

P A T R I O T

439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING (AIR FORCE RESERVE)

WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE, MASS.

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New enlisted promotion program announced

By Capt. Rick Dyer

Wing enlisted personnel will soon find more room on the top rungs of the career ladder, thanks to a newly established AFRES promotion program.

According to Lt. Col. Edward J. Seilius, wing personnel director, a Promotion Enhancement Program (PEP) which was recently inaugurated throughout AFRES will create promotion opportunities for wing members who would not be eligible for advancement under existing regulations.

"It's an enhancement program that is

being offered in addition to normal promotions," the colonel explained. "It is designed to reward truly outstanding people at the higher enlisted grades, where the chances for promotion have traditionally been slimmer.

Under the PEP program, there will be two promotion cycles each year. Candidates from Westover, the 911th TAG at Pittsburgh, and the 914th TAG at Niagara will be screened by a special board for the promotions, which are awarded to the wing by AFRES.

Colonel Seilius said that unit com-

manders are currently submitting nominations for the first round of PEP promotions, which will be effective on July 1. Under the first quota assigned to the 439th, 18 wing members could be promoted to technical sergeant, and 13 could advance to master sergeant.

The personnel director said that the quotas for the special program will be determined by a computer model and will be based, in part, on future AFRES manning projections.

"In July, we'll only be promoting to the ranks of technical and master sergeant, because that's the quota we were given," Colonel Seilius said. "But there will be another round of PEP promotions made in January of 1985 and, depending on the quota assigned us, there could be openings in any of the four grades from tech sergeant through chief master sergeant."

The colonel said that representatives from the 439th, 911th and 914th would sit on the special promotion board. He added that the screening process would be rigorous.

"They'll be looking for the cream of the crop," he said. "Given the large pool of applicants that they will have available to them, they'll be quite demanding."

Colonel Seilius said that the screeners would base their selections on the "whole person concept." He indicated that an applicant's job performance, civilian and military experience, special achievements and potential for leadership would be scrutinized.

The personnel director also predicted that the PEP program would aid the unit by boosting morale and increasing retention.

"We hope it will reduce the number of occasions when our top people get frustrated because they can't advance beyond a certain point, Colonel Seilius added. "We hope that it will demonstrate that there will be room at the top for our best."



Ken Morytko, a lieutenant with the Westover Fire Department who also serves as a Reservist with the 905th CES/ED, uses his helmet to shield himself from the raging flames at the Ala-Vel Industries fire May 2 at the Westover Industrial Airpark. Story and more photos on page 7.

(Springfield Union staff photo by Mark M. Murray)

Wing Commander's Corner

PATRIOT: *What's changed about Westover and the Wing since the last time you served here?*

By Col. Jack P. Ferguson

Let me start by saying what hasn't changed and why, therefore, my wife and I are delighted to return. Many of the people with whom I worked, from 1974 to 1976, are still here. I'm not worried about their performance. They did a great job then and will do the same now. Not many other commanders have the opportunity to assume a new position and work with people who are not strangers.

What has changed has been very positive, especially the renovations to many of the buildings on base. I was surprised to see that my former base headquarters building, on the corner of Third and Outer Drive, has been torn down. Other changes have been the relocation of many offices such as CBPO and the 74th AES.

We hope to replace many of the

buildings built prior to and during World War II. This would include the Wing headquarters building and civil engineering complex. If we rebuild, many



Col. Jack P. Ferguson

functions now scattered around the base, might be consolidated into one facility. Other buildings, which are not as old are slated for modernization.

No changes have been announced for the Wing's missions. However, Westover, with its excellent facilities and space, always will be considered for new missions and aircraft. Presently, Westover and other bases are being studied for the expected C-5s and C-141s which will join the AFRES inventory. But, if these changes occur, or when, I won't venture a guess.

I believe in the philosophy, "If it's not busted, don't fix it." The 439th enjoys an excellent reputation, earned, in part, due to the successful completion of its many inspections. I hope we continue to perform in the same manner and at the same standard, as we have in the past. I am convinced there's nothing the people of this wing can't do. They have unlimited potential. That's why I'm so pleased to be a part of the 439th again."

