

# P A T R I O T

439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING (AIR FORCE RESERVE)

WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE, MASS.

Vol. XII, No. 12

December 1984

## 337th TAS expands training program

by MSgt. Larry Lentz

"Fly as you're going to fight." Under a new Military Airlift Command directive, that's how the 337th TAS will be training over New York's Adirondack Mountains.

The unit started a new Combat Aircrew Training program featuring low level routes and intricate terrain masking flying techniques.

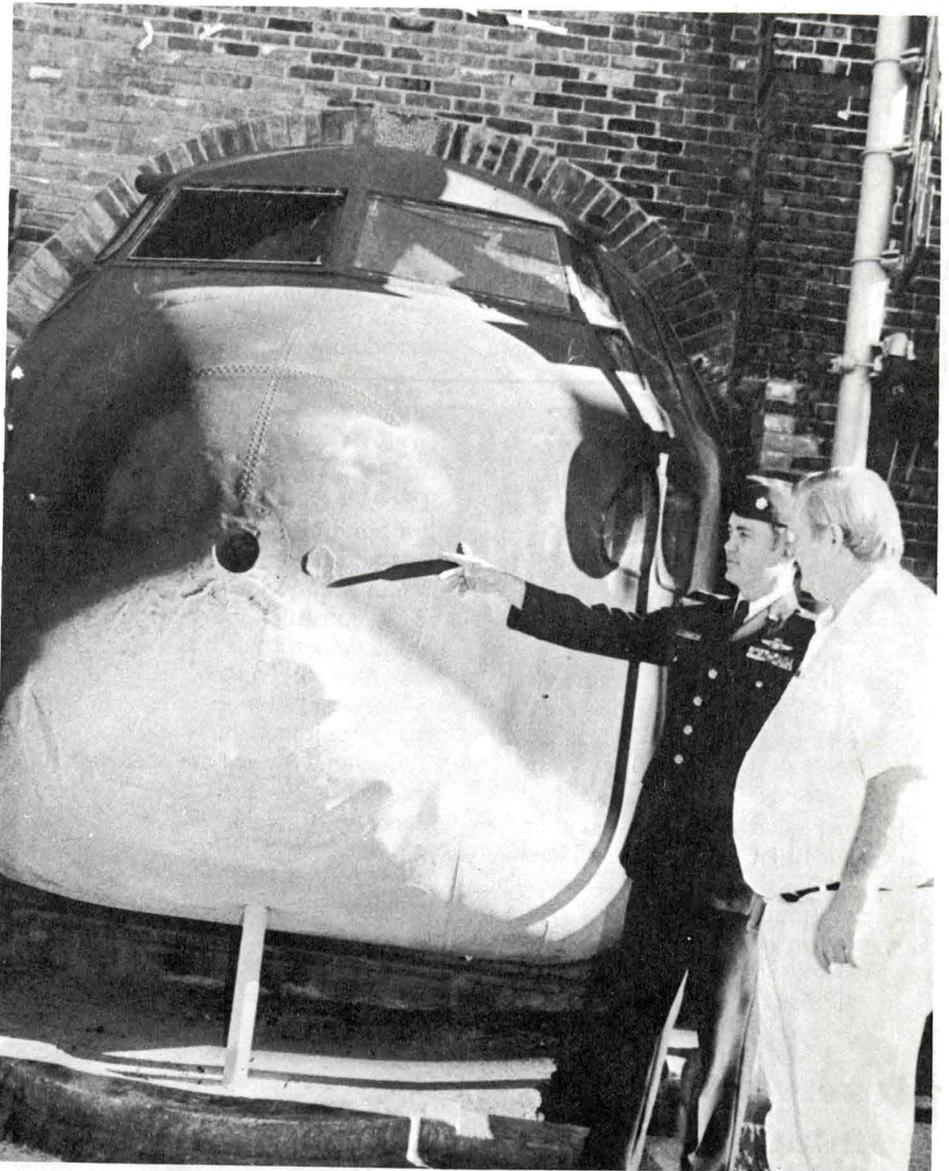
"Previously, the crews primarily flew straight, point to point routes remaining at least 500 feet above the ground," explained Lt. Col. Richard Doucette, chief of aircrew training.

"Now, we'll practice contour flying at an authorized altitude of 300 feet, the Colonel said. "Before, if a mountain top was a point of reference for our navigators, we would fly over it. In a hostile environment, that would expose the silhouetted aircraft to enemy fire. Now in a realistic training situation, the planes will hug the ground and go around the obstacle thus taking advantage of the aircraft's camouflage. If they can't see you — they can't shoot you."

On Sunday of the November UTA, two C-130s flew the new 35-40 minute routes over northern New York in an area between Camp Drum and Lake Champlain.

