michael W. Crowley
SSgt. John A. Dejnak
SSgt. David W. Eisenhauer
SSgt. Gerrit Faber

SSgt. David F. Hawkins
SSgt. Kevin Heath
SSgt. Roxann J. Henry
SSgt. William Hickey
SSgt. Victor M. Marden
SSgt. Gail M. Mas
SSgt. Stephen A. Moniak
SSgt. Joan A. Morningstar
SSgt. Michael Noonan
SSgt. Joseph M. Norton
SSgt. Leon Ouellette
SSgt. Robert E. Ranck
SSgt. Michael J. Rondeau
SSgt. Daniel Rubino
SSgt. Robert L. Trudeau
SSgt. Edward J. Vail
SSgt. Charles W. Walker
SSgt. Timothy M. Walsh
SSgt. Marlene B. Wilson
Sgt. Jill A. Baker
Sgt. Joan I. Elliott
Sgt. David F. Hawkins
Sgt. Michael G. Ingham
Sgt. Jane D. Lapsertitis
Sgt. Nicholas B. Staszko
Sgt. Lewis Wright
SrA. Tyler J. Berriault
SrA. Paula M. Breyette
SrA. John G. Clarke
SrA. James P. Colgan
SrA. Chris J. Cortigiano
SrA. John R. DeGray
SrA. Michael K. Dingee

SrA. Jeanna Eberhart
SrA. Robert L. Foley
SrA. John A. Letteney
SrA. Carla A. Letourneau
SrA. Charron Letourneau
SrA. Maureen G. Haddock
SrA. Ronald F. McCloud
SrA. Ralph E. Morrow, Jr.
SrA. Michael K. LaCoste
SrA. Harold E. Sivard, Jr.
A1C. Edin K. Bevins
A1C. Joseph J. Coughlin
A1C. James J. Cubetus, II
A1C. John L. Dutilly
A1C. Thomas J. Gallagher
A1C. Kathy E. Hartford
A1C. Suzanne Henderson
A1C. Donna M. Knight
A1C. Walter L. Miller, Jr.
A1C. Carolyn Pietrewicz
A1C. Debra C. Saucier
A1C. Garth Saucier
Amn. Timothy G. Gangell
Amn. John B. Torello, Jr.
Amn. Collins T. Ward

REENLISTMENT

MSgt. Marthur B. Bumgardner
TSgt. Thomas Brown
TSgt. George J. Gorecki
TSgt. Charles Maio
TSgt. Victor C. Park
TSgt. Donald H. Sterns

SSgt. Howard F. Cormier
SSgt. Richard C. King
SSgt. Leon Oullette
SSgt. Leda G. Partridge
SSgt. Douglas Pregany
SSgt. Joseph R. Strouse
SSgt. Arthur Weber
SrA. Gaylea Gordon
A1C. Thomas Mondulick

ENLISTMENTS

SSgt. Paul L. Franceschina
SSgt. Steven R. Hoadley
SSgt. Bernard F. Reilly, Jr.
Sgt. Robert Kenneson
Sgt. Jo-Ann M. Rodrigue
SrA. Warren W. Gourley
SrA. Chester M. Hover, Jr.
SrA. Steven J. McCauslin
SrA. Roland L. Roy
A1C. Guy A. Collins
A1C. Richard C. Green
AB Gregory J. Reynders

STANDBY RESERVE

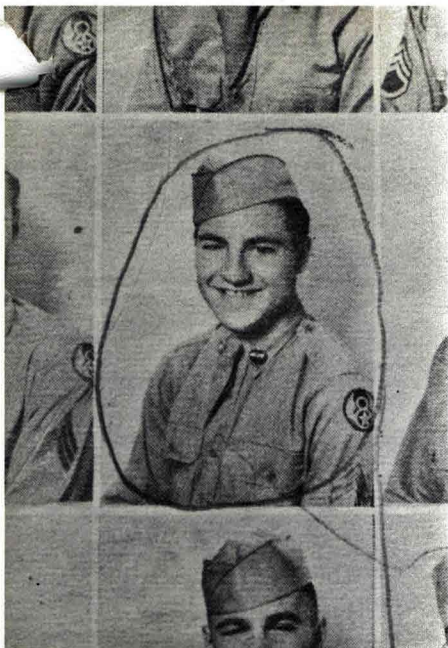
SMSgt. Henry C. Krepela
TSgt. Eileen Morgiewicz
Sgt. David L. Griffeth
Sgt. David Lavelli

REASSIGNMENT

SSgt. John K. Crotty

DISCHARGED

SrA. Ronnie Whetstone



1947 Wendover Army Air Field yearbook includes Sgt. Maurice LaFortune. Any resemblance to the 439th's 1978 TSgt. Maurice LaFortune is more than a coincidence!! (see story on page 8)

AFSA Holds Elections

Chapter 109 of the Air Force Sergeants Association held elections for three chapter offices at the base dining hall Nov. 9. The president and 1st and 4th trustee positions were up for election.

TSgt. Marshall Hathaway, 439 CSG/OI, succeeded Kenneth Poteete, retired Air Force MSgt. Kenneth Poteete, as president. Chief Haskel Jenkins, WAFB fire department, was re-elected 1st Trustee. Retired Air Force MSgt. John Dawson took the post of 4th Trustee, relinquished by SSgt. William Batchelder, 439CSG/DAR. Sergeant Batchelder is now Trustee for Reserve Affairs at Division 1 level.

