

PATRIOT

439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING (AIR FORCE RESERVE)

WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE, MASS.

Vol. XIII, No. 4

April 1985

Rescue missions highlight Volant Oak

By Capt. Philip Weber

For the aircrews of the 337th TAS the first half of the deployment to Volant Oak in Panama was marked by the rou-

tine hard working missions out of Howard Air Force Base. But for Capt. Fred Castle, the trip will be very memorable.

It isn't often that a pilot becomes in-

volved in two rescue missions during his two weeks of annual training with the Air Force Reserve, but that's what happened to the resident of Shrewsbury, Mass.

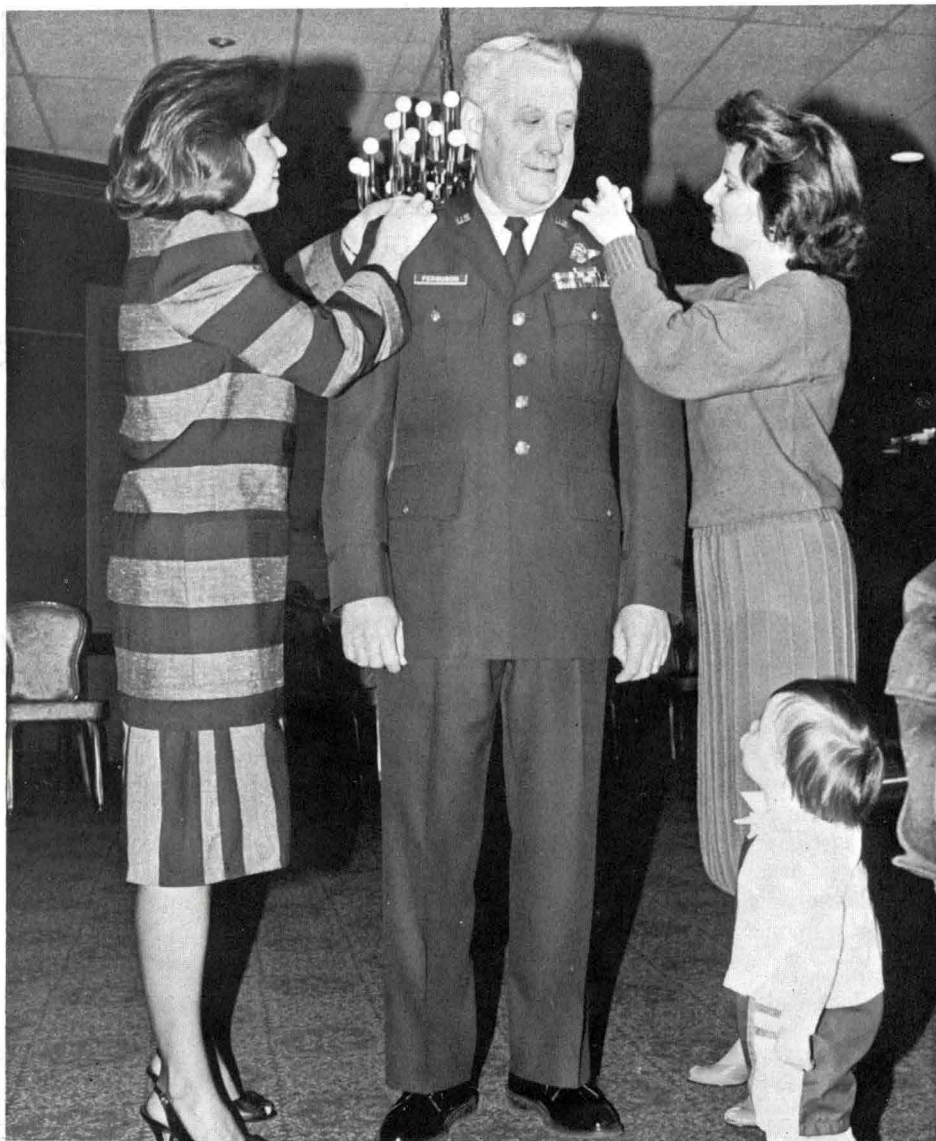
The First rescue took place on Feb. 23 during the rotational flight from Westover to Panama. During the flight, Capt. Castle picked up a distress message from a downed Navy SH-60 Helicopter with five persons aboard as the plane was 60 miles out of Santo Domingo on its way to Howard Air Force Base. He assisted the Navy in locating its downed chopper by providing proper coordinates to a Navy P-3 rescue aircraft and letting Air Sea Rescue know of the downed helicopter.

