



THE PATRIOT



439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING

WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE, MASS.

Vol. VII, No. 4

April, 1980

Win Basketball Tourney

Westover Men are Kings of the Court

by SSgt. Dean Mauro

The Westover men's basketball team captured the AFRES-wide championship at a tournament Feb. 22 through 24 at Niagara Falls.

Members of the championship team are Donald DeVincenzo, Ronald Michon, William Cichaski, George E. Morton, Reginald Allen, Don Cloutier, Gary A. Rogers, Roger Michaud, William Saunders, Rick Oliver, player/coach Jack Murdock and Dennis Williams.

They competed against 10 other teams in the double elimination tournament sponsored by the 914th TAG. Westover won all three games it played in the opening tournament round and split its two championship round games with Bergstrom AFB, Texas.

Bergstrom nipped Westover 72-70 in the first championship game with a closing minute surge. However, Westover rebounded to trip Bergstrom 72-71, in the final game.

"There was a lot of top talent on all the teams," Mike McNicholas, base recreation supervisor said. "It was not an easy tournament. The reserve teams are as strong as many teams in the Air Force."

McNicholas said team work was the key to Westover's success.

"Westover teams always have been and are now dominated by the idea of team play," he said. "We do not practice the individual style of superstar play. There were teams at the tourna-

ment more gifted in ability, but we were a success because we played team ball."

McNicholas credited Coach Murdock with guiding the team to victory. "He's a working coach," he said. "He is constantly adjusting plays and

changing defenses."

Westover athletes return to reserve-wide competition in the spring when men's and women's teams travel to the 911th TAG at Greater Pittsburgh IAP to take part in the AFRES volleyball tournament.



Navy SEAL skydivers bail out of a 731st TAS C-123 during recent exercises at Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. See story on page 5. (Official U.S. Navy Photo)

Weather or Not

Base Readies for Forecast Station

story and photos by
TSgt. Marshall Hathaway

Westover will soon have its own weather forecasting station. The new facility expands the existing Operating Location B, Detachment 6, 26th Weather Squadron, 3rd Weather Wing.

Presently the unit supports flying activities by furnishing local weather observations under current weather conditions — it is not a forecast function. By means of an electrowriter, data is transmitted to base operations, the command post, job control, security police, the tower and the flying squadrons.

That information includes cloud ceiling, visibility, temperature and dew point, wind direction and speed, altimeter settings and pressure altitude. Information is sent every half hour on a routine basis, but if conditions warrant, the frequency of the messages would increase to meet the demand of any given situation and would contain a broader range of data.

With the advent of the forecasting station, the unit's personnel will provide closer support with weather warnings, forecasts and personalized service.

TSgt. Dennis Gagne, weather forecaster technician, supervises TSgt. David Hammer and civilian weather observers Robert Bender, Thomas Hinckley and Charles "Ted" Houghton. They work two shifts from 6:30 a.m. each day in the red and white checkered building located on the far side of the main runway.

In it is the equipment which provides the above information, as well as a computer which calls up forecasts and observations from all over the country. Weather stations send their information to Carswell AFB, Texas, the hub of all weather information worldwide. There it is stored in a computer. Site installations can then procure local conditions anywhere simply by punching in a call sign on a keyboard. Within two seconds, a visual printout appears on a cathode ray tube. All the equipment at the site is maintained by Peter

LaFleur, 1917th CS civilian weather equipment technician.

New Commander

Sergeant Gagne came to Westover from Wurtsmith AFB, Mich. in January to supervise the equipment's installation. He assumed command of OL-B in February from Sergeant Hammer, who retires this summer. According to Sergeant Hammer, the station will be fully operational by the middle of 1980. Two full-time forecasters and two mobilization augmentees will staff the operation.

Another member of the staff is truly a triple weather threat. Ted Houghton's full-time job is as an OL-B weather observer. But he is also a qualified forecaster, and as such, is a local television personality. Every Saturday at 6:30 p.m. and 11 p.m., and Sunday at 11 p.m., he takes his place in front of the WGGB-TV, Channel 40 cameras.