The low-altitude training and navigation area was selected because of its sparse population. The routes were plotted, however, to keep away from environmentally sensitive areas, as well as two wild life sanctuaries and airports says Colonel Doucette.

The new MAC directive will require  
(continued on page 6)



Lt. Col. Gale French, the 439th pilot who landed "707" as it was being consumed by fire, shows "Wherehouse" manager Charles Kelly (l) where he stuck his head out the window in order to see the runway for landing. See story on page two.

(USAF photo by Maj. Robert Carroll)



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# The Wing Commander's corner

by Col. Jack P. Ferguson

"Tis the season to be jolly . . . not jailed.

With the holidays fast approaching, it's important to remember that too much "good cheer" could mean big problems for those who drink and drive.

Base and local law enforcement officials are stressing that there will be no "holiday" from their strict enforcement of drunk driving laws. They mean it, and the penalties are stiff.

In both Massachusetts and neighboring Connecticut, a first-time DWI conviction could mean a \$1,000 fine, a year's loss of license and six months in jail. What's more, there are additional costs facing violators.

Chief Harold Voelker of the Westover Security Police estimates that a

DWI arrest usually also means a \$15 bail magistrate's fee, a \$40 towing charge, car storage costs of \$12 a day, a \$200 insurance rate surcharge and attorney's fees of between \$500 and \$1,000. You don't need a calculator to realize that a drunk driving arrest is an expensive proposition.

I agree with Capt. Chuck Curci, alcohol and drug training officer with the 439th's social actions office, who believes that common sense, and a sense of responsibility, are needed when it comes to drinking and driving.

As Captain Curci points out, we all have a personal responsibility to limit our alcohol intake, and never to drive if we do over-imbibe.

The captain also stresses that we have an additional responsibility when we

host a party. "We owe it to our guests to limit the amount of alcohol served at parties, and to do everything in our power to see to it that an intoxicated friend doesn't get behind the wheel of a car," he said recently. "Driving a friend home or putting him up for the night may be an imposition, but it could save a life," he added.

National statistics and daily news accounts reveal the tremendous carnage being caused by drunken drivers throughout the nation. It is a deadly problem and, sadly, one that doesn't have to exist.

This special season should be a time of peace and joy, not tragedy and trauma. A sensible attitude about our drinking habits can help ensure that we all enjoy the holidays safely.

## Restaurant gets a plane nose job

If you're in downtown Holyoke, don't be surprised if you see a C-123K Pro-vider protruding through a building. Actually, it's only its nose mounted on the outside wall of a restaurant called "The Warehouse."

The aircraft belonged to the 439th and had landed in an emergency at Westover on Oct. 11, 1977. The plane was destroyed beyond repair.

The nose of the plane known as "707" was salvaged and stored in Hangar 9 and then at the base's Defense Property Disposal area. Eventually, James Curran, owner of the Curran Construction Company bought it for his other business, The Warehouse.

In addition to its catering facilities,

The Warehouse is a museum. There are hundreds of relics on its walls, ceilings and floors.

Curran had waited for a slack period in his construction business to have his employees mount the nose. That time was slow in coming. So "707" spent two years in storage. Finally, in September, it took its rightful place.

Curran will paint the nose with the pilot's name, Lt. Col. Gale French, and decorate it with wing and squadron symbols. He is also planning a dedication ceremony at a date convenient to the 439th.

Recently, he decided to dedicate an interior wall to the memory of the 731st TAS. It will be decorated by former squadron members and be the site of a reunion now being organized by CMSgt. Charles Fusco, 439th field maintenance superintendent.

The "707" crash landing followed a

training flight when a fuel line ruptured, spewing gasoline on the hot engine.

The fire quickly spread, engulfing the entire fuselage. With the fire so intense in the rear area, the loadmaster had time to fasten only one leg of his parachute harness before jumping safely.

Meanwhile, in the cockpit, Colonel French was blinded by the intense smoke. He put his head out the cockpit side window and brought the fireball to a safe landing.

Colonel French was later given the prestigious Koren Kolligan Trophy and the Distinguished Flying Cross and was named the Air Force Man of the Year.

Aircraft "707", however, isn't the only aircraft at the restaurant. Curran holds a pilot's license and also was involved in an air emergency. The light plane he crash-landed is mounted on a pole outside The Warehouse and now serves as a weathervane.

## Reserve officers conduct election

Chapter 50 of the Reserve Officers Association conducted its annual election of officers at the Westover Consolidated Open Mess, Nov. 4.

After the final tally had been recorded, Lt. Col. Walter Holiday was selected for the office of president, Maj. George Caldwell-vice president, Maj. David Fitzgerald-secretary, Lt. Col. Philip Crutchfield-treasurer, Maj. David Smith-ART officer at large and Maj. Alan Hoffacher-officer at large.

