

PATRIOT

439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING (AIR FORCE RESERVE)

WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE, MASS.

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Astronaut Byron Lichtenberg, center, a major in the 104th TFG (Massachusetts Air National Guard) in Westfield, signs an autograph for TSgt. Laberta "Bert" Malone, left, while MSgt. Peter McCavick looks on. Major Lichtenberg was the keynote speaker during the 439th's NCO/Airman Dining Out.

(USAF photo by MSgt. Larry Lentz.)

Dining-Out blasts off with shuttle scientist

by MSgt. Lawrence H. Lentz

The 300 members of the 439th TAW's Tenth Anniversary NCO/Airman Dining-Out, Sat. Oct. 13, were armchair observers to the Space Shuttle Columbia's November, 1983 mission.

A 20-minute movie chronicled the ten-day flight from its spectacular liftoff, through the variety of scientific experiments, to its landing at Edwards AFB, Calif.

The narration, however, didn't come from the film's sound track. Rather, one of the 'stars' of the show, astronaut Byron Lichtenberg, described his own experiences as one of the two pay-load specialists.

Lichtenberg was the keynote speaker at the annual Wing event which also

honored the unit's outstanding enlisted personnel.

TSgt. Sophie Bartosik accepted a plaque on behalf of her colleagues in the Budget Office. They were recognized as the Wing's Outstanding Work Center of the Year. "They gained an AFRES first during the Wing's MEI with their extremely high marks in all functional areas. The inspectors said the 439th's Accounting and Finance Reservists were the best in AFRES and would be asked to speak at the 1985 AFRES conference about their model operation."

Honors, as the Wing's Outstanding Airman, went to SrA Marilyn Luchi, of the 58th APS. "By her off-duty personal use of a word processor, she was able to automate APR documentation ensuring that quick dissemination of informa-

tion resulted in achieving maximum unit participation. She developed and maintained comprehensive and effective quality control checklists which notably improved rater and endorser's response and comments."

The number one NCO of the Year is SSgt. Jon Hart, 74th AES. "During annual training at Pope AFB, as a radio maintenance technician, he played a vital role in bringing active duty inoperative radio equipment back on line. Sergeant Hart has kept his unit's radio equipment on line 90 percent of the time which his commander said is exceptional considering the age and wear of the equipment."

For his efforts as NCOIC of the Wing's Lift Support Section, MSgt. Paul (continued on page 7)

Westover hosts AFRES intelligence conference

Tight lips and top secrets were prevalent at Westover Oct. 18-20 when the Wing hosted a gathering of Air Force Reserve intelligence people.

More than 100 intelligence personnel from units throughout the country convened at the base for the 1984 AFRES Intelligence Conference.

According to Maj. Thomas Costello, the 439th's director of intelligence, the event is staged every two years. "It's very helpful because we get updated on what is happening and swap the information and techniques we need to brief our aircrews and staff," he said.

One of the highlights of the meeting was a terrorism seminar conducted by members of the Air Force's Special Operations Staff.

"That was extremely productive," Major Costello said. "Obviously, terrorism is a subject that every intel officer worries about," he added.

Maj. Earl Tilford, a member of the Air University Review staff at Maxwell addressed the conference on the air war in Southeast Asia. Col. Thomas Stewart, the U.S. Army representative to the Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell, spoke about NATO and air and land battle tactics.

Base offers tours to outside groups

Each month Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and other civic groups can be seen making their way around the base watching their Air Force Reserve at work. The tours, which are arranged and scheduled by the Westover Public Affairs Office, provide the civilian community an opportunity to see the base's daily activities.

Tours are normally scheduled on UTA weekends in order to give the visitors the best chance to see full scale military operations underway. Stops on the tour route include the maintenance shops, flight line and a C-130 static display; the fire department; base operations and lunch at the dining hall. Groups interested in a tour of the base should call the Public Affairs office, 557-2072.



439th TAW TAC Hospital personnel are always training and October UTA was no exception. CBW training was the order of the day. Each unit member had to wear their CBW gear for at least one hour during the weekend. SSgt. Albert D. Gozzo (left) checks the height of A1C Robert O. Palmer, 74th AES.