Sergeant Hathaway is the first reservist elected president of the chapter.

Before the elections, TSgt. Marilyn Nantonis, Mass. ANG, presented Mr. Poteete with certificates of appreciation to the chapter and the ladies' auxiliary from the Air Force Enlisted Men's Widows, Dependents Home Foundation. The chapter has been supporting the home for several years.

Chapter 109's membership now exceeds 700 and includes personnel from all of New England and New York state.

Inquiring Photographer

QUESTION: "Assuming there is such a thing as a New Year's 'Reserve' Resolution, and also assuming you will follow through with it, what would yours be for 1979?"



SSgt. Bonnie Sullins, 439 Tac Hosp medical services specialist. "Not to be late to work at all any more."



A1C. Susan Vitolo, 439 TAW administrative specialist. "I'm going to enroll in a typing course to upgrade my Reserve skills."



SrA. Paul Vandal, 439 TAW tactical evaluation manager. "I will strive to do better than which I have done efficiently in the past."



MSgt. Ronald J. Koper, 439 CSG senior recruiter. "I'm going to do my best to make Westover AFB Reserve Recruiting the best in the Air Force Reserve and in the 14th Air Force."



SSgt. Joan I. Elliott, 74 AES air evacuation technician. "I am going to find out more about the active duty air evacuation systems and try to be more proficient in my job."



2nd Lt. Armand P. Tourangeau, 439 TAW wing training officer. "I'll do my part to see that training requirements get accomplished without waiting until the last minute."

Fortunes of War

by MSgt. Larry Lentz

July, 1944. The end of the fighting in Europe drew nearer as the Allies advanced deeper into Germany. For the U.S. Army's 1st Infantry Division, near Wiesbaden, each conquered mile took its toll in additional deaths and injuries.

Later, with victory, the G.I.'s left the devastation. But they didn't leave without scars and memories.

One young, injured soldier, however, returned home with more than frightening tales of battle. Today, he remembers not his German enemies, but his German friends. Those friendships are still an important part of his life.

When the 439 TAW went to Germany with REFORGER, he relived those wartime experiences and renewed those acquaintances.

Those experiences began in 1943 when Maurice LaFortune entered the Army and completed training at Camp Roberts, Ark. Soon, Corporal LaFortune was serving with the 1st Division in France and then Germany.

"We were near Wiesbaden when I was hit in the leg. I was taken to a field hospital which also was an orphanage. It was there that I met the Sisters of St. Luke and the kids. During R&R, I helped out in the orphanage. I also donated some food to the youngsters," he recalls.

Corporal LaFortune's involvement with the orphans continued even after he joined his unit on their way to Stuttgart and Nuremberg. At the war's end, he served as Sergeant of the Guard during the Nuremberg war trials. In that city, at the Sisters' mother house, 1st Division members pledged to send some money each year. A pledge that the former corporal continues to honor.

Thirty-three years and many contributions later, now Technical Sergeant LaFortune, with the 439 TAW, returned to that Wiesbaden orphanage. In doing so, his 33-year old dream became a reality.

"We were very busy keeping our 123s flying during REFORGER," Sergeant LaFortune explains. "But I called the mother house, and on my day off, the sisters picked me up at the base. We toured the orphanage and school. I took pictures and met all the kids. They were very well behaved and well cared for. Even though they spoke only German and I only English, I felt like their long-lost brother. During the visit, I had tears in my eyes."

Other Military Mementos

Sergeant LaFortune's German homecoming is only the latest chapter in his collection of military unit yearbooks he proudly displays.

After World War II, in 1946, he re-enlisted into the Air Corps and served in units



Sergeant LaFortune updates the partial mission capability supply board which graphically indicates the status of aircraft equipment.

developing America's nuclear arsenal. At Kwajalein, in the Bikini Islands, Sergeant LaFortune was part of Project Crossroads. Later, he worked in the Marshall Islands Sand Stone Project.

The story would have ended in 1949 with Sergeant LaFortune's discharge. But he was recalled during the Korean War. Then, the last chapter would have told of the North Koreans killing everyone in Sergeant LaFortune's unit, the 1st Recovery Group. Luckily, one member was home on emergency leave—Sergeant LaFortune.

Discharge from active duty and enlistment into the Air Force Reserve means a new yearbook.

Sergeant LaFortune began his Air Reserve Technician career with the 337th Troop Carrier Squadron in 1958. His unit and responsibilities took him from the supply section at Bradley Field to Westover in 1966 when the unit was relocated, and a position in material

control.

Now, he is the 439th's material control supervisor. From his Hangar 7 office, Sergeant LaFortune orders, routes and expedites the supplies needed for the wing's C-123 and C-130 aircraft.

But Sergeant LaFortune's experiences in Germany during World War II and this past September, always will occupy a special niche in the family library.

"The trip back to Germany was something I wanted to do for a long, long time," he explains. "I toured Mainz which is just south of Wiesbaden. There were a lot of changes. During the war, the city was totally destroyed. Now, it's all rebuilt and very beautiful.

"I went to the fountain near city hall. That's where I was shot. The trip brought back a lot of memories. Not bad memories—just memories. Walking around, though, I realized how glad I am just to be alive."

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

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300



THIRD CLASS-BULK RATE