The second incident occurred on Feb. 28 while Capt. Castle was on a routine airlift mission into Trujillo, Honduras. While on the ground, he was informed by the command post to prepare to medically evacuate a patient that was being brought to the air base on a rescue helicopter.

The patient was a Navy civilian diver who was participating in the recovery operation of the C-130 which had gone down in the Caribbean Sea, killing all 21 persons aboard, while attempting to land at Trujillo on Jan. 22.

The civilian diver Rebecca Collins had been diving in 90 feet of water when her regulator malfunctioned and ran out of air. She then buddy-breathed to the surface with another diver to approximately 20 feet below when the rough surface swells separated her from her companion and the vital air supply. When she surfaced she felt dizzy and was diagnosed as having the bends. Collins was then helicoptered to the waiting C-130 at Trujillo for the flight to Panama.

1st. Lt. Jay Milkey, the aircraft's co-pilot, after being given the diver's condition from a Navy hospital corpsmen on the flight requested that Howard Air continued on page 6



While the television cameramen and news photographers were busy taking their pictures of Brig. Gen. Jack P. Ferguson, 439th TAW Commander, having his stars pinned on by his daughters Dianne Yarborough (left) and Jacqueline Lewis (right), the general's one year old grandson, Joshua moved right up front to get a better view of the event. The pinning on ceremony took place March 7 at the Westover Consolidated Open Mess.

(USAF photo by Capt. Philip Weber)

EDITORIAL

Weekend Warriors?

It was a negligence case, pure and simple. My law school professor was trying to make a point — that the defendants, members of a reserve component, were so poorly trained that they could not be expected to be able to operate their equipment properly. "What were these guys?" screamed the professor. "Weekend warriors! One weekend a month they go away to drink beer and play softball. And the military trusts these characters with loaded guns! It's a country club!"

That professor may have been an expert in the law, but he showed me that day how little he knew about Reservists and Guardsmen. He *thought* he knew something, and unfortunately his low opinion of the Reserve program is shared by many other people. They don't realize that:

- an Air Force Reserve crew brought back the first of the Americans to be evacuated from Grenada.
- Reserve crews flew six missions in support of the Marines after the Beirut barracks tragedy.
- Reserve aerospace rescue and recovery squadrons flew eighty-six search missions in FY 83, saving the lives of more than forty people.
- During the same period, AFRES airlift units moved 528,000 personnel and 147,000 tons of cargo.

As Reservists, we all should be helping to educate the public as to the vital role of the Reserve. We are all volunteers and most of us enjoy a good time, like people everywhere, but we work hard and we train hard. Our goal is to be able to come to the aid of our country at a moment's notice and to be able immediately to assume our military jobs so that precious time is not lost in training new people during a time of crisis.

So be proud. You've earned it. You can't expect everybody to approve of what we do. But remember that many detractors just don't know any better. Educate them!

SSgt. Glenn Bogart
Public Affairs Specialist

OJT trainers receive training

Airmen should soon be seeing improvements in all facets of their training at Westover, thanks to a "training for trainers" program which began in March.

Twenty on-the-job training managers began a sixty-hour course March 4, and a fourteen-hour OJT familiarization course was given to selected first- and second-level supervisors. Commanders and staff officers also received a briefing on the new training emphasis.

The intensified training program, coordinated by the Wing training section, is designed to improve the training process "from the top on down," according to Maj. Michael A. Roy, "Too often, the nature and thoroughness of training have taken a back seat to documentation requirements," Major Roy added. "This program helps to put the various elements of OJT into perspective and develops essential training skills in su-

pervisors."

Helping get the message across was active duty TSgt. Terrance E. Cultice of the 210th Field Training Detachment, Plattsburgh AFB, N.Y. Sergeant Cultice is one of 110 trainers Air Force-wide who provide expert training on the OJT program. He has spent more than half of the past year on temporary duty assignments, training almost every Air Force Reserve Force unit in the New England region.

THE PATRIOT is an official Class II U.S. Air Force Newspaper published monthly for the personnel of the 439th Tactical Airlift Wing, Westover AFB, MA 01022. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily represent those of the U.S. Air Force.