Unit reps are Public Affairs' eyes and ears

Are you getting ready to retire from the Air Force Reserve after 25 years of service? Did your wife just give birth to triplets? Have you received a medal or Community College of the Air Force Degree? Do you have an interesting ci-

vilian job?

If you answer "yes" to these or similar questions, then you should contact your Unit Public Affairs Representative. He or she is the public affairs office's eyes and ears. All of the above facts are subjects for interesting stories and the public affairs office wants to know about them.

There are 15 unit public affairs representatives on base, all of them ready to take information. During a meeting on April 8, four of them were honored for outstanding support of the public affairs program. They were: Col. Joan Hartnett, 74th AES, TSgt. Claire Gaudreau,

905th MOBSF, TSgt. George Hoagland, 905th WSSF, and TSgt. Mark LaFrancis, 905th CF.

Other unit public affairs representatives are: Maj. Richard Orpheus, 337th TAS; Capt. Thomas Gray, 905th CAMS; Capt. Philip Weber, 905th CES; Capt. John Adams, 439th Tac-Hosp; 1st Lt. Shelia Davis, 439th CSG; MSgt. Marshall Hathaway, 439th TAW; TSgt. Alan Sorensen, ALCE; TSgt. Leslie Holmes, 59th MAPS; TSgt. Sidney Visbeck, 42nd MAPS; TSgt. Howard Cormier, 58th MAPS; and SSgt. Josephine Mitchell, 905th CES.

Westover M.A. earns aviation writer's award

Maj. Robert Carroll, a mobilization augmentee assigned to the 439th TAW public affairs office, was recently named to receive a national award from the Aviation Space Writer's Association.

The major, who is public relations director for the Sikorsky Aircraft in Stratford, Conn., will receive the group's aerospace public relations award. He was cited for his "outstanding contributions" in furthering the public's understanding of the aviation industry.

Major Carroll resides in Trumbull, Conn. He trains with the wing on UTA weekends and serves as an MA at the Pentagon with the Secretary of the Air Force's media relations support branch.

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Ground safety NCO believes in his work

by **SSgt. Deborah Elliot**

"Safety is on my mind constantly and I take it very seriously," said TSgt. John Hoerner, a 905th CAMS hydraulic shop technician who was named ground safety NCO of the year. "If as ground safety NCO, I can save just one life, all the effort I put into the job will have been worthwhile," he says.

In the two years since he has become the ground safety NCO at the 905th CAMS, Sergeant Hoerner has spend countless off-duty hours establishing contacts with local safety bureaus and accumulating many valuable resources. "I now have a film resource of my own," he says, "and can get films for those who want them."

Sergeant Hoerner feels that it is especially important to be aware of potential hazards involved with working in and around aircraft. "Did you know," he asks, "that you can get an electrical shock from a maintenance ramp that is not grounded or become sterile by passing in the path of an aircraft x-ray machine?"

"Safety is very serious business," says Sergeant Hoerner, "because it's the business of keeping people healthy and saving lives. I'll do anything I can to save a life," he says.

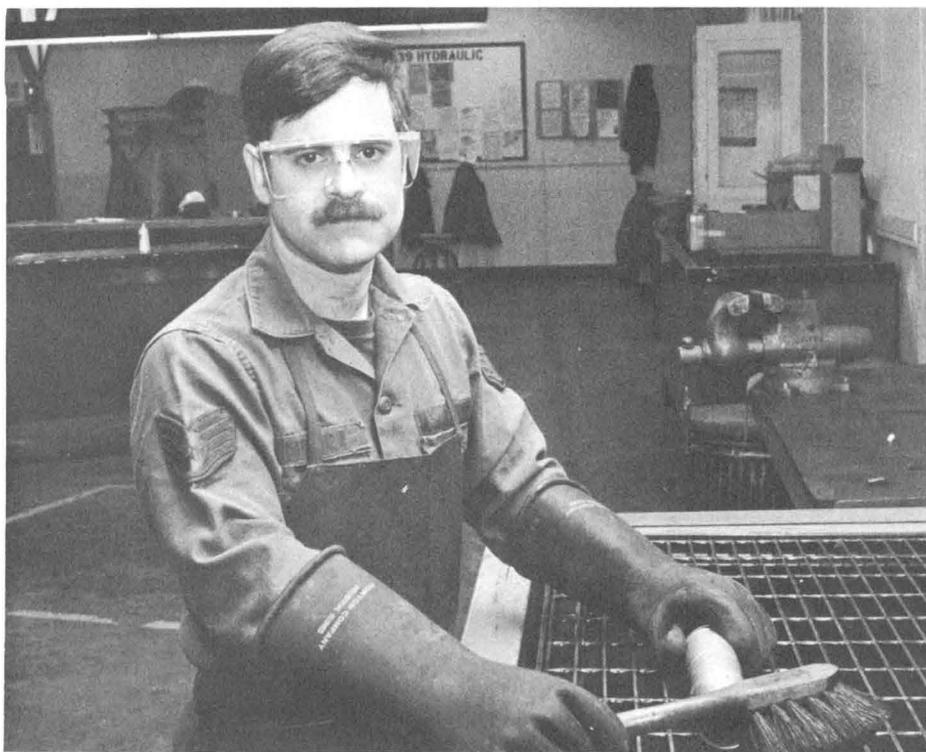
Every month for the past five years, Sergeant Hoerner has donated platlets to the Red Cross. The process of collecting the white blood cells, which are vitally important to burn victims, leukemia patients and those on chemotherapy, takes approximately two hours.