(USAF photo by Maj. Robert Carroll)

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Moving into new jobs are (left to right) Lt. Col. Gale French, James R. Swindell, Lt. Col. Harold Lawrence and Major Robert Martens. (USAF photo by Jo Ann Pothoff)

Familiar names move into important positions

Westover Reservists will have to get use to new names in important positions on the base. The names of Lawrence, Swindell, French and Martens while familiar to most Reservists drilling at Westover will now be in new positions.

Lt. Col. Harold Lawrence replaces his old boss Col. Reginald Wackford as the Deputy Commander for Maintenance. Col. Wackford retired from the base's top maintenance post in September.

James R. (Bob) Swindell replaces the late Roy McCord as the Wing's new executive officer. Swindell, a retired lieutenant colonel, has an extensive background with the unit having formerly been the Wing Command Post Officer while a navigator on C-123's with the 731st TAS.

Commenting on his selection, Col. Jack P. Ferguson said, "Roy McCord's shoes will be hard to fill, but I think that Bob Swindell is the perfect candidate for the job. I knew him from my previous tour at Westover and am aware of his capabilities. I am confident he will do an excellent job for us as the new Wing executive officer."

Lt. Col. Gale H. French, a 7,000 hour flight instructor and recipient of the coveted Koren Kolligian Trophy, has been appointed the Wing's new Chief of Safety replacing Lt. Col. Don Ridgeway who retired in September. Col. French will be responsible for directing all flying

safety operations.

He is a veteran of eight years of active Air Force duty where he was a weapons controller and an F-4 pilot. He entered the Air Force Reserve in 1970 at Hanscom Field Flying C-124s. He later transitioned to C-123, and transferred, with his squadron, the 731st, to Westover in 1973.

During his tenure at Westover he has held numerous assignments of increasing responsibility most recently as the Operations Officer for the 337th TAS.

He received the Kolligian Trophy in 1977 after landing a C-123 which had lost an engine and caught fire. Dense smoke and flames in the cockpit had incapacitated the pilot and forced him to

take control. Putting his head out the cockpit window he piloted the aircraft away from heavily populated areas and landed at Westover.

Said Colonel French, "I really look forward to the job's challenges. Flight safety is vital if the wing is to fulfill its mission. Short cuts to save a few seconds are not worth the potential disaster. Everyone should keep safety in mind and do their job right, by the book, the first time."

Maj. Robert Martens replaces Colonel French as the ART Operations Officer for the 337th TAS. A C-130 pilot with more than 4,000 flying hours, Major Martens has been at Westover since taking an ART position in 1979.

Incentive flights: a bonus for good work

Non-flying 439th TAW Reservists now can observe the wing's mission firsthand. A new incentive flight program will enable four unit members to join a scheduled flight each quarter.

"Four non-flying personnel will be selected each quarter," explained Col. Jack P. Ferguson, wing commander. "Squadron commanders will submit names of deserving personnel, and each deputy commander will make selections from those lists."

"Selected Reservists will then choose a trip from the squadron flying schedule," continued Colonel Ferguson. "They will coordinate through Opera-

tions and the flying squadron. The time commitment is up to the individual, but they will be on full pay status, on man-days or TDY.

"As the title infers, this program is designed to reward Reservists for doing a good job," commented Colonel Ferguson on the incentive flights. "We feel very positive about this program," he said. "We hope that it helps clarify our mission to many of our non-flying Reservists."

The program is expected to begin in January and specific information will be available in November.

World model plane championships held here

The two planes collided and dropped to the ground like a couple of quail being shot down during the hunting season. Fortunately, the aircraft involved in the mid-air collision were only models participating in the combat competition of the International Control Line Championships held at Westover AFB, Sept. 13 - 22.

Over 200 contestants from 23 nations participated in the competition conducted by the Academy of Model Aeronautics on the north ramp of the Westover flightline. The championships included competition in aerobatics, combat, speed and team racing.

Among the contestants was Zhu Younan from a small town in China about sixty-five miles west of Beijing. This was his first time outside the Peoples Republic of China and turned into quite an experience for the 25 year old physical education instructor. Despite the fact that he could not speak one word of english his friendly smile communicated to everyone that he was indeed having a good time.

Competing in the aerobatics competition, Zhu daily went through the event putting his model aircraft through a series of aerobatic maneuvers. During one phase of the series, Zhu would be flying the model upside down, then he would place it into a series of intricate loops always returning the model aircraft to it's horizontal flight path about five feet from the ground. Like an orchestra



Ma Tian-yu, a bank accountant from Beijing, prepares his model aircraft for the combat competition. The Peoples Republic of China sent a 20 man team to the International Control Line Championships.

