

PATRIOT

439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING • AIR FORCE RESERVE • WESTOVER AFB

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MARCH 1986

T-Birds headline June 7 "Open House"

By Capt. Philip Weber

Those magnificent men and their flying machines — the Air Force Thunderbirds — will be circling the skies over Westover Air Force Base on June 7 as a part of the base's annual "Open House".

It will mark the first time in six years that the famed Air Force aerial demonstration team has been at the base. They last appeared in 1980.

"We're looking forward to the Thunderbirds' return to Westover," said Lt. Col. James H. Handy, base commander. "Everyone who has seen them has been thrilled by their aerial performance as they put the F-16's through their paces. The shows are designed to give the general public an idea of the capabilities of one of the Air Force's main fighter aircraft, and the expertise of some of the pilots flying for the Air Force today."

For the second year, Lt. Col. Charles "Whitey" Joslin has been named the overall director of the "Open House". Mr. Robert Motley, airfield manager, has been named the coordinator for the Thunderbirds Air Show.

Lt. Col. Larry Stillman, Thunderbird coordinator, was at Westover on Feb. 24 to discuss with base personnel some of the team's ground and air space requirements for the performance. Attending the meeting were Lt. Col. Handy; Mr. Motley; Mr. Thomas Hill, transportation; Lt. Col. Gale French, safety; Capt. Bill Friedhofer, aircraft maintenance; Mr. Joseph Longworth, base fire department; David Michaud, base executive officer, and Mr. Robert Sullivan of the F.A.A. in Westfield.

After going over maps and aerial



(Official USAF Thunderbird Photos)

photos of the base, Colonel Stillman commented, "This is a terrific airfield for an air show. It's one of the few bases I've been to lately where there is enough room to operate without restrictions."

The Thunderbirds will be putting on their traditional arrival show at Westover on Friday, June 6 at noon. Their spectacular, aerial acrobatic performance will be staged during the afternoon of the open house on June 7.

More than 300,000 spectators from throughout New England viewed the Thunderbirds during their July, 1980 performance.

Since being established on June 1, 1953, the Thunderbirds have entertained more than 194 million people during performances throughout the world.



EDITORIAL

On the shoulders of giants

Throughout the history of aviation, Americans have always stood on the shoulders of giants.

The Wright brothers . . . Lindbergh . . . Earhart . . . Yeager . . . Shepard . . . Glenn . . . Armstrong. There were many others.

They were giants, not in physical stature, but in their courage, their vision and their spirit. They dared to soar into the unknown, to poke and probe at the boundaries of technology and human endurance.

They lifted our souls, shrank our world and expanded our horizons. We can now follow because they chose to lead.

Scobee . . . Smith . . . Resnik . . . McNair . . . Onizuka . . . Jarvis . . . McAuliffe. Six cool and competent astronauts, and the bubbly teacher who hoped to bring the wonders of space to a whole generation of school children. A newer breed, perhaps, but they were giants, too.

The horrible fireball in the clear, blue Florida sky robbed us of these heroes, and seared our national soul. The twisted contrail claws served as cruel evidence of triumph-turned-tragedy.

But their dream, and their commitment, was not consumed in the shattering explosion that destroyed the space shuttle Challenger. Their courage, their vision and their spirit survived unscathed and remain as a legacy to those who will certainly follow.

Scobee . . . Smith . . . Resnik . . . McNair . . . Onizuka . . . Jarvis . . . McAuliffe. They were giants, and we must stand on their shoulders.

The chance to do so acknowledges their gift to us, and offers our most fitting memorial to them.

Capt. Rick Dyer
Public Affairs Officer

Reservist dies from car crash injuries

SSgt. Mayleen Adams, a member of the 74th AES, died Feb. 2 as the result of injuries sustained in an automobile accident in Tolland, Conn.

Sergeant Adams, 26, was a medical technician with the squadron. She received a bachelors degree in biochemistry from the University of Connecticut last December, and was employed at the time of her death as a laboratory technician in the university's school of agriculture.

Speaking for all the members of her squadron, Lt. Col. Edward Kosakowski, commander, said, "Mayleen was a wonderful person of tremendous accomplishments. We watched, with pride, as she worked her way through college; and were shocked to lose her so suddenly. She loved the Air Force while on active duty and she loved the 439th. We extend our sympathy to her family and friends."