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### 439th TAW Commander

Col. Jack P. Ferguson

### Deputy Commander Resources

Col. Roy E. Ayers Jr.

### Base Public Affairs Officer

Capt. Philp Weber

### Wing Public Affairs Officers

Capt. David J. Keefe

Capt. Rick Dyer

### Editor - NCOIC

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TSgt. John Wallace Spencer

SSgt. Carmen Burgos

SSgt. Kathleen Lincoln

SSgt. Glenn Bogart

Ms. Jo Pothoff

# Base completes semi-annual mobility drill

By SSgt. Glenn Bogart

Reservists from 10 of the 12 439th Tactical Airlift Wing units at Westover participated in a mobility exercise on Saturday, Nov. 3.

The simulated mobilization of selected personnel for deployment to Mildenhall Air Base, United Kingdom and Ramstein Air Base, Germany, was part of a mobility program which calls for such exercises at least twice annually, according to Maj. George W. Caldwell, installation mobility officer. The purpose of the mobility program is to ensure unit readiness and rapid deployability in the event of an actual call to active duty.

Major Caldwell and his NCOIC, SMSgt. Owen F. (Chip) Connolly, are the only Westover Reservists to whom mobility is a full-time job. All of the

other 95 personnel in the various Mobility Work Centers, such as Load Planning, Sub-Motor Pool, and the Transportation Control Unit, are specially tasked from various units when mobility exercises are held.

This particular mobility exercise involved the simulated deployment of more than 140 people. Groups from the various units arrived for mobility processing at intervals of as short as 15 minutes. This allowed for only one and one half to two minutes per person for processing, a goal which was exceeded during this exercise, according to Sergeant Connolly. He added that much of the credit for a smooth exercise goes to the unit commanders, mobility officers, and NCO's, who ensure that all personnel have up-to-date immunization records, ID cards, and other necessary records and items.

In addition to processing personnel for departure, the members of the mobility team loaded two C-130 aircraft with 110,000 pounds of equipment. The load included one pallet with a C-130 propeller loosely tied to the top. The prop was loaded without incident by a crew consisting of air cargo specialists drawn from several units, according to Sergeant Connolly. This task would appear to be difficult even for a crew accustomed to working together, since there is practically no margin for error.

Major Caldwell stated that the exercise went "extremely well." About halfway through the exercise, Mobility Control reported that the operation was seven minutes ahead of schedule. The major said he was especially pleased in view of the high proportion of mobility team members who had never worked on such an exercise.

## Base mail gets more zip

Westover's five digit, U.S. Postal Service Zip Code, 01022, has been expanded to the new ZIP + 4 system. Now most base organizations will use 01022-5000.

"Those units receiving alot of mail have separate ZIP code add-ons," explains MSgt. Chris Menard, base administration chief. "These new designations are standard throughout the Air Force.

"Now, mail will be processed by efficient optical character reader equipment which will speed the delivery of mail and result in cheaper postage rates which sending large volumes of first class materials."

Existing stationary and supplies, without the new ZIP codes should be used until new orders are printed. Mail should include the correspondents' last four digits as they become available. If a particular add-on is not known, the address should include the 5000 number.

Westover agencies using a different add-on are Accounting and Finance 5260; Transportation Movement Office 5270; Publications Distribution Office 5280; Tactical Hospital 5300; Contracting 5230; Supply 5350; and 1998 Communications Squadron 6340.



During their recent tour of Westover, members of Cub Scout Pack 76, of Agawam, Mass. watch in fascination as TSgt. David Kelliher, of the Life Support shop, 'pops' a parachute.

(USAF Photo by Maj. Robert Carroll)

# Hernandez speeds to victory in Turkey Trot

By Capt. Rick Dyer

When Celio Hernandez sped to victory over the five-mile Westover Turkey Trot road race course Nov. 4, the scenery must have looked mighty familiar to him.

Hernandez, a 31-year-old technical sergeant with the 439th CAMS, warmed up for his winning effort by running three miles of the route at a brisk pace just prior to the race.

Once the starter's gun sounded, Hernandez was in a class all by himself as he loped to a 26:23 victory and bested a field of 30 other runners.

It marked the fourth straight year that the 145-pound sergeant has won the annual holiday competition.

"It was sort of a workout for me," Hernandez admitted later. Following the competition, he "warmed down" by running several miles of the course yet again.

Hernandez, who estimates that he has run 8,000 miles since taking up the sport four years ago, said that he was recovering from his Oct. 7 victory in the Berkshire Autumn Marathon. He won



Celio Hernandez

that 26-mile race in 2:27:50.

Last May, the Springfield resident, who is employed as a paper salesman in civilian life, captured the Holyoke Marathon in the time of 2:35.