I guess the reason I take safety so seriously is because of the way I feel about life," he says. "I believe it is to be enjoyed, that you should experience all you can."

One of Sergeant Hoerner's many hobbies is metal detecting, or "treasure hunting", as he calls it. "I go anywhere people have been," he says, "or anywhere my heart takes me."

He counts among his treasures a 1902 English copper penny. "It's worth about 7¢ to a coin dealer, but it means much more to me," he says.

Sergeant Hoerner also hunts another kind of treasure — wildlife and nature scenery with his camera.



TSgt. John Hoerner, ground safety NCO of the year, makes certain he wears required safety equipment while degreasing aircraft parts in the hydraulics shop., 905 CAMS.

(USAF photo by Maj. Robert Carroll)

Sergeant runs to beat cancer

By **Capt. Rick Dyer**

He didn't win, and he wasn't among the top finishers.

But when Ron Benoit crossed the finish line May 20 in the Glastonbury, Conn., Acme Merit-Thon road race, his efforts were cheered by hundreds of seriously ill children, and by his friends at Westover.

Benoit, a technical sergeant with the 58th APS, competed in the ten kilometer run on behalf of the Jimmy Fund, a charity for children stricken with cancer.

The 30-year-old NCO raised \$1,000 in pledges, half of them from his buddies in the 58th, and other Westover units.

Sergeant Benoit played hockey and football in high school but switched to running nine years ago "to keep my weight down". He trains by running during lunch hours and weekends, averaging approximately 50 miles per week.

In April, he competed in the Boston Marathon and covered the gruelling 26-mile, 385-yard distance in 3:51.

The Westover Reservist, a special education teacher in civilian life, says that he loves running and hopes to compete for charity in future races.



TSgt. Ron Benoit of the 58th APS "pounds the pavement" in preparation for his next long distance race.

(USAF photo by SSgt. Deborah Elliot)

Exercise flexes mobility team's muscle

By SSgt. Sandra Michon

On most UTAs, base photographer TSgt. Howard Garbarsky loads his camera.

On Saturday of the May UTA, however, the sergeant left his Nikon behind and spent the day loading airplanes.

Sergeant Garbarsky is a member of the base mobility team which was called into action May 2 as the Wing conducted a semi-annual mobility exercise.

"Guys like Garbarsky are the key to a mobilization," according to Maj. George Caldwell, installation mobility officer. "Because the people who would regularly load the planes and work the flight-lines are deploying, we rely on people like Howard to substitute and get the mobilization rolling."

As the stand-ins scrambled to get the planes loaded, 210 wing members were streaming through processing lines in a building near the flight line. Clutching dog tags and vaccination records, the fatigue-clad Reservists participated in a simulated deployment to West Germany.

"We practice the way we intend to fight," stated Major Caldwell, "and we want to be sharp." Most of the people who participate in mobility work in jobs vastly different from their regular career



SSgt. John Giles, 439th CSG, and TSgt. Daniel Hogan, 42nd MAPS assist TSgt. Tom Dzwonkus, 337th TAS loadmaster, position a compressor in a C-130E.