He is also Maj. Houghton, chief forecaster for the 131st Weather

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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

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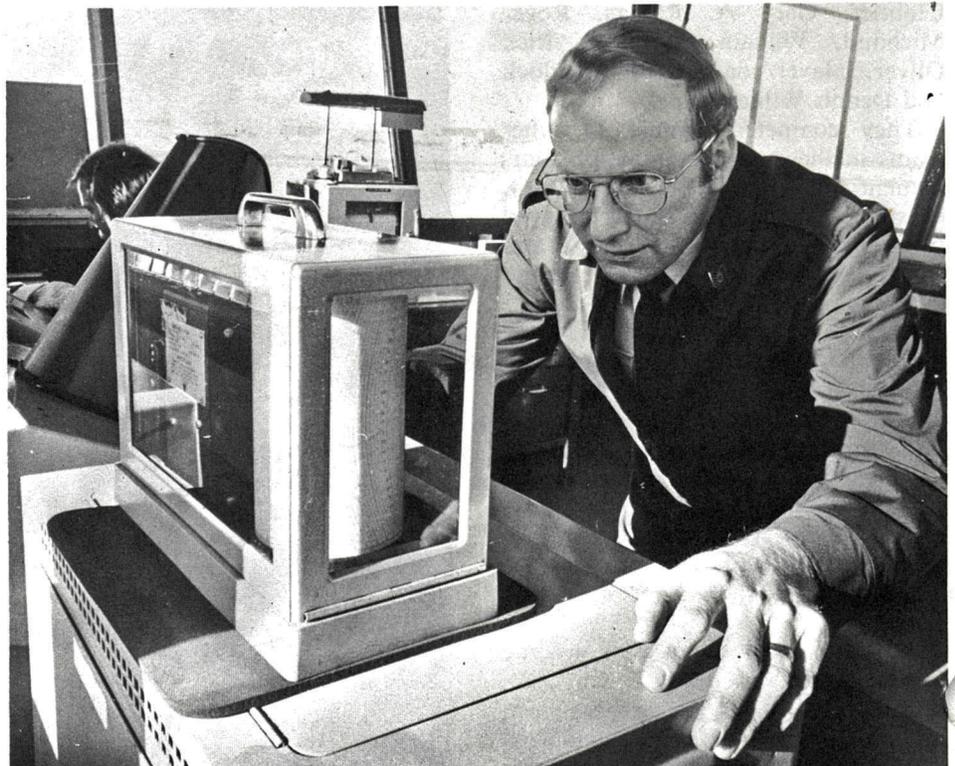
SSgt. Dean M. Mauro

SSgt. Alan Sorensen

SSgt. John W. Spencer, Jr.

Sgt. Deborah Elliot

A1C. Donna M. Stewart



TSgt. David Hammer, weather observer technician, reads a barograph at the Westover weather site.

901st CF Travels South for Snow

by SSgt. Mary Rose Michaud
901st CF

"Looking for snow? Travel south." This was the conclusion of the 901st Comm. Flight personnel who spent a recent UTA with the 1913th Comm. Group, Langley AFB, Va. It was there that the group of northeasters witnessed their first real snowstorm of the season.

Because of the weather, TSgt. Steve Leib and SrA. John Clarke, both radio operators, trained not only in their accustomed field, but also had some OJT of a different kind. As the unofficial bus drivers for the flight, they delivered the flight personnel to their assigned work areas. This meant the maneuvering of a base shuttle bus, both during and after the storm, on roads not plowed quite in the New England style.

But the snow didn't stop the Comm. Flt. from receiving some hands-on experience. TSgt. Walter Feller, SrA. Francis Laskowski and SrA. George Nalesnik of the 901st, along with SrA. David F. DeFalco of the 1913th CG used the weekend to install a 513 key system. The four telephone maintenance personnel worked together in order to meet a deadline.

This is the second time within the past six months that the phone people of the 901st helped their active duty counterparts. Both the 485th Comm.

ROA Elects New Officers

Maj. Frank J. Purnell, 439th TAW Resource Management, was elected president of Westover's Reserve Officers' Association, Chapter 50, at the organization's meeting on Sunday, Jan. 6.

Maj. Joy Garland, 439th Tactical Hospital, is the new vice-president. 2nd Lt. Laverne Cholewa, 439th CSG and Maj. Roger Peltier, 439th TAW assistant plans director, were elected secretary and treasurer, respectively. Filling out the board are Capt. Stephen Morrison, 731st TAS scheduling officer and Maj. Charles Joslin, 731st TAS mobility officer. They will serve as officers at large.

Installation Group at Griffiss AFB, N.Y., and the 1913th Comm. Group at Langley AFB achieved key system installations within a prescribed deadline, by actively using the weekend and the Reservists.

The success of the trip was highlighted with an open invitation by Lt. Col. Gerald T. Hager, commander of the 1913th. He invited the 901st to train and work with them whenever possible.