"I do believe that I'm better at the longer races, like 10-kilometer runs and marathons," he said. I think that I'm more competitive at those distances than I am at five miles," he added, before departing on his post-victory run.

If Hernandez has difficulties with the shorter races, it wasn't apparent to his Turkey Trot opponents.

He led from the start, and by the time the pack had completed the first mile around the base ellipse, he was more than 200 yards ahead.

The stringy, smooth-striding sergeant

finished nearly five minutes — and three quarters of a mile — in front of runner-up Fred Boryta.

Boryta, a staff sergeant with the 74th AES, was clocked in 31:12. Dave Flowers, a staff sergeant with the 3512th RS, placed third in 31:25.

Rounding out the top five finishers in the men's competition were Ron Benoit, a technical sergeant with the 58th APS, and Jerry Podkrowka, a civilian maintenance employee.

The first finisher in the three-mile women's event was 29-year-old Wally "Wally" Kiselauskas. Mrs. Kiselauskas, the wife of TSgt. Bruce Kiselauskas of the 3512 RS, won in 20:52.

Holyoke Catholic High School freshman Jeff Nalesnik breezed to a 10:10 victory in the 1.5-mile children's event. He is the son of TSgt. George Nalesnik of the 905th CF.

Other individual winners by category included Fred Boryta (men's 17-23); Celio Hernandez (men's 24-31); Jerry Podkrowka (men's 32-39); Miner Flyer (men's 40-47); Frank Sweryda (men's 48-54); Wally Kiselauskas (women's 24-31); Pauline Lenoci (women's 32-39); James Shapiro (children's 8-12) and Jeff Nalesnik (children's 13-16).

Nine-year-old Sarah Winter, the youngest female competitor received a special recognition award.

Winners in each of the age brackets received a turkey. The event was sponsored for the seventh straight year by the Morale, Welfare and Recreation division under the direction of Mike McNicholas.

## PATRIOT takes top AFRES award

The 439th's *Patriot* has been named the Best Overall Newspaper in the Air Force Reserve. In addition, two members of the unit's Public Affairs Office received special commendation in the command's annual medial competition.

Capt. Rick Dyer took first place in the published Sports Articles category and tied for second in the Journalist of the Year competition.

Maj. Robert Carroll, a mobilization augmentee assigned to the wing, earned top honors in the published Picture Stories category.

The Wing's 914th TAG newspaper, *The Frontiersman*, published at Niagara Falls International Airport, received an Honorable Mention in the newspaper competition.

The *Patriot* and the *Frontiersman* are two of the five Reserve newspapers which will represent AFRES in the Air Force Media Contest. Last year, the *Patriot* won top honors in its category in the Air Force contest.

## The tale of a turkey trotter

By SSgt. Sandi Michon

Just keep concentrating . . . so what if that kid just glided past me . . . one foot in front of the other . . . breathe regular . . . Why doesn't running ever get easier?"

It's pretty cold today . . . at least it's not raining . . . I'm almost halfdone this race. No wonder it's called the Turkey Trot. . . I must be one to be out here in this weather . . . and "trot" is about my speed. . .

I'm not going to give in to this cramp in my side. . . People say you can run through it. . . I'm around the bend . . . there's the gym . . . do the last mile a lit-

tle faster. . . Why did I eat those donuts?

Hernandez must be already in the shower by now. . . How can he run so fast? Why are the fastest runners all in my age category? If I were a couple of years older, I could walk this race and still win a turkey. . .

Only a quarter-mile left . . . boy, am I tired. . . It doesn't feel so cold anymore . . . just concentrate on the finish line . . . so what if I don't place. . . I just want to finish. . .

God, it's over. . . No applause, no glory . . . no turkey . . . but I did my best — and I made it. Another year, another Turkey Trot.



2nd Lt. Judy Wheeler

(USAF photo by Maj. Bob Carroll)

## Judy Wheeler pins on gold bars

Last month marked the realization of a long awaited goal for 2nd Lt. Judy Wheeler — she pinned on her gold bars.

Lieutenant Wheeler joined the Reserve five years ago as a sergeant serving as a medical service specialist. She had just finished an active duty tour at Langley AFB, Va. This June she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va. and in September was awarded a commission in the Air Force Reserve.

"It's strange after being enlisted for nine years," she said. "It will take a lot of getting used to. I just hope people's attitudes don't change."

Lieutenant Wheeler soon will head to flight nurse training and an abbreviated officer training program. As a flight nurse with supervisory duties she says she feels good about leaving her technician's position. "I feel positive about my career progression. I set this goal and it feels good to be here," she said.

Lieutenant Wheeler lives in Springfield and is a registered nurse in the recovery room at Wing Memorial Hospital in Palmer, Mass.