SSgt. Debbie Malek, 439th TAW, posts times on the Wing's Mobility Control Center Status Board as part of the mobility exercise held during last month's UTA.

Mobility Photos By Maj. Bob Carroll

fields. "We try to match people's mobility job to their experience," he explained, "but if that's not possible, we give them all the necessary training."

"I really enjoy the change of pace," commented Sergeant Garbarsky. "It allows me to do something very different from my normal job at the photo lab. I've been in my mobility position for about five years and it's a continuous training process." As Sergeant Garbarsky talked of learning the tie-down procedures, he joked about the loadmasters and aerial porters, "showing him the ropes."

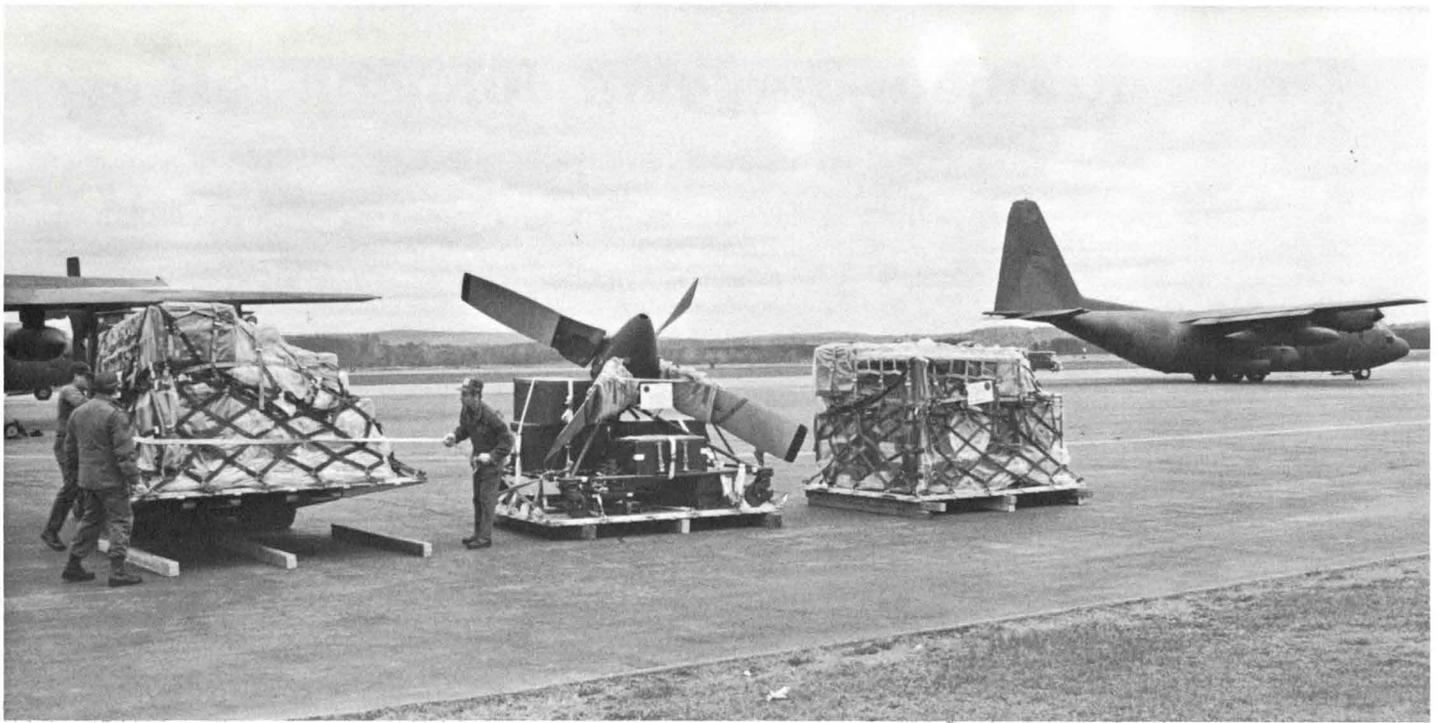
Sergeant Garbarsky also spoke of the sense of team spirit he feels during the mobility exercises. "It is especially apparent during an ORI, as everyone goes all out to complete the assignment. It's a real sense of accomplishment to finally

see the load on the plane."