1917th CS Gets "Error Rate" Award

The Westover Base Communications Center, operated by the 1917th Communications Squadron, was awarded a Certificate of Recognition for unequalled performance in the Northern Communications Area Message Quality Control Program. For the last quarter of FY79, the Comm. Center maintained a message error rate of 0.23 percent — the lowest in NCA — while transmitting nearly three thousand messages.

Cited for outstanding achievement were Richard Heffernan, the Comm. Center supervisor, and system operators Warren Scott, Ronald Beaulieu, Richard Trauschke and Lonnie Worthy.

Freedoms Foundation Announces 1980 Theme

VALLEY FORGE, Pa. (AFNS) — "The U.S. Armed Forces — Strong and Ready." If you are a Reservist, your thoughts on this subject could be worth money in the 1980 Valley Forge Patriots Award from the Freedoms Foundation.

An essay or poem between 100 and 500 words discussing the subject should be sent to Freedoms Foundation, Valley Forge, PA 19481 before Oct. 1. Include name, grade, social security number, branch of service, complete unit address and complete permanent home address and zip code.

Air Force to Get \$46.3 billion in FY 81 Budget

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — President Carter has proposed a beefed-up Defense budget of \$158.7 billion for fiscal year 1981, an increase of 5.4 percent in real growth over current spending.

Announcing details of the budget, Defense Secretary Harold Brown noted the 1981 budget, and those to follow through fiscal 1985, represent a long-term commitment to sustained increases in the defense program and the funding needed to support it.

The sustained effort, Dr. Brown said, will be necessary to reverse longstanding adverse trends in the military balance with the Soviet bloc and to deal with increased international turbulence.

The 1981 budget includes \$46.3 billion earmarked for Air Force programs. The Air Force figure represents a \$6.4 billion increase over this year's budget.

The Air Force will spend more than \$3 billion to improve its Minutemen ICBMs, produce the air launched cruise missile, launch satellites and purchase equipment for the space shuttle.

In addition, \$1.5 billion is programmed for research and development of the MX missile.

Much of the Air Force's budget will be spent acquiring up-to-date weapons. More F-16s, A-10s, KC-10s and TR-1 tactical reconnaissance aircraft are being sought, and modifications are being planned for B-52s, EF-111s, C-5s and aircraft in the Civil Reserve Aircraft Fleet.

Additional F-16s and A-10s will be purchased to continue to flesh out 26 fighter/attack wings in the active-duty inventory, and F-4s, A-7s and F-105s will be transferred to the reserve. Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard fighter/attack forces will be increased by the equivalent of 2-1/2 squadrons of aircraft. The number of B-52 and FB-111 squadrons will remain constant at 25.

The Air Force will also move ahead in the development of an advanced transport aircraft, the CX. The service is scheduled to begin selecting a builder for the aircraft during the end of this fiscal year and will start full-scale engineering development on the selected design during fiscal 1981.

New Forecast Station . . .

(continued from page 2)

Flight, an attached unit to the 104th Tactical Fighter Group, Mass. ANG, at Barnes Airport in Westfield. He has been with the Air National Guard for the past five years. One day, when Sergeant Hammer was detachment commander of OL-B, the major came to work in uniform, saluted the sergeant and said, "Good morning, boss."

Col. James P. Thomas, 439th TAW deputy commander for operations, emphasized the necessity of weather forecasting capabilities at Westover. Currently, local forecasts are obtained from Pease AFB, N.H. Often the information is too little and too late, especially during severe weather such as heavy snow, thunderstorms and tornado watches.

Colonel Thomas added that the topography here is a determining factor. The hills can create local phenomena, not easily forecasted on a large weather map. In an emergency situation, it could be too late for the base to take precautions to protect resources and people.

* * * * *

Live Professional Show

Opus 7

Theatre — 7 p.m.

March 30

* * * * *

Apologies to MWR staff members **TSgt. Gordon R. Hunt** and **SSgt. Martin Barker**. They were inadvertently omitted from the March **Patriot** article on the base recreation services.



Charles "Ted" Houghton forecasts the weather on Springfield's WGGB-TV. He is also one of Westover's weather observers and a major in the ANG.

Reservist Battles Blaze: Reports for Duty

by SSgt. Galen Mark LaFrancis
905 CF

A member of the 905th Comm. Flt. and volunteer firefighter spent several hours the morning of the January UTA battling a blaze in his home town.