PATRIOT

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Briefs

Transient lodging

(AFRNS) — Air Force Reservists can now use government temporary living facilities on a space-available basis when they present their identification card and a current leave earnings statement. This eligibility applies even if the Reservist is vacationing but does not include use of visiting officer/visiting airman quarters.

The change was recommended by the Air National Guard/Air Force Enlisted Advisory Panel and approved by Headquarters USAF. It will be included in the next change to AFR 90-9, "Unaccompanied Personnel Housing and Temporary Housing Facilities," targeted for publication next month.

A recommendation to expand the change to include visiting officer/visiting airman quarters will be reviewed at a later date.

New men's shirt

DALLAS (AFNS) — A dress or stand-up collar is the distinctive feature of the new men's blue short-sleeve shirt that will be available in military clothing sales stores this spring. The new collar will better accommodate a tie but may be worn open without one. Other than the collar, the new shirt design is like the current short-sleeve shirt with epaulets. An \$11 polyester and cotton blend and an \$18 polyester and wool blend also will be available. The new shirt is an optional uniform item and no phase-out date is planned for the existing short-sleeve shirt.

Reimbursement changed

Reservists who travel while on duty for less than 24 hours will no longer be automatically reimbursed for meals, regardless of whether they are actually purchased.

To be reimbursed it is necessary to list each meal on the travel voucher. It must include the type of meal — breakfast, lunch or supper — and the city in which it was purchased. The name of the restaurant is not necessary.

Retiree activity program started

A Retiree Activities Program is being established at Westover Air Force Base.

The program, already in place at many military bases around the country, is aimed at providing personal assistance and information to retirees of military service who live in the immediate area.

Lt. Col. James Handy, Westover's base commander, has appointed Lt. Col. Arthur Shipe, and Air Force retiree, as the volunteer director of the Retiree Activities Office, which will be housed in the Base headquarters building.

The program is funded, to some extent, by military services, but man-hours necessary to run them are primarily furnished by volunteer retirees, their spouses or widows.

Anyone interested in assisting is asked to call Colonel Shipe at (413) 593-1095.

G.I. bill may end

The G.I. Bill which provides educational benefits to qualified Reservists, may not be available after Sept. 30. The legislation pays full time students \$140. per month, three-quarter students receive \$105. and half-time students get \$70.

"We strongly advise members of the 439th to take advantage of the G.I. Bill now," says MSgt. Faith Longfield, base/wing career advisor.

"Reservists need a high school diploma or equivalency degree and may not have completed their studies for a bachelor's degree. In order to be eligible, personnel must obligate to serve at least six years in the Reserve. More information is available at Sergeant Longfield's office, Building 1850, room 4, or by calling extension 3026.

UTA Dates

April 5-6
May 3-4
June 7-8
July 12-13
Aug. 9-10
Sept. 13-14



Dick Vincellet, dormitory manager, connects the cable to a television set in a barracks room.

(USAF photo by SSgt. Sandi Michon)

Major renovations completed in Westover billeting areas

By SSgt. Sandi Michon

Better Homes and Gardens would be proud of Westover's newly renovated and remodeled visiting officer and airman's quarters and five dormitories.

"We spent approximately \$750,000 during the past year and now have facilities rivaling any Air Force base," boasts MSgt. Paul Gilman, billeting manager.

The new living room and bedroom furnishings includes beds, bureaus, wardrobes, desks, couches, end tables and televisions. Rooms were painted and new carpets were installed.

The dormitories received similar attention.

"In each room, 300 pound wall units have replaced a desk, chair, and two bureaus," Sergeant Gilman said. "The new furniture eliminates the clutter and makes each room more spacious." Rooms now have a wall unit, two beds, the double unit dresser, refrigerator, arm chairs and wall mounted television/AM/FM radio combination.

What appears on that television screen also has been 'renovated'.

Rabbit ear antennas have been replaced by Westover's new cable system. A 15-foot diameter satellite receiver, located near the VOQ, is beaming a wide assortment of channels to the housing facilities. The new TV sets receive ten local stations and "Showtime", "ESPN", and New York's WOR. "We hope to soon offer such premium features as "HBO" and "Cinemax" after negotiations with the local cable company are completed." Sergeant Gilman continued.