"The mobility exercise went very well," reported Major Caldwell. "We expected some mistakes, and we made them. But that's okay, because that is why we have these exercises — to make the mistakes in simulation and hopefully not during the real thing. We have a lot of new mobility people, so this was a good training time for them."

The 14th AF people, here for a staff assistance visit, reviewed the mobility exercise. "There were no write-ups from the 14th AF team," said Major Caldwell, "and the team paid special compliments to our processing section."

"I'm glad to see that Reservists, like Sergeant Garbarsky, have such a healthy attitude about the mobility exercises," he stated emphatically, "because readiness is the key to deterrent."



Two cargo pallets and a C-130 propeller, sit on the flightline prior to being loaded onto an awaiting aircraft.



Under the watchful eye of 337th TAS loadmaster Tom Dzwonkus, Reserve mobility team members carefully load a C-130 cargo bay in accordance with a strict timetable.

Goals attained, Sergeant Johnson retires

"I have no regrets about retiring. I've set goals for myself — completing 26 years; making master sergeant; and accumulating 3,000 points. I've reached those goals. So, now it's time to let go and move onto other interests," reflected MSgt. Philip Johnson, NCOIC of the Intelligence Section, as he ended his association with the Air Force which began in 1957.

He enlisted in the Air Force and spent five years on active duty with reconnaissance technical squadrons, including a two-year tour at Yokota Air Base, Japan. "Like most work in intelligence sections, I can't talk about what my

work in cartographic drafting was all about."

Afterwards, he joined the Reserve's 94th Troop Carrier Wing at Hanscom Field, Mass. as an intelligence specialist. He remained in that office though the unit's redesignations and relocation to Westover. Again, the Stoughton, Mass. resident is tight-lipped about his responsibilities. "I can say we brief the aircrews prior to their missions about current events, as well as potential and real threats such as gun placements in a combat zone."

Sergeant Johnson will remain with his civilian employer, Factory Mutual Research Corporation, in Norwood,

Mass. For the past 15 years, as a senior engineering technician, he has helped test and approve automatic fire sprinklers, hoses and associated equipment.

Now, he has his sights on other goals — the continuation of his world wide travels. In the past 15 years, he has taken eight trips throughout the Caribbean, Central America and six countries in Africa.

"Phil will leave a big void. He will be difficult to replace," reflected Maj. Thomas Costello, chief of the Intelligence Section. "He's the very model of a solid, competent Reservist. We'll miss his dry wit, congeniality, and ability."



MSgt. Faith Longfield

"Patriot People"

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 Federal Women's Program
 Manager
Civilian Occupation: Air Reserve
 Technician
Favorite Food: Reese's Pieces Ice
 Cream Sundae
Favorite Beverage: Champagne
Favorite Sport: Softball
Favorite Hobby: Running
Ideal Vacation: Hawaii

Best Way to Relax: watching TV at
 home with my husband
Preferred Entertainment: Dining
 out with my husband
Favorite Celebrity: Goldie Hawn
Favorite Music: Country and Western
Favorite Book: "1984"
Favorite Color: Purple
Favorite Car: Mercury Topaz (red)
Pet Peeve: complainers
Best Thing About Westover:
 Everything, especially the Reserv-
 ists I advise. I like meeting all the
 new people.
Worst Thing About Westover:
 Those who do enough work just to
 get by.

BRIEFS

Golf Scramble

The 439th TAW Golf Scramble will be held on June 4 at the Westover Municipal Golf Course. The tournament will start at 10 a.m. and will be open to Reserve personnel, spouses, retired members, and 439th TAW civilians. Sign up is at base administration, Bldg. 1408. The entry fee is \$13.

337th Keeps Busy

May was a busy month for the 337th TAS. In addition to their scheduled UTA and tactical training weekends, they flew MAC opera-

tional support missions, joint air training exercises, participated in Sentry Independence, dropped a 43,000 lb. test load in Yuma, Ariz., flew the 74th AES on cross-country training missions, and went to Pope AFB, N.C. to practice for the upcoming Volant Rodeo competition.