439th TAW Commander

Brig. Gen. Jack P. Ferguson

Deputy Commander Resources

Col. Roy E. Ayers Jr.

Base Public Affairs Officer

Capt. Philip Weber

Wing Public Affairs Officers

Capt. David J. Keefe

Capt. Rick Dyer

BRIEFS

BX Privileges change

ROBINS AFB, GA (AFRNS) — Exchange privileges for members of Reserve components must be used within six months of the date the entitlement was earned, according to a recent revision to AFR 147-14, "Army and Air Force Exchange Service Operating Policies."

Before, Reservists had up to 12 months to use their base exchange entitlements.

The change was a result of some Reserve and Guard members separating from the service and continuing to use their earnings statement after the benefit was terminated.

For Reservists on active duty, exchange use is limited to the tour dates on the orders.

New Course

GUNTER AFB, Ala. (AFNS) — Extension Course Institute has introduced a new course titled the History of the U.S. Air Power. The course comprises five volumes covering significant events from the 1903 Wright Flyer to Vietnam and the strategic eclipse.

The Community College of the Air Force will award two semester hours of management credit to students who complete the course.

Space Command

WASHINGTON (AFRNS) — Some Air Force people could be part of a new unified command — the U.S. Space Command — by the end of 1985.

Officials in Washington said the command would centralize control over all military space systems, including communications, weather forecasting, navigation and warning.

President Reagan authorized activation of the command in November.

Editor — NCOIC

MSgt. Lawrence H. Lentz

Assistant Editors

TSgt. Gordon A. Newell

SSgt. Sandra M. Michon

Staff

TSgt. John Wallace Spencer

SSgt. Carmen Burgos

SSgt. Kathleen Lincoln

SSgt. Glenn Bogart

Unit pilot killed in Texas crash

A 337th TAS pilot in upgrade training at Little Rock AFB was one of six crew members killed when a C-130 crashed on the Fort Hood Military Reservation in Texas during a training flight March 12.

Captain Richard J. Couture was in his final ten days of tactical training when the crash occurred, killing six of the eight crew members on board. He had been a Reserve pilot at Westover since July 1980 when he joined the unit as a C-123 pilot with the 731st TAS.

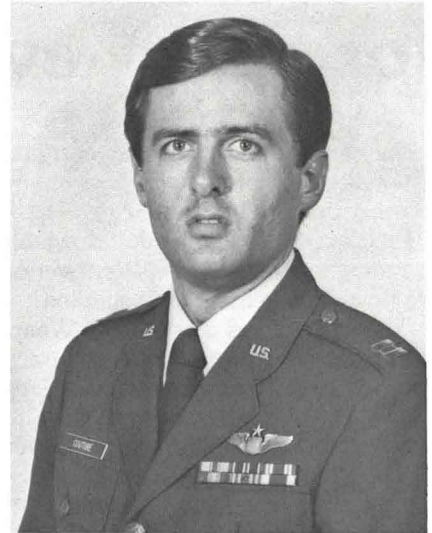
A resident of Meriden, Conn., Capt. Couture was a C-141 transport pilot while on active duty at McGuire AFB from March 1975 to November 1979. He had more than 3,800 flying hours to his credit in the

Air Force and Air Force Reserve.

The crash occurred during a low-level tactical training mission from Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene to Fort Hood. The four engine turboprop crashed in a field near an Army tank training area and a state highway.

Major Robert Martens, 337th Operations Officer, said, "Obviously when a fellow aircrew member goes down it's a blow to every member of the unit. Everyone of us has flown with Rich at one time or another. Unlike many professions we become very close with each other during our trips together. It's the nature of the business. We'll all miss him."

A military funeral was held at the National Cemetery on Cape Cod



Captain Richard J. Couture

with many members of the unit in attendance. The 337th provided a two ship flyover as a part of the ceremony.