SSgt. Richard G. Henry, a ground radio repairman from Waterford, N.Y., was awakened by the town fire alarm about 2 a.m. on Jan. 5. The sergeant, a volunteer with the Waterford Fire Department, responded to a cottage fire at Kelt's Grove, a lake summer camp.

A volunteer for nearly a year, Sergeant Henry said no one was hurt in

the blaze, which gutted the vacant cottage and scorched another nearby. After spending nearly two hours at the fire, he left for Westover.

"I had always wondered what would happen when a fire came on a Reserve night. Well, this time one did," Sergeant Henry said.

The Mobility Control Center is now located in Bldg. 1832 (old CEMIRT)



ENLISTED

TSgt. Walter J. Bishop
TSgt. Lewis G. Carter
TSgt. William L. Clapp
TSgt. Zachary P. Slater
SSgt. David Howard
SSgt. John M. Leger
SSgt. Judith A. Louer

SSgt. Wayne P. McNeilly, Sr.
SSgt. John W. Spencer, Jr.
SSgt. John G. Vanbobo
Sgt. Martha F. Costa
Sgt. Robert B. Enders
Sgt. Terrence P. Parmenter
A1C. Cheryl G. Davies
A1C. William R. Knight, Jr.
A1C. Patrick D. Murphy
A1C. Katherine A. Barton
AB Paul J. Beauregard
AB Kevin N. Boucher
AB Linda A. Major
AB Heidi J. Perreira
AB Steven L. Spivey
AB Jerrold Russell
AB Jean P. Wood
AB David M. Wright
AB Douglas E. Yelencsics

REENLISTED

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MSgt. Lyman U. Frain
MSgt. David A. Gaboury
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MSgt. Francis R. Langone
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TSgt. Raymond W. Gohra
TSgt. Kenneth G. Lane
TSgt. Robert A. Sousa
TSgt. John B. Sypek, Jr.
SSgt. Stephen M. Caraker
SSgt. Robert J. Hartung
SSgt. Michael B. Horton
SSgt. Galen M. LaFrancis
SSgt. Chris J. Mellas
SSgt. Roger E. Query
SSgt. Betsy V. Rainville
SSgt. Joseph R. Sullivan

SSgt. Paul T. Vandal
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Sgt. Claire L. Gaudreau
Sgt. James D. Lambert
SrA. Brett Delves
A1C. Danial J. Turner

PROMOTED

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SMSgt. Raymond J. Gosnell
TSgt. Ronald J. Robbins
SSgt. M. Bougie-Scofield
SSgt. Bernard Brisbon
SSgt. Robert R. Durand
SrA. Candace J. Jackson
SrA. Steven S. Szlock
A1C. Monica J. Williams

Navy SEALs Flip Over 731st Crews



Moments after their C-123 departure, the Navy SEALs approach the drop zone. (Official U.S. Navy Photo)

by Capt. Richard Dyer

For most C-123 crews, a planeload of trained seals would certainly rate as an unusual cargo.

That's not the case, however, for crews from the 731st TAS.

Since last August, the 731st has been supporting Navy SEALs from the Naval Amphibious Base at Little Creek, Va. in a number of their parachute training missions.

The SEALs are crack special warfare personnel — the Navy's equivalent of the Green Berets. In addition to being expert parachutists, they are also skilled in scuba diving, special weaponry and underwater demolition.

The SEAL unit flown by the 731st also holds another distinction. Its members comprise the official U.S. Navy skydiving team, which participates in demonstrations and competitions throughout the nation.

"We are extremely proud that the Navy would select an Air Force Reserve unit to fly its official parachute teams," Maj. John Harris, a pilot with the 731st said. "We view it as a tribute to the skill and proficiency of our crew," he added.

Major Harris piloted one of two

C-123s which flew the Navy skydivers on jump missions for three weeks during January at the Naval Air Station at Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.

"We alternated two crews on this mission, with each crew spending one and a half weeks in Puerto Rico," Major Harris said. "The SEALs love to jump out of C-123s and we gave them 120 hours of air time during their deployment to Roosevelt Roads."

A casual conversation between a Naval officer from Little Creek and a 731st member blossomed into the working relationship between the Westover fliers and the SEALs.

"They formally requested our support last August, and we've flown them on several missions since then, both for the skydiving team and for combat training," Capt. Peter Eiche of the 731st said. Captain Eiche piloted the other crew during the recent Puerto Rico mission.

The captain said that before the 731st began providing airlift for the Navy unit, the SEALs generally parachuted from Marine helicopters. "They tell us they prefer to jump out of C-123s because of the back ramp and because we can fly at slower speeds

and different altitudes than the helicopters can," Captain Eiche said.