Staff assistance visit

Col. Billy Lingo, 14th AF deputy chief of staff for personnel, headed a team of 40 staff assistance visitors at Westover during the May UTA. Their visit helped Westover units prepare for the wing's upcoming Man-

agement Effectiveness Inspection, scheduled for this fall. Their four-day visit concluded on Sunday following a briefing to division chiefs and unit commanders on their findings.

Tops in Blue

Keep that date open. The Tops in Blue, the winners of the worldwide Air Force talent contest, will entertain in the Springfield area on Thursday, July 12. The location of the 439th TAW-sponsored event, whether on or off base is to be determined. The program, which features a variety of musical acts, is free and the public is cordially invited.



Westover Fire Chief Haskel Jenkins directs one of his foam trucks during the Ala-Vel Industries fire May 2 at the Westover Industrial Airpark.

(Springfield Union staff photo by Mark M. Murray)

Westover firefighters battle spectacular blaze

By Capt. Rick Dyer

Base firefighters joined with firemen from four surrounding communities May 2 to battle a general alarm fire that caused an estimated \$5 million damage to a building located just outside Westover's Industrial Gate.

The spectacular, mid-afternoon blaze ravaged the building occupied by Ala-Vel Industries, a textile manufacturer at the Westover Industrial Airpark.

According to Chief Haskel Jenkins of the Westover Fire Department, base personnel were summoned to the scene under a mutual aid agreement with Chicopee.

Westover sent six pieces of apparatus and 12 civilian firemen, several of whom are also 439th TAW Reservists.

"One of our pumpers was assigned to hook into the building's sprinkler system to contain the fire within the structure," the fire chief said. "Our people and equipment were also used to fight the fire with hoses."

Chief Jenkins said that the fire, which took four hours to extinguish, was one of the largest he had ever seen. The flames, which were fueled by tons of synthetic fibers stored in the plant, caused a portion of the structure's roof to collapse.

One Westover fireman received minor injuries when cinders from the fire

struck him in the eye. Chief Jenkins said that he was treated at the scene and returned to duty immediately.

The chief said that his personnel worked well with their colleagues from the surrounding towns. "I've never been involved in a fire of this size where there was better teamwork," he stated.

Chief Jenkins indicated that the base was never endangered by the blaze. Although the fire produced smoke and

flames that could be seen for miles, all base activities, including flying operations, proceeded normally.

Chief Jenkins added that while the damage was extensive, things could have been far worse. "No one was seriously hurt, and we saved approximately \$7 million worth of property."

Westover's security police also responded to the fire, and assisted with traffic duties.



Westover firefighters man hoses during the general alarm Ala-Vel Industries blaze.

(USAF photo by Capt. Philip Weber)



Capt. David Kennedy and the 439th color guard lead a contingent of 150 Westover Reservists who marched in the Loyalty Day Parade, April 29, in Northampton, Mass.

(USAF photo by Capt. Philip Weber)

AFRES takes weight program very seriously

ROBINS AFB, Ga. (AFRNS) — An Air Force Reserve Air Reserve Technician will be losing his ART position as the result of being discharged for not complying with Air Force weight standards.

With nearly 30 years of military service, the staff sergeant had been on the weight management program for a lengthy period. At his last recorded weight check, he was 65 pounds over his maximum allowable weight of 194 pounds, as established in Air Force Regulation 35-11.

An administrative discharge board recommended separation with an honorable discharge. The discharge authority approved the recommendation and directed that it be carried out, and the sergeant was separated from the Reserve. As a consequence of losing his reserve status, he will be terminated from his ART position.

AFRES officials will continue to enforce all Air Force personal appearance standards and take administrative action against offenders who refuse to comply.

Commander's Call

The following members of the 439th TAW received the Air Force Commendation Medal during the May UTA:

Maj. John F. Shelby was cited for outstanding performance in establishing a wing transportation program.

Capt. Aaron G. Olmsted, Jr., was recognized for his contributions to the Reserve flying program.

The following Reservists received the

Air Force Achievement Medal:

Lt. Col. Walter C. Holliday distinguished himself during the Pisa, Italy exercise in the coordination of the flight schedules.

1st Lt. Robert C. Carty was cited for excellence in the scheduling of aircraft during the Pisa, Italy exercise.

MSgt. Marshall H. Hathaway was recognized for improving the unit historian program.

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