(USAF photo by SSgt. Kathleen Lincoln)



Four year old Kaizu Yamada of Japan came along with his family to support his father a competitor in the speed event at the Internationals.

(USAF photo by SSgt. Kathleen Lincoln)

leader Zhu daily went through his routine for the competition judges. At the end of the five days of competition, Zhu had recorded the highest scores in aerobatics and was awarded a first place trophy by the Federation Aeronautic Internationale of Paris.

Zhu wasn't the only one having a good time during the ten-day event, even non-competitors from Westover felt the camaraderie of this international event. "It was one of the finest events we've ever had at Westover," said MSgt. Ted Erhardt of the 439th CES. "When you think that the teams representing the 23 flags flying out there on our flightline are all here at Westover. It gives you a fantastic international feeling."

Aside from the Peoples Republic of China and the United States, competitors came from France, Italy, Great Britain, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, West

Germany, Spain, Austria, Hungary, Switzerland, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Netherlands, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, Argentina, Israel and Ireland.

Most of the teams had lodgings in Chicopee and Springfield motels with one exception. The team from the Netherlands requested and received permission from the base to pitch tents outside the competition area. The ten days of camping was highlighted by a backyard barbecue thrown by members of the 439th CSG and hosted by Col. Roy Ayers in his backyard.

TSgt. John Leshure, the NCO in charge of the support team for the event, said, "The people kept coming up to us throughout the competition and thanked us for our participation. They were very appreciative of everything we did for them. We just gave them our usual Westover hospitality providing anything that was needed."

LaRochelle named best in Wing, AFRES

By Capt. Rick Dyer

The sign on the door read "Life Support", but the room itself looked like a cross between a sporting goods store and James Bond's arsenal.

On one shelf there were inflatable rubber rafts, canisters of insect repellent, entrenching tools and canteens. On another lay smoke grenades, parachutes, miniature flare guns and tiny radio transmitters.

At a workbench near one side of the room, beneath a chart depicting 50 varieties of edible wild vegetation, MSgt. Paul LaRochelle tinkered with an oxygen mask. "In this job," he said, "it's the little things that are so important."

Sergeant LaRochelle's "job" is that of life support supervisor for the 439th TAW and 337th TAS. The "little things" which he referred to are the tools and

techniques that could spell the difference between life and death for Westover's airmen.

The 38-year-old Air Reserve Technician described his assignment as being "one part Mr. Fix-it" and "one part survival instructor." Wing aircrew members, however, see him a little bit differently.

"Paul's an airman's best friend," one 337th pilot said recently.

Sergeant LaRochelle's devotion to 439th aircrew members, and his attention to those all-important "little things," haven't gone unnoticed.

In September he was selected as the top life support NCO in the entire Air Force Reserve. Last month, he was named the 439th's Outstanding Senior NCO for 1984.

A 12-year veteran of the Air Force

and Air Force Reserve, the sergeant supervises a staff of five and is responsible for all of the emergency life support equipment carried on the Wing's C-130 aircraft. The checklist seems endless — everything from parachutes and anti-exposure suits to first aid kits and oxygen cylinders.

"We hope our guys never have to use it, but it's our task to ensure that it's on the aircraft and working perfectly, in case they do," he said.

The veteran Reservist knows from firsthand experience just how important his work can be to an aviator in trouble. While on active duty at Otis AFB, Mass. during the 1960s, he worked in the life support field with the 60th Fighter Interceptor Squadron.

During his tour at Otis, two pilots in the squadron were forced to parachute from crippled aircraft. "One of the pilots bailed out over the Atlantic Ocean and had to use every piece of life support gear on the plane, including the life raft and transmitter," he recalled. "Fortunately, it all worked perfectly," he said.

Maintaining the huge inventory of life support equipment at Westover is only one aspect of Sergeant LaRochelle's job. Equally important is his role as survival instructor.

A graduate of the Air Force Survival School at Fairchild AFB, Wash. and two water survival schools, the sergeant possesses a backwoods savvy that even an experienced Outward Bound instructor would envy.

On most UTA weekends, he's likely to be found up to his waist in swamp water, leading 337th members on an escape and evasion drill, or deep in the forest near Westover's flightline, fashioning a camouflaged shelter from a parachute.