Completing the home-like touches has been the installation of telephones in each VOQ room. Guests can make their own local and long distance calls without going through the base operator. They can also arrange for it to act as a wake-up service. When they check out, they'll receive a computerized bill itemizing their telephone charges.

That bill will include all room charges as well.

"We are delighted to offer these amenities," Sergeant Gilman concluded. "We might not have all the comforts of home, for those away from home, but we're trying."



SrA. Donna Hunter, 439th TAC hospital x-ray technician, sets up x-ray for TSgt. Denise Byrnes, 439th CAMS administrator. (USAF photo by SSgt. Sandi Michon)

Busy UTAs keep 439th

By TSgt. Tom Allocco

There are some people who rise to the challenge of a job in which the hours are long, and mediocrity isn't tolerated. The personnel of the 439th Tactical Hospital are such people, says their commander, Col. (Dr.) Warner Jones.

"They have been molded by the pressures of exceptionally close scrutiny from higher authorities and a heavy UTA schedule of training and base support duties," he said.

Another factor shaping high morale is the hospital's mobilization role as a tactical medical staff in the field.

"We will be the first professionals to care for casualties on the battlefield," Colonel Jones said.

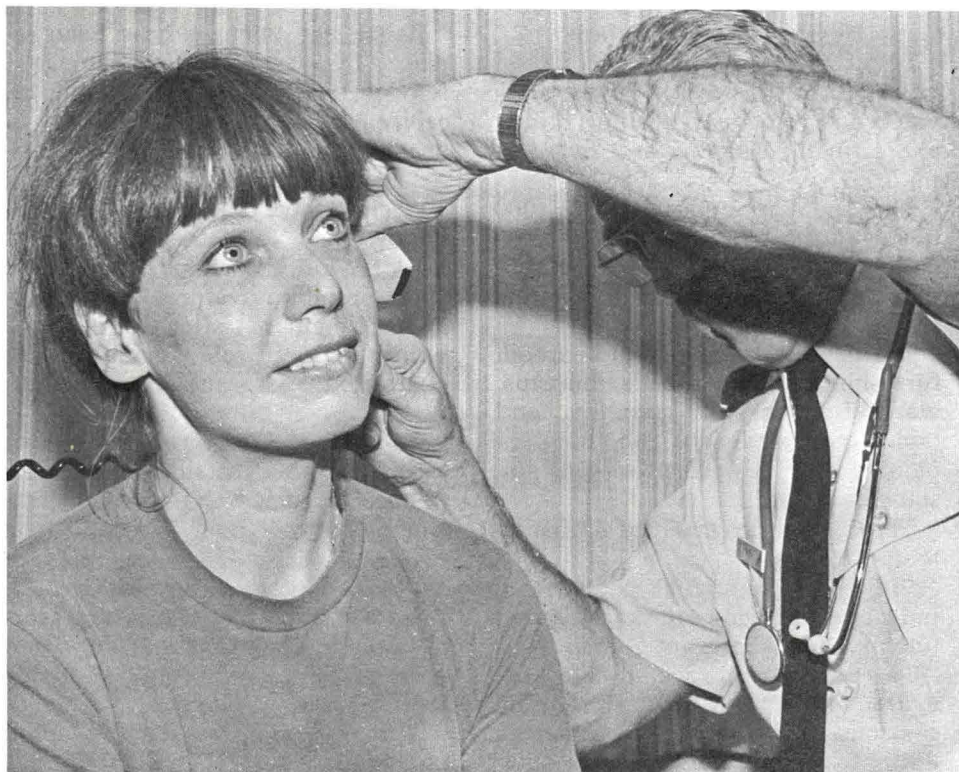
They prepare for the mission with a combination of training and hands-on experience. Each UTA is a very busy time at the hospital.

On Saturdays there are physicals, immunizations, emergency care and other support activities.

The hospital has 61 staff members who gave 1,354 physical examinations, 2,723 immunizations and 1,002 annual certifications last year.