Base hospital roughs it with portable heaters

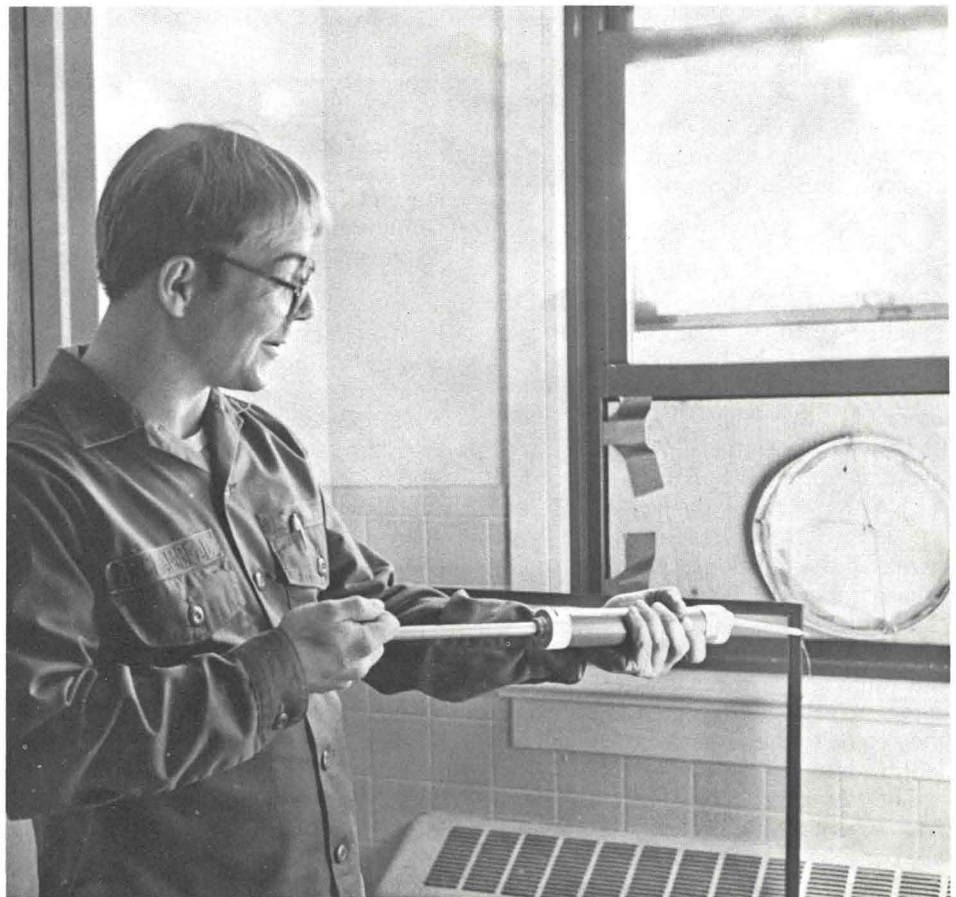
Neither snow, nor sleet, nor lack of heat will stay Westover's medics from their appointed rounds.

A boiler failure left the base's Tactical Hospital without its normal source of heat during the March UTA, but weekend physicals had to proceed on schedule.

Medical personnel and visitors were nevertheless comfortable, thanks to the ingenuity of the Base Civil Engineering Division. Within hours after the boiler quit working, portable gasoline-powered heaters were installed and pumping heat. SMSgt. George J. Kudla, medical administrative supervisor, said that the hospital stayed warm throughout the weekend — a fact which was no doubt appreciated by those who underwent the exams.

"While the heaters do their job well, constant monitoring for carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons is a good idea," according to George Hunter of Civil Engineering. Measuring instruments were installed, and frequent safety checks were made while the heaters were in use.

A minor explosion in the boiler, probably caused by a worn-out automatic fuel control valve, damaged the exhaust stack but resulted in no injuries, said Hunter. Repairs were completed in mid-March.



SSgt. William Archambeau, 439th TAC Hospital, checks the purity of the hot air being pumped into the hospital from outside heaters used to replace the buildings regular heating system during the March 2-3 UTA.

(USAF photo by SSgt. Sandi Michon)

Westover's WSSF team preparing for main event: Volant Rodeo '85

By Capt. Rick Dyer

They train with the intensity of a professional boxer preparing for a championship bout.

They even do "roadwork," doggedly pounding the pavement at Westover on five-mile runs to build their stamina.

The six members of the 439th Weapons System Security Flight aren't training for a 15-round main event at Madison Square Garden, however.

Instead, they're preparing for a rodeo the Military Airlift Command's Volant Rodeo competition which will be held in June at Pope AFB, N.C.

Since last November, 439th WSSF members SSgt. Francis J. Desjardins, SSgt. Frank M. Puopolo, Sgt. Eben T. Goode, Sgt. Patrick T. Whelan, SrA. Michael J. Golenski and Amn. Victor Roque have been training to represent their unit in the security police competition of the annual MAC event.