## A holiday message

There is a kind of delightful hopefulness about the holiday season. As a teenager I worked in a Georgia grocery store, and can remember still the difference the holidays made in folks. The store manager always seemed more willing to make refunds. Folks seemed less irritated if they had to wait in line, or get their checks approved. The people bagging the groceries seemed to work a little harder at keeping the eggs from getting smashed, and themselves received more generous tips. For at least a couple of weeks there seemed to be a kind of transformation of the ordinariness of life, even there in the grocery store. Suddenly life was more grace-ful, more filled with possibility for caring and trust.

No wonder we begin putting up holiday decorations in our stores two months before it is time! We long for human community to be more grace filled more of the time, more shaped by kindness, and sharing, than by mere self-interest. Let, then, this Holy Season be a symbol of hope! It *can* be so. The common places of life *can be* places of caring, and graciousness. Let us begin to see the holiday season, not so much as a time-out from real life, but as a resource from which to draw in our resolve to be persons who are gracious and kind, not only during these sacred days, but all of the time.

On behalf of the Chaplains' Section, 439 CSG, I wish you a Happy Chanukah and a Merry Christmas!

Richard L. Miesel, 1Lt.  
Unit Chaplain, 439 CSG

## NCO course set for January

The AFRES Noncommissioned Officers Academy Associate Program at Westover met its 1985 enrollment deadline last month with more than 70 applicants, double the 1984 number.

"This year we had only two classes but because of the response, we've increased January's classes to four," said MSgt. Clay Gallant, 439th CSG training technician.

The correspondence/classroom program for staff, technical and master ser-

geants meets twice each UTA for 12 months. As a prerequisite for the senior NCO course and obtaining a nine level, course material includes Air Force history, military law, communications skills, and world affairs. "The classroom advantage is a definite benefit over taking the course strictly through correspondence. Each student gets to act as lesson leader for one or more sessions. Discussion of the material and the use of videotapes really helps to reinforce the information." Sergeant Gallant said.

## Major Clune heads 439th CAMS

Maj. Alan B. Clune is the new commander of the 439th CAMS.

Major Clune was born in 1945 at Hartford, Connecticut. He attended Trinity College, Hartford, receiving his undergraduate degree in 1966. Holder of a master's degree in history from Ohio State University, the major also has a sixth-year specialist certificate in educational administration. Military schools completed include the Squadron Officers School Air Command and Staff and Air War College through correspondence.

After receiving his commission in 1967, Major Clune was assigned as a SAC aircraft maintenance officer at Lockbourne Air Force Base, Ohio. He came to Westover in 1974 as a safety officer, then moved to the 905th as aircraft maintenance officer.

In his civilian role, the major is the principal of the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School at Orange, Massachusetts. He is very active in the Knights of Columbus.

Major Clune and his wife Alice have four children: Sandra, Stephen, John, and Kevin.

# Himelick participates in German JCS exercise

Creek Warrior '84, a security police air base ground defense exercise, brought the best security police throughout the Air Force to Bitburg Air Base, Germany, on Sept. 11. Of the 110 'top cops', only three Reservists were chosen to participate. Of these, only Westover's TSgt. Bradley W. Himelick, 439th WSSF, was selected to represent 14th AF.

"He went through some of the most arduous training a security policeman ever experienced," reported MSgt. Gerard Farrell, 439th WSSF Operations Superintendent. "It included hours of intensive classroom instruction and numerous days and nights of patrolling over rugged German terrain."

After the 14-day training period, Sergeant Himelick was selected to continue in the exercise and evaluate the Bitburg AB "close defense force command post." Normally, the task goes to a senior master sergeant.

He performed field evaluations with

elements of the opposition forces against 286 security police defending Spangdahlem and Bitburg Air Bases. During nightly forays, Sergeant Himelick and his team slipped through the defender lines in pouring rain and knee deep mud.

"We would stop and slowly sink into the muck, feel every drop of rain on your soaked clothing; and listen," recalls Sergeant Himelick. "We could pick out the defender fighting positions by sound — a poncho flapping in the wind or the sling of an M-16 hitting the side of the weapon as the defender struggled to find a more comfortable fighting position. Then we would hit them with

everything we had and run like hell to get away."

The three weeks of almost constant rain took its toll on Sergeant Himelick as it did on many exercise participants. He soon found himself in the base hospital. Four days later, however, he signed himself out and went back to the exercise. "I traveled all the way to Germany and went through those countless hours of instruction. There was no way I would miss the exercise finish," he said.