Team Professionals

He noted the Navy personnel are excellent parachutists and swimmers, and are in top physical condition. "They are extremely motivated and highly professional," Captain Eiche said. "It's a pleasure to work with them."

Maj. Harris' crew during the joint operation with the Navy at Roosevelt Roads included Maj. Thomas Donovan, co-pilot; Capt. Rene Beauregard, co-pilot; Capt. Joe Cleveland, navigator; TSgt. Andrew Lown and TSgt. John Peavey, flight mechanics and SSgt. William Chapman and SrA. Nicholas Staszko, loadmasters.

The members of Capt. Eiche's crew included Capt. Dennis Carroll, co-pilot; Capt. Joe Pitasi, navigator; SSgt. Bruce Szepclak, flight mechanic; and SSgt. Rich Kirkham and SSgt. Jimmy Barnes, loadmasters.

Maintenance support was provided by TSgt. Jim Maynard, SSgt. Bob Ranck, TSgt. Steve Budleski, MSgt. William Bowker, TSgt. Ray Desrosiers and SSgt. Bob Lareau of the 901st CAMS.

Maj. Harris said the 731st will continue its support of the Little Creek SEALs and build upon the rapport which has already been established between the two units.

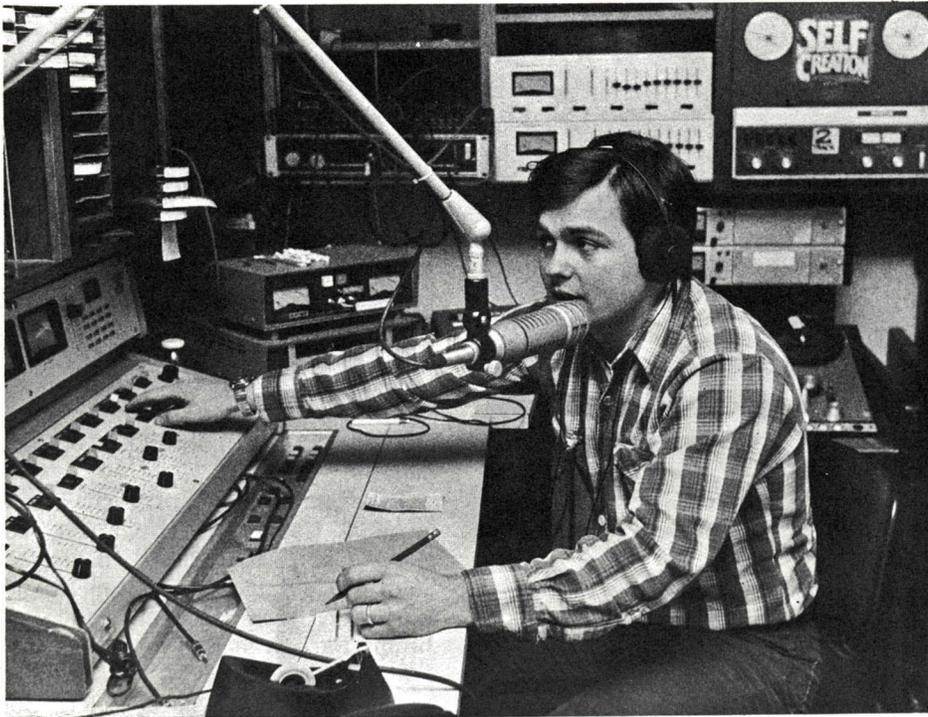
He also indicated the 731st hopes to host the Navy jumpers at Westover in the near future.

"They are an outstanding unit and we are proud to fly them," the major added.



"A Patriot Profile"

Cahill Bridges Two Worlds



SSgt. Kevin Cahill adjusts the sound levels during a news interview in the studios of radio station WBCN, Boston, where he is a student intern. (Photo courtesy of WBCN)

by MSgt. Larry Lentz

The sights and sounds of the early 1970s have returned to the college campus. Shouts of "Hell no, we wouldn't go" and debates on the merits of a peacetime draft have once again stirred, among some, anti-military feelings reminiscent of a past era.

That polarization of opinion and attitudes is perhaps best felt by those students who study during the week and then exchange their dungarees for a Reservist's uniform. Among the countless who bridge both worlds is SSgt. Kevin Cahill. He divides his time between Emerson College, Boston, and Westover's 439th Security Police.