For MAC law enforcement personnel, the week-long test of skill and stamina is their "Super Bowl."

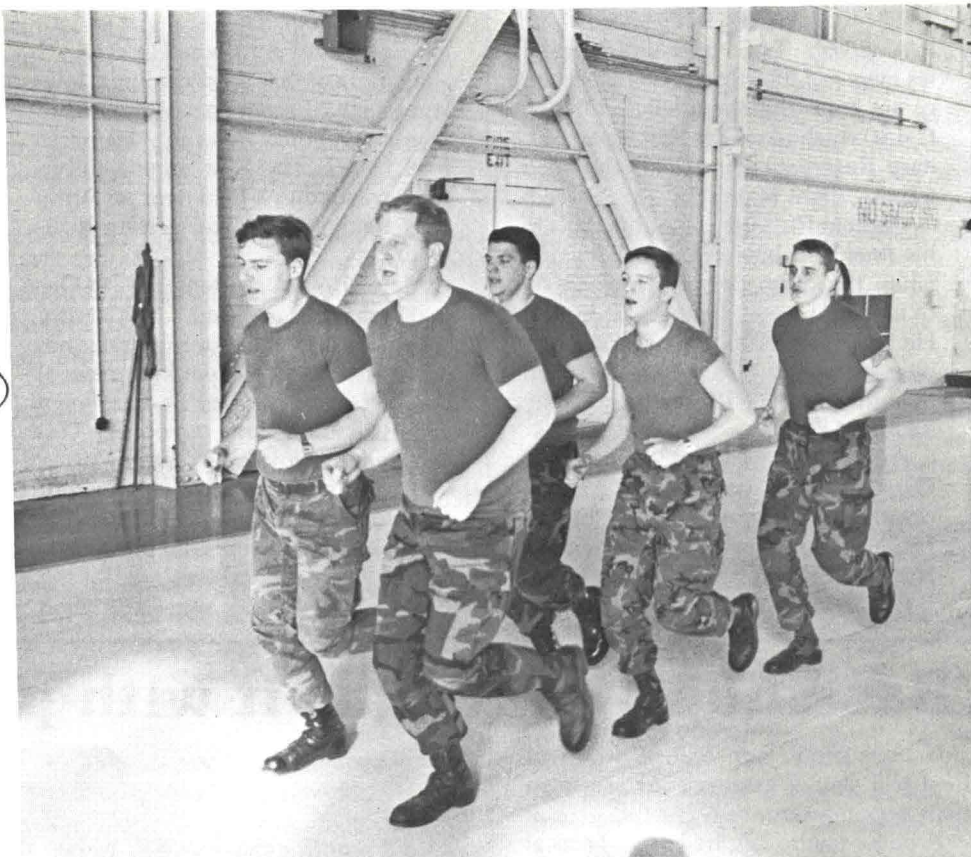
Teams representing more than 40 units from the regular Air Force, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard and allied nations will vie in four events — combat tactics, combat endurance course, land navigation, and combat patrol.

"The desire and attitude is definitely there," said TSgt. Randy Humphries, a 439th WSSF NCO who volunteered to coach the competitors. "If we can get their physical conditioning up to the level that we think is necessary, we'll do real well."

To whip his charges into shape, Sergeant Humphries designed a rigorous training regimen. With the help of 2nd Lt. Tom Schwechheimer of the base gym staff, he developed workouts to increase upper body strength.

The Reservists are also becoming long distance runners. "Most of them are running five miles every day," the sergeant said. "They'll need it when they come to the obstacle course at Volant Rodeo."

The grueling combat endurance course, as it is officially known, is generally considered by competitors to be the most physically demanding event. It is a two-mile grind run over rugged wilderness terrain. Runners must contend with 16 obstacles, two of which require



Physical stamina is the most important ingredient of the 439th WSSF team hopes to attain prior to the Volant Rodeo competition at Pope AFB, N.C. During the March U.T.A. team members (from left to right) SSgt. Frank Puopolo, TSgt. Randy Humphries, SSgt. Eben Goode, SRA Michael Golenski and Sgt. Patrick Whelan were working out in the Base Hangar.

(USAF photo by Capt. Phillip Weber)

them to slog through water.

The Westover entrants have also been honing their land navigation and marksmanship skills.