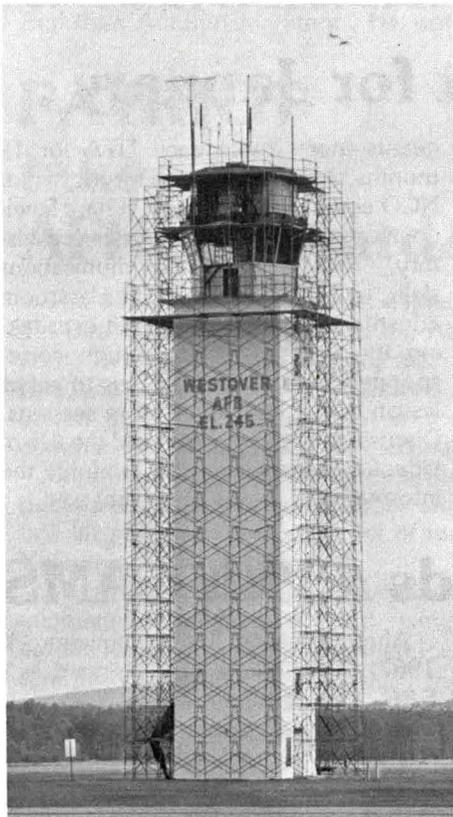
Because of his superior performance, Sergeant Himelick will represent AFRES again as a controller/evaluator in another Joint Chiefs of Staff-sponsored exercise in Germany next year.

## Commander's Call

The nation's third highest military award, the Bronze Star, was awarded at the Wing Commander's Call on Sunday, Nov. 4. It was presented to **George Tomecko** of Storrs, Conn., by Col. Jack P. Ferguson, wing commander.

Tomecko received the honor for his gallantry, during World War II, as a member of the Army Air Corps in the Philippines. (See his story elsewhere in this issue.)

In addition, Community College of the Air Force degrees were presented to four members of the unit. The four college certificates went to **SMSgt. Acquillino Lucia**, 439th TAW, for aircraft maintenance technology; **TSgt. Robert Johnson, Jr.**, 74th AES, for emergency medical technology; **MSgt. Martha Shea**, 439th Tac Hospital, for medical laboratory technology; and **SSgt. Thomas Stark**, 439th Tac Hospital, for health sciences.



**Not to be outdone by the Statue of Liberty, Westover's control tower is undergoing a face-lift, too. Construction workers recently erected scaffolding around the tower, and have begun repairing its roof, catwalk and floor.**

(USAF photo by Maj. Robert Carroll)

## Tourney suits golfers to a tee

The sun smiled on Westover golfers at the 439th TAW fall scramble on Sept. 17. Fifty-six men and women competed in the tournament at Westover Golf Course.

Each four-person team played the scramble from the best-hit ball. Trophies were presented to the top four teams and prizes went to the men and women with the longest drive and closest-to-the-pin shots.

The first-place team consisted of Paul Tetreault, Tom Smith, Frank Simone and Terry Podkowka. Longest drives went to Ret. Col. Frank Moore and Anita Murphy. Closest-to-the-pin winners were Joe Rudolph and Blanche Schwartz.

Chris Menard, and other administration personnel organized the tournament. A buffet at the American Legion in Chicopee followed the tournament.

## Training Program . . .

(continued from page 1)

more demanding training scenerios. The aircraft will be pitted against simulated surface-to-air missiles. Under the protective escort of A-10s they will fly avoidance maneuvers against F-4s and A-4s.

The expanded training program follows 12 hours of classroom instruction

for all the aircrews. In addition, seven members of the squadron — Colonel Doucette, Maj. Elmer Whittier, Maj. Patrick Dery, Capt. Kevin Wentworth, MSgt. Fred Allard, TSgt. John Missale and SSgt. Ralph Branyen — completed a nine-day long program at the Air National Guard's Advanced Airlift Tactics Training Center in St. Joseph, Mo.

# "Patriot People"



**Name:** SANTA CLAUS  
**Rank:** Commander in Chief  
**Age:** ageless  
**Address:** 1 Rudolph Terrace  
 North Pole  
**Unit:** 1225th Aerial Delivery Wing  
**Position:** Air Cargo Specialist  
**Civilian Occupation:** President  
 and CEO of Northpole Manufacturing  
 and Distribution Center  
**Favorite Food:** Cookies and milk  
**Favorite Beverage:** Eggnog  
**Favorite Sport:** reindeer racing and  
 chimney climbing  
**Favorite Hobby:** making children  
 happy  
**Ideal Vacation:** poolside on Dec.  
 26th

**Best Way to Relax:** In front of the  
 fire with Mrs. Claus  
**Preferred Entertainment:** playing  
 with the elves  
**Favorite Celebrity:** Bing Crosby  
**Favorite Music:** Christmas Carols  
**Favorite Magazine:** Sears and  
 Roebuck Catalog  
**Favorite Book:** World Travel Guide  
**Favorite Color:** Red  
**Favorite Car:** 1934, 12-reindeer  
 powered, sports sleigh with ex-  
 panded cargo area  
**Pet Peeve:** nonbelievers  
**Best Thing About Westover:** wide  
 runway for easy landing  
**Worst Thing About Westover:**  
 the weight program and AFR 35-10