"Many of my classmates are very surprised to hear that I'm in the Reserve," explains Sergeant Cahill. "They're even more surprised when they find out that I'm a military cop. But there's never been any harassment or ribbing. Rather, my friends usually are very curious about the Air Force and what I do at Westover. I even try to interest a few in joining."

Sergeant Cahill's interest in the air Force began in high school. He wanted

to become a policeman and joined the Reserve because of the security police career field.

Four and a half years later, there was a change of plans. In 1978, Sergeant Cahill entered Emerson for a degree in mass communications and the start of a broadcasting career. The sophomore has already completed courses in radio production, advertising, film basics and broadcast journalism.

Besides cracking the books, he is spinning the records. He is a disc jockey on the college's radio station which transmits to several Back Bay colleges. "I run 'the board', announce and rewrite the news off of the CBS, AP and UPI wire service hookups," he says. "When not on the air, I help with the station's publicity and promotional campaigns as a member of the public relations staff." Next year, as a junior, Sergeant Cahill hopes to join the college's FM station. Its 10,000 watt signal from Boston's Prudential Building covers a 100-mile radius.

After graduation, Sergeant Cahill hopes center on a position with a Boston radio station on the news or

public relations staff.

But until commencement, he continues the dual allegiances of a college student and a Reservist.

"A lot of my friends are upset about the proposed draft registration. They think they would have to fight a war for the big oil companies. But I think that many of them don't see both sides of the registration story. I try to give them a different viewpoint.

"But mostly, I explain why I'm in the Reserve, especially considering that the Reserve would probably be called up before anyone was drafted. My friends often don't understand that I feel some responsibility, and now I have the training, to help defend our country. I've changed a lot since I left high school. And some of my views are different. But my feelings about the Air Force Reserve and my participation in it haven't changed at all."

Jones Takes Command of Hospital

Lt. Col. Warner Jones has been named the new commander of the 439th Tactical Hospital. He replaces Col. Alan Fleckner who is transferring to the 445th MAW at Norton AFB, Calif.

Colonel Jones entered the Reserve in May, 1977. As a civilian, he is a doctor of internal medicine with a private practice in Springfield, Vt. He also is co-director of special care at the Springfield Hospital and serves as president of the Vermont Heart Association.

Dr. Fleckner has been affiliated with the 439th and its predecessor units, the 94th MAW and 901st TAG since 1964. He also completed five years of active duty.

He leaves for California to assume the position of director of emergency services at St. Bernadino County Hospital. He'll join Brig. Gen. Donald Dressler, the 439th Tactical Hospital's former commander, who will be the director of the hospital's Burn and Trauma Service.

Sergeant Williams to Attend Officer Training School

"It was one of those things where I was in the right place at the right time," says TSgt. Sherman Williams, 439th CSG recruiter. He was speaking of a "happy accident" that resulted in his scheduled departure April 25 for Officer Training School. Sergeant Williams will be heading for 12 weeks of what he calls "24-hour days in which you are given more than you can possibly do, and therefore must determine what is most important.