"Our staff attempts to teach the crews everything they'll need to know to survive, either in peace-time, or during war," Sergeant LaRochelle said. "We view it as very serious business."

The survival instructor's pupils agree. "Paul's invaluable to us," said Lt. Col. Walter C. Holliday, commander of the 337th TAS. "Our guys like and respect him, but, more importantly, they know that they can trust him with their lives."

Married and the father of two children, Sergeant LaRochelle resides in Chicopee. He's active in the scouting movement, and frequently donates his time to teach scouts the same skills he imparts to Westover Reservists.



MSgt. Paul LaRochelle

(USAF photo by Maj. Robert Carrill)



Donna Mitchell (center), a fifth grader from Bowie Elementary School, receives her first place Fire Prevention Poster award from Fire Chief Haskell Jenkins (right) and Philip Boyer (left) as part of the activities associated with Fire Prevention month at Westover. The Fire Department sponsored the poster contest for dependent children. More than 30 posters were submitted.

(USAF photo by Maj. Robert Carroll)

Base hosts Scout Camporee

A huge fire raged in the Dogpatch area as Westover firefighters stood and watched. Some even sang songs.

The large bonfire was part of the evening's entertainment for more than 500 Boy Scouts as they camped out in Westover's Dogpatch area in October.

The boys, ages 10-17, worked hard toward badge requirements as they were judged on their campsites, cooking skills and safety procedures.

"But there was plenty of time for fun," said Robert Motley, assistant airfield manager, and base coordinator for the scout camporee. "There was an afternoon of sack races and other games."

It was their first visit to Westover for the Scouts from the Highland district of the Long River council in Connecticut. The council consists of six different communities.

"They were very pleased to be here," said Motley. "We have the space to offer, so it's good to be able to help them out."

"Base support is minimal for these activities," continued Motley, "but the

benefit to the scouts is maximum." Both the base Fire Department and Base Security supported the camporee. The Aerial Port Squadron supplied the campers with a 20-man tent and the Army Reserve donated two 'water buffalo' tanks for water supply.

"We always support the Scouts whenever possible," said Motley. It's a great organization. Who knows? Maybe one day we'll see some of them as Reservists. . ."

Commander's Call

Lt. Col. Harold L. Lawrence, deputy commander for maintenance, presented awards at the 439th CAMS Commander's Call, Sunday, Oct. 14, to the following personnel:

CMSgt. Leland B. Spencer, Meritorious Service Medal for outstanding service as Aircraft Maintenance Manager, Quality Control section.

Firefighters again respond to community calls for help

Westover firefighters responded once again to a community crisis. An industrial chemical spill occurred Oct. 11 which injured seven people and forced hundreds to flee from their homes in Springfield.

The nitric acid leak occurred at the National Metal Finishing Co. and the entire area sprang into action.

"We received a call from both the Springfield Police Chief and Fire Chief shortly after 10 p.m.," explained Haskell Jenkins, Westover's fire chief. "Our initial directive was to blanket the area with foam to keep the chemicals from spreading into the atmosphere."

"This directive changed when we arrived," said Chief Jenkins. "Officials in Washington determined that only water was necessary to diffuse the chemicals. We remained on standby at the scene until just after midnight."

"It was our second call of the evening," said Chief Jenkins "We had previously responded to a call from Chicopee for help with a brush fire."

In addition to providing fire protection at Westover, the 439th firefighters have mutual assistance agreements with all of Hampden County and also assist in parts of Hampshire County.

"Our relationship with surrounding communities is very good," commented Chief Jenkins. "We respond to more than 25 assistance calls a year."

Westover's firefighters were recently widely publicized and praised for their support efforts in the multi-alarm blaze at AlaVel Industries just outside the base gate.

TSgt. Lawrence E. Parker, Air Force Commendation Medal, for meritorious service as Assistant Non-commissioned Officer in Charge, Cargo Processing, 58th MAPS.

MSgt. William R. Currier, Air Force Achievement Medal, for outstanding achievement in maintenance control while deployed to Pisa, Italy, Sept. 20 to Oct. 9, 1983.