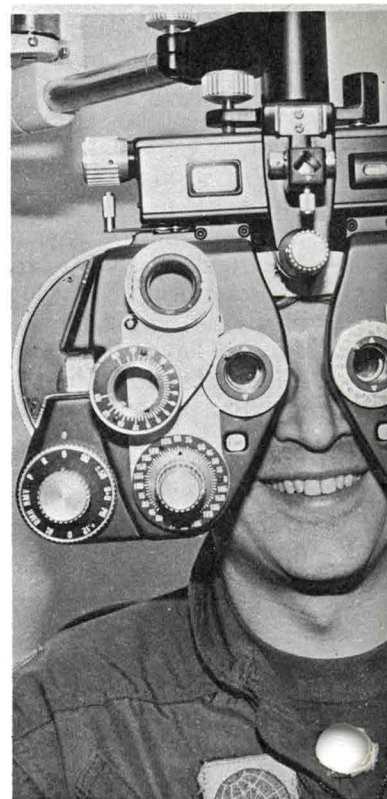
"That leaves Sunday for a training program to meet rigorous Air Force standards," Colonel Jones said.

Members spend much of their time in the classroom rehearsing medical procedures. On some Sundays, the nurses and medical technicians assist the staff at Mercy Hospital, Spring-



Col. Ronald Neal, doctor at the 439th TAC Hospital examines Capt. Pam Smallwood, 74th AES Nurse, as part of her flying class-three physical.

(USAF photo by SSgt. Sandi Michon)



Lt. Col. Jerry Budinoff smiles "eye mask".

(USAF photo by SSgt. Sandi Michon)

TAC Hospital staff 'standing tall'

field, providing patient care.

Last year unit members worked in their specialties during their annual encampment at the USAF Hospital, Pease AFB, N.H. They will return there in July.

"I have been here since 1977 and I have seen these people perform as dedicated professionals. Morale is very high and you can see that during and after working hours," Colonel Jones said.

Those at the 439th Tactical Hospital can't afford less than their best efforts. In maintaining standards of performance, no scrutiny is sharper than that of the Air Force medical command, the hospital commander stated.

"I know that to be true. I conducted inspections when I was on active duty and nothing is left to chance.

"When the Health Services Management Inspection team comes here it really tears the place apart looking for problems.

"I'm pleased with how we stand under close scrutiny," Colonel Jones added.

According to the doctor, the tough inspections reflect the high standards the Air Force medical command demands of all its units.

"In the past there has been criticism in the media of military medicine. I was pleased to see that a report by the Air Force Surgeon General has proved that the criticism was un-

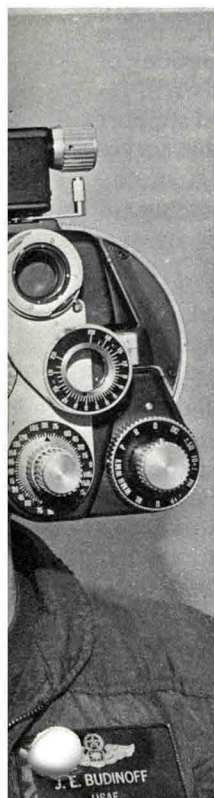
founded."

The report by Lt. Gen. Max B. Bral-liar, Air Force surgeon general, rates the quality of Air Force medical personnel as "excellent."