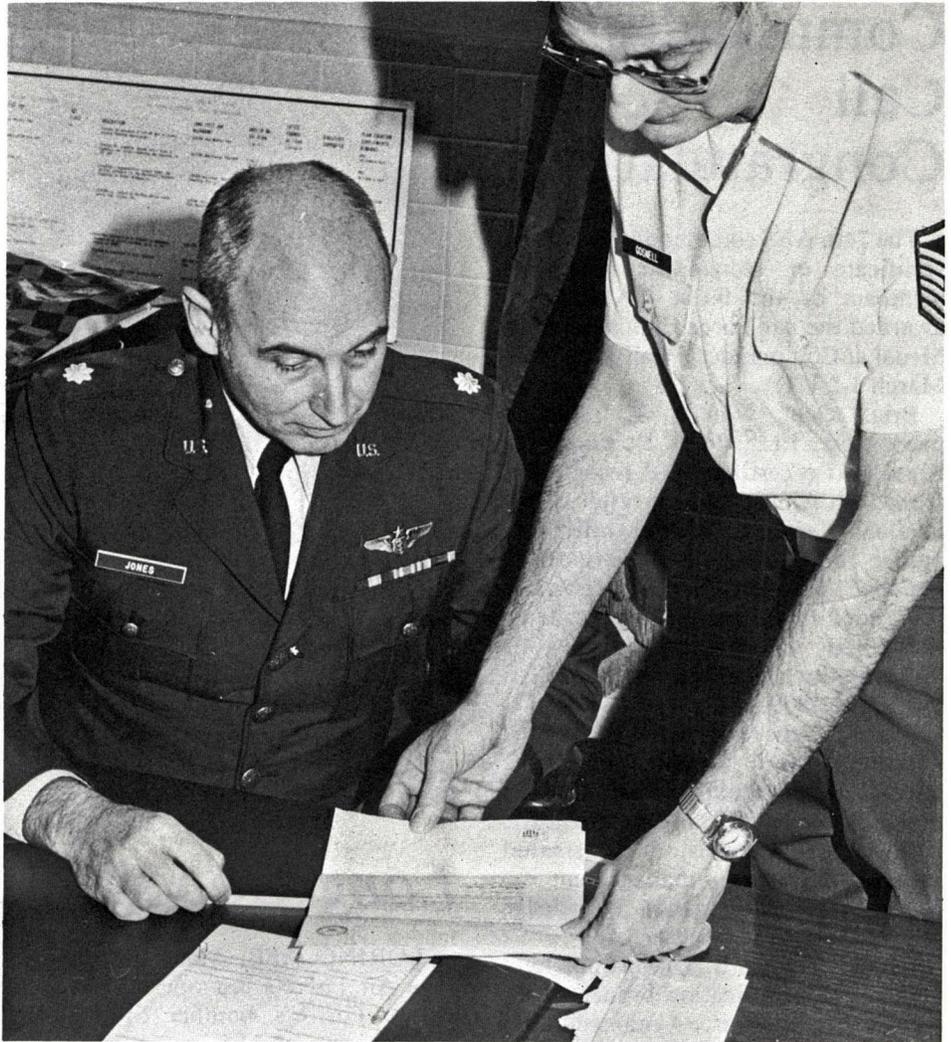
"My brother, like me, is an Air Force recruiter," says Sergeant Williams. "We were riding along in his car discussing our future military career plans. He asked me why I didn't apply for a slot at OTS. Well, this was something I had wanted for the past 11 years, had tried for, and was denied because of my color blindness. I thought I was too old." This is when SSgt. Jack Williams told his brother about the recent changes in requirements for OTS that enabled Sherman to qualify.

These changes did not affect the four basic selection requirements though — a good score on the Air Force Officer's Quality Test, college transcript information, recommendations from the commanding officer and other key personnel if possible, and passing a physical examination.

Sergeant Williams had no problem with the first of these. His score was high enough to give him a VIP rating and qualify him for a process termed "automatic selection." He scored 140 in a category that required a passing grade of 80.

Next were the college transcripts. Sergeant Williams had two to offer — a bachelors from Keene State College, with a major in chemistry and physics, and one from Nathaniel Hawthorne College with a major in business administration. He ended up his academic endeavors with a 3.5 cumulative average, where a 2.7 was required.

He was recommended by Brig. Gen.



Lt. Col. Warner Jones and SMSgt. Raymond J. Gosnell congratulate each other on recent promotions. Colonel Jones was named commander of the 439th Tactical Hospital, while Sergeant Gosnell, unit first sergeant, was promoted to his current grade.

Donald E. Haugen, wing commander; Brig. Gen. Billy M. Knowles, former 439th wing commander and Lt. Col. Edward J. Seilius, chief of CBPO. and then Sergeant Williams passed his physical examination.

There are many reasons why he has chosen a military career over what the civilian employers have to offer. "I have invested a lot of time in the military (11 years)," says Sergeant Williams. "The benefits are great. I like the lifestyle. I have ambitions to retire at the age of 45 as a major. I'm on the ground floor now."

Aerial Ports Continue Annual Tours

Twenty-one members of the 901st MAPF left March 1 for Ramstein AB in Germany for their annual two-week tour. They will train along with the active duty air cargo personnel, which includes breaking down freight flown in and dividing it for distribution to the local Army units.

Eight members of the 905th MAPF will complete their annual training at Hellenikon AB in Greece May 3-17, and thirteen other members will leave for Rhein Main AB in Germany June 14. Their training includes air terminal operations and ramp services as well as the same duties of the 901st.

National Secretaries Day

April 23

Commander's Call Congratulations

The 74th AES commander received a certificate of recognition and two members of the 901st CAMS were awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal at Commander's Call during the March 1-2 UTA.

Brig. Gen. Donald E. Haugen presented Lt. Col. Edward T. Kosakoski a certificate of recognition from 14th Air Force as a result of his invaluable medical administrative expertise and superior achievements. Colonel Kosakoski enthusiastically responded to the needs of the staff of the USAF Clinic, Los Angeles Air Force Station, from September 1979 to December 1979.