During Volant Rodeo, they'll be required to use compasses and maps to find their way across a demanding backwoods course, while evading "enemy" patrols.

Sophisticated laser equipment will be used to test shooting skills. The apparatus, known as the multiple integrated laser equipment system (MILES), is fitted on an M-16 rifle. The weapon activates a laser beam, and a buzzer sounds when a "hit" is scored.

"It's pretty intense competition, there's no question about that," said Sgt. Puopolo, who will serve as the unit's team leader. The sergeant, a Rowley, Mass. police officer who served on active duty with the Air Force as an airbase defense instructor in Korea, believes that "adaptability" is the key to

success.

"You have to know the tactics, but being able to adapt to the unexpected is equally important," he said. "Knowing the book work just isn't enough."

To ready the Reservists for whatever "surprises" the competition judges might have in store for them, Sergeant Humphries plans to intensify the training over the next few months.

The team will travel to McGuire AFB to train with the MILES equipment, and will receive more airbase defense instruction at Little Rock AFB during May.

They'll also log plenty of hours at Westover, hiking through the forest near the "Dogpatch" area and racking up the miles over the base's roads and footpaths.

"We're taking this very, very seriously," Sergeant Humphries added. "We intend to be the best Reserve unit at Volant Rodeo."



Being proficient at map reading will aid the 439th WSSF team as it prepares for the land navigation competition at the Volant Rodeo. SRA Michael Golenski points out a terrain feature to SSgt. Frank Puopolo during a training session in the woods at Westover.

(USAF photo by Capt. Philip Weber)



The combat endurance course at Pope will require each member of the Westover team to be prepared for a multitude of obstacles. The team is preparing for the world wide competition by running and leaping through some of the heavy brush areas on the base.

(USAF photo by Capt. Philip Weber)

Westover's newest pilot soars to the top

By Capt. Rick Dyer

When 2nd Lt. Steven D. Merrick graduated from pilot training at Columbus AFB, Miss. recently, he left with more than just his silver wings.

The lieutenant, the 337th Tactical Airlift Squadron's newest pilot, won the lion's share of the awards given to his class.

Lieutenant Merrick, a New Milford, Conn. resident, received the Commander's Trophy for placing first in his 35-member training unit. He earned the award for his overall performance in both the flying and academic portions of the year-long course.

The 23-year-old officer also won the

Flying Training Award, which was presented to the pilot with the best "check-ride" performance.

During his 12 months at Columbus, Lieutenant Merrick was trained in both the T-37 and T-38 aircraft. Most of the other students in his class were members of the regular Air Force.

"I'm delighted for Steve, he really did a super job at UPT," said Maj. Robert Martens, the 337th's director of operations. "It's unusual for one person to win as many awards as he did."

The lieutenant, who is now attending C-130 pilot's training, joined the 337th in 1983 and was commissioned following graduation from Officer's Training

School at Lackland AFB, Texas.

"I'm looking forward to my C-130 training," said Lieutenant Merrick, who will rejoin the unit later this year. "I really love to fly."

The young pilot said that he inherited his affinity for aviation from his father, Douglas. The elder Merrick served in the Air Force for eight years as a KC-135 and KC-97 aircraft commander, and is a pilot for United Airlines.

Even prior to joining the Reserve, the lieutenant was no stranger to the cockpit. He earned his pilot's license at 17, and holds a multi-engine instructor's rating. Like his dad, he is also certified to fly commercial aircraft.



Army medical evacuation personnel assisted by a Navy civilian move diver Rebecca Collins from a Westover C-130 to an awaiting Army Helicopter for a flight to Gorgas Hospital in Panama City.

(USAF photo by SSgt. Kenrick R. Thomas, Det. 5 1361 AVS)

Rescue Missions

continued from page 1

Force Base prepare to have a helicopter standing by to fly the patient to Gorgas Army Hospital in Panama City.

Captain Castle pointed out the special flying conditions which the aircraft had to maintain while flying the bends patient from Honduras to Panama. The aircraft had to maintain an altitude of 17,000 feet so that the cabin would be kept at sea level pressure throughout the trip.

The navigator on the flight, Capt.

Charles Fox, had to plot the shortest route to Howard as the aircraft was taking off from Trujillo. He also had to ensure that the C-130 maintained a 25-mile clearance from the Nicaraguan border.