Promotions Enlistments & Re-enlistments Congratulations

PROMOTIONS

Lt. Col. Frank J. Purnell
Maj. Bruce T. Cantwright
Capt. Laverne Cholewa
Capt. Armand P. Tourangeau
1st. Lt. Cheryl A. Delaney

REENLISTMENTS

CMSgt. Albert C. Aniello
MSgt. Henry V. Spear Jr.
TSgt. Ronald R. Benoit
TSgt. Robert E. Brown
TSgt. Francis J. Coffey
TSgt. Howard F. Cormier
TSgt. Michael A. Graham
TSgt. Allen R. Hanson
TSgt. James T. Harrelson
TSgt. Richard R. Jersey
TSgt. David P. Lacasse
TSgt. Mary R. Michaud
TSgt. Charles E. Porter

TSgt. Joseph R. Strouse
TSgt. John A. Sudol
TSgt. Bradley S. Tryba
TSgt. William J. Wenz
TSgt. Kathleen M. Wood
SSgt. Mabray C. Andrews
SSgt. Joseph M. Bara
SSgt. Elaine M. Bernash
SSgt. Jacqueline M. Davis
SSgt. Sylvia J. Gallagher
SSgt. David C. Huffman
SSgt. John E. Kida
SSgt. Christopher J. Levanti
SSgt. Clarence E. Lomax
SSgt. Michael J. May
SSgt. Jack W. Middleton
SSgt. Josephine A. Mitchell
SSgt. Brian J. Monette
SSgt. David F. Noonan
SSgt. Douglas A. Pregony
SSgt. Frank M. Puopolo
SSgt. Terry M. Ready

SSgt. Helmut Schmuck
Sgt. William J. Czarnecki
Sgt. Roland J. LaCroix Jr.
Sgt. Stuart A. Lambert
Sgt. William M. Latham
SrA. Joanna M. Naylor

ENLISTMENTS

SSgt. John B. Campbell
SSgt. Anthony M. Cioffi
SSgt. George E. Dorais
SSgt. Terry R. Harmon
SSgt. Walter B. Kelly
SSgt. Guy Pascarella
SSgt. Daniel W. Plawecki
SSgt. Joseph S. Raia
Sgt. Diane Lafreniere
Sgt. Mark P. Upton
SrA. Walter E. Deitz
SrA. Clifton Shannon Jr.
A1C. Sean Denning
A1C. Leo Foster
A1C. Christopher J. Maille
A1C. Paul A. Maratos
A1C. George M. McDowell
A1C. Christopher L. Pack
A1C. Deborah E. Stewart
AB James D. Canning
AB Kenneth P. Ferris
AB Michael R. Palermo

Dining Out . . .

(continued from page 1)

N. LaRoche was named Senior NCO for 1984. "He received command-wide attention developing two major aircrew training initiatives and has been instrumental in several others. He developed a realistic field exercise and scenario for aircrew combat survival, escape and evasion which integrates numerous elements of aircrew life support and intelligence training. He has provided assistance in training programs for other reserve units, guard units and active duty forces. He has consistently earned the highest praise from inspection teams and higher headquarters staff assistance visits."

The award presentations were followed by Major Lichtenberg. He has a Ph.D. in biomedical engineering from MIT and now works there. He also is an A-10 Thunderbolt pilot at the 104th Tactical Fighter Group at Barnes Airport, Westfield.

"We were flying in the shuttle at four miles a second. The scenery, was constantly changing and it was spectacular," Major Lichtenberg reported. Initially, however, his attention was focused, not looking out the window, but learning to maneuver in the weightless environment and adapting to the cramped living quarters shared by the six space voyagers. Then, he concentrated on his numerous experiments, graphically

shown in the film, studying the relationships and effects of weightlessness on the eyes, ears and heart.

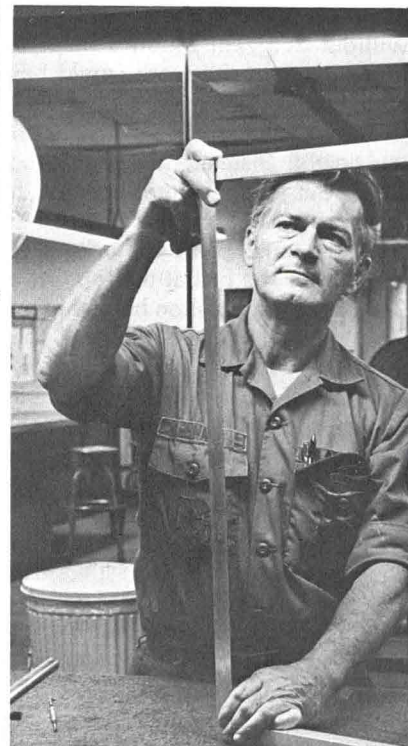
Later, Lichtenberg quipped that someone once asked if he was paid per diem or by the mile. "If you consider a day from sunrise to sunrise," he responded, "then we were in space for 126 days."