## Promotions Enlistments & Re-enlistments Congratulations

### PROMOTIONS

Lt. Col. George J. Bourque, III  
 Lt. Col. Alan M. Salus  
 Maj. David E. Doyle  
 MSgt. Ronald A. Ploof  
 TSgt. Joaquim Henriques  
 TSgt. Clyde D. Small, Jr.  
 SSgt. Edward J. Peplinski  
 SSgt. Richard W. Turpin  
 SSgt. Paul G. Winnett  
 Sgt. David E. Anderson

Sgt. Howard M. Blackwood  
 Sgt. Dennis R. Bromery  
 Sgt. Michael M. Cuccovia  
 Sgt. Robert W. Donovan  
 Sgt. Waymond Dotson  
 Sgt. William R. Fett  
 Sgt. Robert F. Flynn, Jr.  
 Sgt. Paul K. Ford  
 Sgt. Rodrigo L. Gamba  
 Sgt. Jonan M. Kukowski  
 Sgt. Brian S. Mortimer  
 Sgt. John P. Nisyrios  
 Sgt. Michael J. Ohearn  
 Sgt. Kelly E. Payne  
 Sgt. Robert F. White, Jr.  
 A1C Donald K. Blaisdell  
 A1C Jeffrey G. Cabana  
 A1C Cynthia L. Day

A1C Joseph H. Dowd  
 A1C George E. Dykeman  
 A1C John Gray II  
 A1C Mark F. Hennessey  
 A1C Teresa I. Hydman  
 A1C Robert O. Palmer  
 A1C Joanne Pennock  
 A1C Cynthia J. Pucillo  
 A1C Leo H. Wallin

### ENLISTMENTS

SSgt. Mark Trzepacz  
 Sgt. Mark J. Maloni

### REENLISTMENTS

CMSgt. Michael A. Sicuranza  
 MSgt. James H. Alexander

MSgt. Robert L. Blouin  
 MSgt. Harold B. Crapo Jr.  
 MSgt. William E. Hutchinson  
 MSgt. Theron E. Kelley  
 TSgt. George W. Blauvelt  
 TSgt. Basil S. Bocynsky  
 TSgt. William A. Bowles, Sr.  
 TSgt. Thomas F. McCoy  
 TSgt. Carl H. Quist  
 SSgt. Santiago J. Begue  
 SSgt. John P. Betsold  
 SSgt. Darlene J. Clemente  
 SSgt. James J. Cobb  
 SSgt. Richard Hirschler  
 SSgt. John H. Leonard  
 SSgt. McClair W. Mailhott, Jr.  
 SSgt. Nathaniel White  
 Sgt. Dennis R. Bromery

# Reserve Drill Pay To Increase 4% Jan. 1

PAY GRADE	UNDER 2	2	3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	26
<b>COMMISSIONED OFFICERS</b>														
O-8	135.65	139.71	143.03	143.03	143.03	153.69	153.69	160.95	160.95	167.65	174.93	181.64	188.92	188.92
O-7	112.72	120.38	120.38	120.38	125.77	125.77	133.07	133.07	139.71	153.69	164.25	164.25	164.25	164.25
O-6	83.54	91.79	97.80	97.80	97.80	97.80	97.80	97.80	101.12	117.11	123.10	125.77	133.07	144.32
O-5	66.82	78.47	83.88	83.88	83.88	83.88	86.43	91.07	97.17	104.44	110.44	113.78	117.75	117.75
O-4	56.32	68.58	73.16	73.16	74.51	77.81	83.11	87.79	91.79	95.82	98.47	98.47	98.47	98.47
O-3	52.34	58.51	62.55	69.21	72.52	75.14	79.19	83.11	85.16	85.16	85.16	85.16	85.16	85.16
O-2	45.64	49.84	59.87	61.89	63.19	63.19	63.19	63.19	63.19	63.19	63.19	63.19	63.19	63.19
O-1	39.62	41.25	49.84	49.84	49.84	49.84	49.84	49.84	49.84	49.84	49.84	49.84	49.84	49.84
<b>COMMISSIONED OFFICERS WITH MORE THAN 4 YEARS ACTIVE DUTY AS ENLISTED OR WARRANT OFFICER</b>														
O-3E	0.00	0.00	0.00	69.21	72.52	75.14	79.19	83.11	86.43	86.43	86.43	86.43	86.43	86.43
O-2E	0.00	0.00	0.00	61.89	63.19	65.19	68.58	71.20	73.16	73.16	73.16	73.16	73.16	73.16
O-1E	0.00	0.00	0.00	49.84	53.24	55.20	57.20	59.19	61.89	61.89	61.89	61.89	61.89	61.89
<b>ENLISTED MEMBERS</b>														
E-9	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	62.02	63.43	64.86	66.35	67.83	69.15	72.79	79.86
E-8	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	52.02	53.50	54.90	56.34	57.82	59.16	60.61	64.17	71.33
E-7	36.32	39.20	40.66	42.08	43.52	44.90	46.34	47.78	49.94	51.36	52.80	53.49	57.08	64.17
E-6	31.24	34.06	35.48	36.99	38.36	39.76	41.22	43.34	44.70	46.14	46.84	46.84	46.84	46.84
E-5	27.42	29.85	31.29	32.66	34.80	36.21	37.66	39.04	39.76	39.76	39.76	39.76	39.76	39.76
E-4	25.58	27.01	28.59	30.82	32.03	32.03	32.03	32.03	32.03	32.03	32.03	32.03	32.03	32.03
E-3	24.10	25.41	26.44	27.49	27.49	27.49	27.49	27.49	27.49	27.49	27.49	27.49	27.49	27.49
E-2	23.18	23.18	23.18	23.18	23.18	23.18	23.18	23.18	23.18	23.18	23.18	23.18	23.18	23.18
E-1	20.68	20.68	20.68	20.68	20.68	20.68	20.68	20.68	20.68	20.68	20.68	20.68	20.68	20.68
E-1 with less than 4 months — 19.88														