On the flight back to Panama, the aircrew was busy contacting the doctors in Panama keeping them informed on the patient's condition. In addition, they contacted the National Diving Accident Association in Durham, N.C. to let them know of the accident and make them aware that the doctors in Panama

would be in contact with them for additional procedures to be followed in the treatment of the patient.

At Howard, the patient was airlifted by the awaiting helicopter to the Army hospital where she was visited by the 337th TAS aircrew the following day and reported "doing fine".

The other two members of the aircrew were MSgt. Thomas Durkin, flight engineer, and TSgt. Charles Lexius, loadmaster, who provided air and ground support during the three-hour flight.

Freedom Foundation Award winner—

Citizenship: my rights and responsibilities



Capt. Jack Sanocki

Officer receives 2nd writing award

"I feel very strongly about the rights and responsibilities we all share as citizens. Unfortunately, some people never consider them. That's why I wrote my essay. If one person would read it and think about those privileges and obligations, I would be very happy," explains Capt. Jack Sanocki, 439th CSG.

Today, he has a lot to be pleased about. Not only have many people read this essay, 'Citizenship: My Rights and Responsibilities,' but it won an honor award in this year's Valley Forge Freedom Foundation essay competition. In fact, it is the second time Captain Sanocki has been so honored.

"I heard about the annual program in 1978 and decided to enter," he said. "When I was a child, a neighbor was a professional writer. I remember she won the Freedom Foundation award and how impressed I was. Now, it was my turn to express myself and try to duplicate her achievement."

For his first attempt he took an honor award. He competed against approximately 1,000 entries submitted by military personnel from all branches, active, Guard, and Reserve. He has entered every year since.

By Capt. Jack M. Sanocki

Possession of something of value implies an inherent responsibility. Citizenship represents an intangible possession to the people of this country. The rights of citizenship incur certain responsibilities that serve as the guiding influence in sustaining the founding ideals of this country. The perpetuation of our fundamental goals as a nation is dependent upon our understanding and compliance with the guidelines of citizenship. The results of this educational process serve as a link to bring people together with a common understanding and purpose.

The basic structure of our society is built upon the laws of our land. Every citizen has the right to participate in the development, implementation, and enforcement process. Our ability to take part in civic affairs, to hold public office, and take advantage of our voting rights insures our input into the legislative system. In order to enforce these laws, citizens are called forth to serve on juries. Exercising this right insures that the laws which are created by citizens are implemented fairly and without prejudice or presumption. In order for this nation to prosper and grow, each citizen may do his share by securing gainful employment. This not only fulfills personal financial needs, but contributes to the overall good and well being of the country.

The manner in which we feel about

our country is a reflection of the sum total of attitudes and values of all our citizens. This fact implies that each individual has a responsibility to himself in maintaining a high standard of spiritual, moral, and ethical values. These values are formed through our ability to express and assimilate new and different ideas. The freedom of speech and the press serve as a vehicle for a continual interchange of ideas, attitudes, and beliefs. This process is vital in maintaining our credibility as a democracy and helps us to reaffirm one of our fundamental rights as citizens of this nation. Our awareness of moral and spiritual values come from within and time for quiet thought and reflection are important. By exercising the right to worship in the manner of our individual choosing, we will have the time to look inward and find new strength and meaning in understanding the quality of life as a citizen of this country.

Appreciation of the rights and acceptance of the responsibilities of citizenship is the basis for a deeper understanding of other values and attitudes. This understanding becomes the basis of the development of pride and patriotism. Where ever we may travel, we become ambassadors of a way of life that will effect everyone we meet. We are responsible for setting standards which will serve as a model for everyone to respect and follow. Ultimately, we are judged by our understanding of our rights and responsibilities as American Citizens.

POSITIONS LOOKING FOR PEOPLE

Electric Power Line Specialist
Flight Engineer
Electrician Specialist
Refrigeration & Cryogenics Specialist
Carpentry Specialist
Pest Management Specialist
Air Passenger Specialist
Air cargo Specialist
Food Service Specialist
Combat Arms Training Maintenance Specialist
Public Affairs Specialist
Air Field Management Specialist
Ground Radio Operator
Turbo Propulsion Mechanic

Administration Specialist
Personnel Specialist
Medical Administration
Environment Medic
Medical Laboratory
Corrosion Control Specialist
Airframe Repair Specialist
Aircraft Maintenance Specialist
Pavements Maintenance Specialist
Masonry Specialist
Fuel Specialist
Inflight Medical Service Specialist
Bioenvironmental Engineering Specialist
Medical Material Specialist
Civil Engineering Officer

New candidates for these positions should be referred to the Air Force Reserve Recruiters at Westover (413) 557-3923. Members of the unit, however, who are interested cross training into one of these positions should contact TSgt. Marge Schoonover at (413) 557-3037. This list is subject to change on a daily basis.