In marked contrast to the formal space presentation by the shuttle passenger, 911th TAG Senior Enlisted Advisor, CMSgt. John Fahrny provided his own 'spaced-out' imitation of comedian Foster Brooks reincarnated as a Pittsburgh Reservist.

The festivities were guided by Dining-Out President SMSgt. Leonard Dube and SSgt. Peter Maille, as Mr. Vice. Both are with the 58th APS. Preparations for the program had been coordinated by the Dining-Out Chairman, MSgt. Marshall Hathaway, wing historian. He dedicated the event to the memory of Roy McCord, the wing's executive officer who died Sept. 6.

Special visiting guests of the 439th Reservists were Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Jerry Rhyne, of MAC's Readiness and Reserve Division; CMSgt. Henry Scott, AFRES senior enlisted advisor, CMSgt. Stanley Van Meter, 14th AF senior enlisted advisor, and SMSgt. Barbara Mitchell, representing Headquarters, Surgeon General Inspector.

"Patriot People"



Name: RUDOLPH G. BENARD
Rank: TSgt.

Age: 53

Address: 12 Tampa St.
South Hadley, Mass.

Unit: 439th CAMS

Position: Structural Repair Technician

Civilian Occupation: ART

Favorite Food: Pizza

Favorite Beverage: coffee

Favorite Sport: bowling

Favorite Hobby: model building
(ships)

Ideal Vacation: Europe

Best Way to Relax: sitting by
pool

Preferred Entertainment: music

Favorite Celebrity: Catherine
Deneuve

Favorite Music: Classical

Favorite Book: Matarese Circle

Favorite Color: Blue

Favorite Car: Buick Riviera

Pet Peeve: people being late

Best Thing About Westover:
friendship

Worst Thing About Westover:
Nothing.

Westover husband and wife team go to the top

by MSgt. Lawrence H. Lentz

SSgt. Tom Moore has taken the phrase, 'above and beyond the call of duty' to greater heights. He's a professional steeplejack who recently volunteered his services and painted Westover's 80 foot flag pole.

Without Sergeant Moore's help, the estimated cost of the work would have been \$500. Normally, a crane would be used to raise the painter to the appropriate height. Instead, using step rope ladders, Sergeant Moore climbed his way up the pole. He even supplied the special industrial paint as well as the gold guild for the ball at the top.

Sergeant Moore, when his feet are on the ground, is a heavy equipment operator with the 439th CES.

He had been brought up climbing poles and repairing church steeples. His father, Ray now paints water tanks and steel radio towers in Florida.

In 1981, Sergeant Moore and his wife, Lorraine, started Steeple People, in Chicopee, and have been specializing in church restorations and high area work. They recently completed work on Holyoke's Lutheran Church steeple and front portico and now are painting the Longmeadow Community House.

Lorraine, too, is a 439th Reservist. She's an operations specialist in the Wing Headquarters Squadron. Her father, Fred, also repaired churches and buildings including New York's Empire State Building.

In fact, Tom and Lorraine met at Westover. The two had struck up a conversation and soon discovered their common interest.

Now, while Tom handles the climbing assignments, Lorraine concentrates on the company's management duties, such as sales, pricing and bookkeeping.

Things are looking up for the couple and small company. Their restoration of a Woodstock, Conn. church has resulted in a contract for another town church. "We're finding that owners of these types of buildings could not find the skilled experts willing to tackle these type of assignments often 100 feet above ground," explained Lorraine.

Correction: The Wing's Communications Flight was inadvertently omitted from the Oct. 1984 Patriot reporting on the units changing their designation from 905th to 439th. We regret the error.



SSgt. Tom Moore hangs by the 'seat of his pants' as he scrapes the base flag pole prior to its painting. Capt. Philip Weber, Public Affairs Officer, took the easy way up — a cherry picker — to take the photo.

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