Shown by grade and years of service are the new Reserve drill monthly pay rates for single four-hour drills, reflecting a four percent increase for all grades. Pay for E-1s

with less than four months' service, however, will be capped at \$19.88 per four-hour drill. Reservists who drill a full two-day weekend would get four times amount shown.

# Death March survivor awarded Bronze Star

by SSgt. Gordon Newell

After a wait of nearly 40 years, George W. Tomecko, a resident of Storrs, Conn., has been presented the Bronze Star Medal.

Tomecko, was presented the medal by Col. Jack Ferguson, commander of the 439th Tactical Airlift Wing, during the wing commanders call, Nov. 4.

"The Bronze Star took me completely by surprise," said Tomecko following the ceremony. "It is a great honor to personally receive this recognition no matter how late it is received. It's been quite a day for me."

The medal, the nation's third highest, was awarded to Tomecko, for his participation in the defense of the Philippine Islands from 1941 to 1943.

As a private in the Army Air Corps 27th Bombardment Group (light), Tomecko was among some 300 members of his unit that survived the rigors of a campaign without planes and the infamous bataan Death March. The Air Force has been looking for surviving members of the 27th so they can receive the medals.

In late November of 1941, personnel of the Group arrived in the Philippines to support General MacArthur's very small and very old Air Corps. Their planes and equipment, shipped abroad on slower freighters, were diverted to Australia when the Japanese invaded the Philippines in early December.

About a dozen pilots and other officers of the Group flew to Australia in mid-December to fly the 27th's planes back to the Philippines. Because of the rapidly deteriorating situation, they never returned.

The day before Christmas, the American High Command declared Manila an open city and ordered the evacuation of military bases there. About 1,400 "airmen" of the 27th were stranded, along with members of the other U.S. and Philippine units, and were moved by ship and truck to Bataan. There, the earthbound airmen were issued World War I vintage Enfield and Springfield rifles, allowed to fire 15 qualifying rounds and were formed into the 2nd Provisional Infantry Battalion. They were then moved to the eastern section of the main line of resistance, serving 99 straight days fighting as Infantrymen and facing seasoned Japanese veterans of the China Campaign.

These heroic airmen, who later became known as the "Battling Bastards



**John Tomecko, a resident of Storrs, Conn., address wing members after he received a Bronze Star from Col. Jack P. Ferguson during commander's call on Nov. 4.**

(USAF photo by Maj. Robert Carroll).

of Bataan", held out until the final capitulation of the Philippines in May of 1942. Following their surrender, the Group suffered through the infamous Bataan Death March.

After being taken prisoner by the Japanese, Tomecko said hundreds of prisoners lost their lives in the 2½ day forced march to the Cabanatuan prison camp in Northern Luzon. They were shot or bayoneted by the Japanese soldiers if they were unable to continue.

Eventually during his 3½ years as a

prisoner of war he was moved to Japanese prison camps in Korea and finally Manchuria.

During his imprisonment his weight dropped from 155 to 80 pounds, he also lost sight in his right eye and many teeth because of the cruel treatment. He also contracted several diseases including malaria during his internment.

"After nearly 40 years," Tomecko said, "I still don't know why I survived when so many others perished in Japanese prison camps."

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