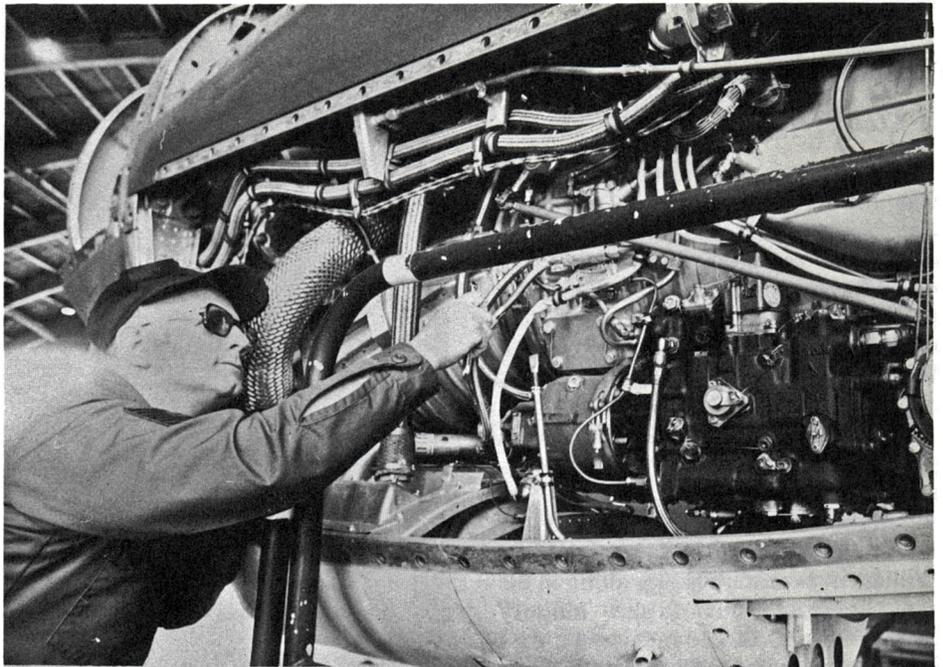
The first to receive the Air Force Commendation Medal was Maj. Haven D. Gorman, organizational maintenance officer and commander, 901st CAMS, who demonstrated superior leadership, management expertise and maintenance knowledge during the past four years.

CMSgt. Joseph S. DiMartino, field maintenance fabrication branch chief, received his Air Force Commendation Medal through complete dedication and superior maintenance knowledge which contributed directly to the numerous accomplishments of the 901st CAMS.

In addition, Col. Alan Fleckner received a plaque of appreciation for his service as the 439th Tactical Hospital's commander.

BRIEF

Maj. Gale French is the 731st TAS' new operations and training officer. "My new position involves the responsibility of being the commander's right-hand man," he says. Major French replaces Maj. Jay Johnson who has taken a position with the Federal Aviation Agency. Major French sees this reassignment from his previous as standardization/evaluation pilot as an example of the 731st's ability to maintain continuity.



MSgt. William McLaughlin, 905th CAMS flight line, inspects an engine of the wing's newest C-130B. The aircraft recently was transferred from the 443rd TAW, Kelly AFB, Texas. The acquisition brings the 337th TAS fleet to nine aircraft. Sergeant McLaughlin was named crew chief of the Hercules which is known to flight and maintenance personnel as "Taco Belle."

Long Goodbye Seen for Last B-29

LORING AFB, Maine (AFNS) — The Air Force's last operational B-29 Super Fortress bomber dropped its landing gear on U.S. soil here for the last time before making a trans-Atlantic journey to England's Imperial War Museum and a well-earned rest.

Some five months had been invested by civilian contractors in preparing the aircraft for its final flight.

The preparation for the flight was performed at Tucson International Airport, Ariz., where the plane was flown after leaving the China Lake range in California. The bomber spent more than 20 years at China Lake as a

target tug for conventional munitions and later as a missile target.

The B-29 prototype was first flown in December 1942. More than 3,900 of the aircraft were built before production lines closed in 1946. The bomber was used primarily in the Far East theater of operations and is best known for its role in dropping the atomic bomb.

The B-29 also saw action during the Korean conflict. The four-engine bomber was advanced for its day, having the greatest range of any bomber, the heaviest payload and near the fastest speed — 358 mph.

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WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE, MA. 01022

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