"Patriot People"

Name: DAVID A CROWTHER

Rank: Major

Age: 39

Address: Danbury, Conn.

Unit: 439th TAW

Position: chief of stan/eval

Civilian Occupation: pilot for Eastern Airlines

Favorite Food: veal

Favorite Beverage: iced tea

Favorite Sport: hunting and fishing

Favorite Hobby: training dogs

Ideal Vacation: staying at home one week undisturbed by anyone

Best Way to Relax: wandering in the woods

Preferred Entertainment: quiet evening with three or four couples

Favorite Celebrity: Howdy Doody

Favorite Music: country western

Favorite Book: anything by Robert Ludlum

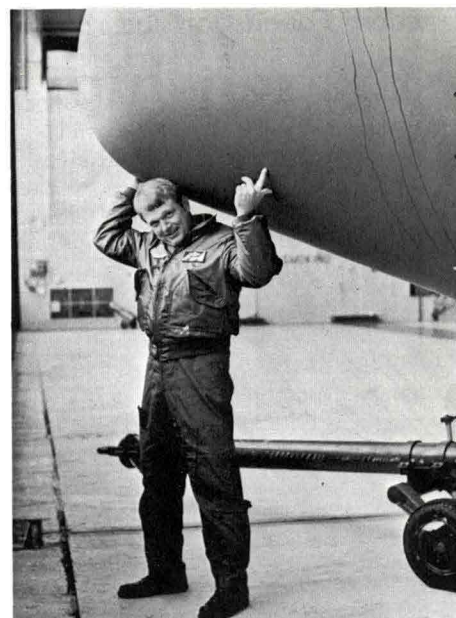
Favorite Color: blue

Favorite Car: pickup truck

Pet Peeve: People with pet peeves

Best thing about Westover: 1600 on Sunday of the UTA

Worst thing about Westover: 0700 on Saturday of the UTA



Motor vehicles without stickers will be stopped

Operators of automobiles without Department of Defense vehicle identification decal stickers will find the going a bit slower at Westover's gates these days.

According to Chester Ruszczyk, security assistant with the base police department, any vehicle approaching Westover without the sticker will be stopped, and the driver will be required to obtain a temporary pass before entering.

Ruszczyk indicated that a military identification card alone is not sufficient authorization to permit the entry of a motor vehicle onto the base.

"The regulations require that any vehicle entering Westover have either a current DOD sticker or a temporary pass," Ruszczyk said. "We are enforcing the rule without exception," he added.

The security assistant suggests that any person who regularly comes to Westover, such as a Reservist or retiree, should apply for a vehicle sticker.

He indicated that information about how to obtain the decals is available from the police department's Pass & ID Section, at extension 2012.

Commander's Call

Eleven awards were presented by Col. Roy E. Ayers, Jr., commander of the 439th Combat Support Group at Commander's Call on March 3.

Six awards were presented to **TSgt. John E. Sheehan**, 58th APS for his active military service in the 1940's and 1950's. Sergeant Sheehan was presented with the American Campaign, WWII Victory Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, Navy Occupation Medal-Europe, China Service Medal and Navy Good Conduct Medal.

The Air Force Commendation Medal was presented to **TSgt. Arthur A. Gutierrez**, 439th Communications Squadron for the motivation he instilled in his technicians which enabled them to render timely assistance to Communications

Groups in the United States and Overseas.

The Air Force Achievement award was presented to **SSgt. Marilyn A. Luchi**, 58th APS for outstanding leadership in identifying problem areas in Airman Performance Reports and developing effective quality control checklists that notably improved rater and indorser's response and comments.

Air Force Achievement awards were also presented to **MSgt. Lawrence H. Lentz**, **SSgt. Sandra M. Michon**, and **TSgt. Gordon A. Newell** for outstanding professional skill, knowledge and leadership which aided in identifying problem areas in the field of Public Affairs and developing and implementing organization management systems designed to solve these problems.

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

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300



THIRD CLASS - BULK RATE