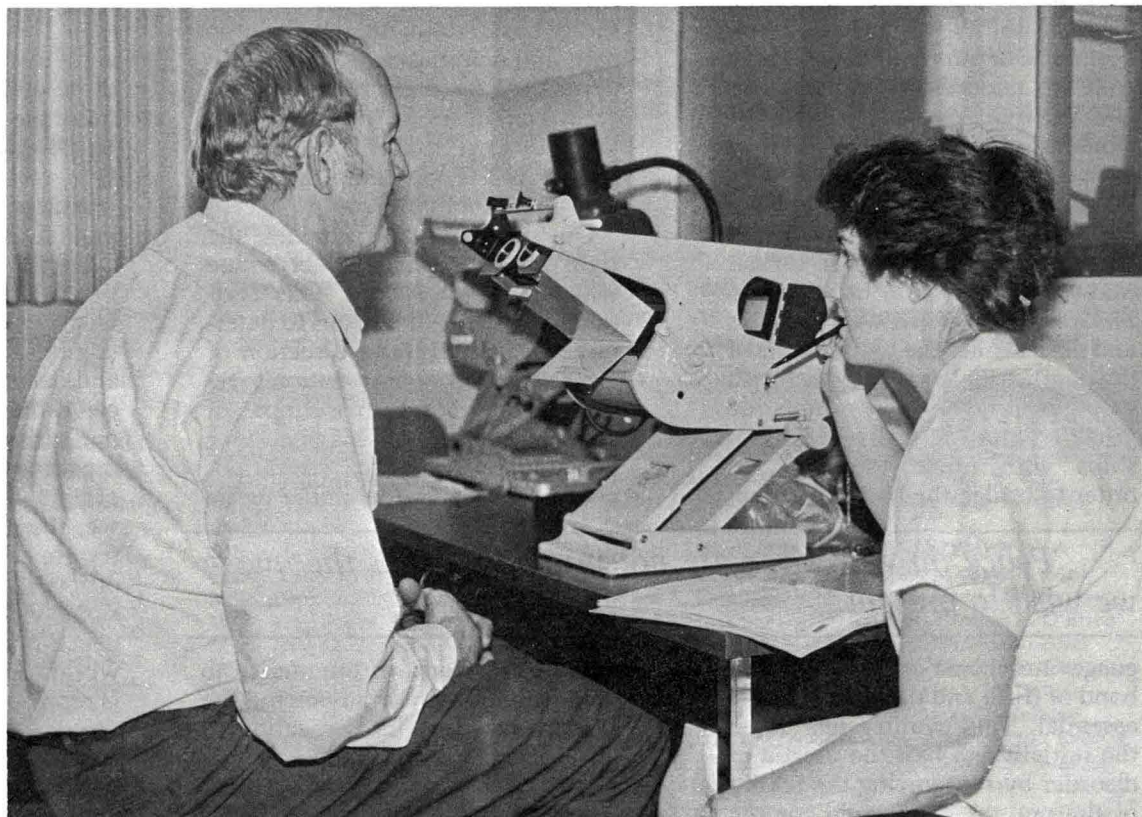
It notes that between 1979 and 1984 malpractice claims against the Air Force decreased 13 percent, while civilian malpractice claims increased 114 percent.

Much of the past criticism was based on administrative deficiencies and not quality of care. Regulations were implemented to correct the administrative deficiencies when they came to light, the report noted.

"By any civilian standard against which we are judged, the Air Force stands tall," the surgeon general wrote.



behind diagnostic
photo by SSgt. Sandi Michon)



Airman Pat McDonald, 439th TAC Hospital med tech, administers eye exam to SMSgt. George Roohl, maintenance controller with the 439th CAS, as part of his periodic physical.

(USAF photo by Sandi Michon)

Capt. Sanocki wins 2nd writing award

For the second consecutive year, and for the third year since 1979, Capt. Jack Sanocki, 439th CSG ground safety officer, has earned an Honor Award from the Valley Forge Freedoms Foundation. The theme of this year's competition was "Preserving the Peace."

"I enjoy the challenge of writing these essays," said Captain Sanocki. But I'm not a 'natural' writer so it's a very time consuming process for me. Some people are satisfied with their first draft based on initial impressions. I, however, spent approximately 25 hours in front of my word processor, collecting my thoughts, writing, rewriting and rewriting once again. I was quite surprised and delighted when I heard I was honored again."



Capt. Jack Sanocki

'Preserving the Peace' is theme of winning entry

By Capt. Jack Sanocki

Mankind has been endowed with the ability to control his own destiny. Our survival rests on how well we understand and use this gift. We live in a world that is dependent upon this country's effort to assist and maintain peace with all nations. Our ability at negotiating world peace is an important part of our international image. Many nations look to us as peace-makers in a troubled world. Chaos and disorder are the by-products of the conflict that we must deal with on a global level. This inhibits the growth of our effective relationships with other countries. In order to bridge the barriers of lan-

The enemies we face are not just the "isms" of the world but the more basic problems of hunger, fear, and domination. Our future is dependent upon the nation's ability to convey to all countries that the first step in eliminating these problems is cooperation and support in maintaining world peace.

Our Constitution provides the right for all citizens to determine which path to follow. This reaffirms the rights of citizens to determine the quality and direction of their lives. It is this nation's responsibility to set an example of our commitment to this goal. Our position on poverty, education, and civil rights is a reminder to the

they can live their lives productively and without fear of reprisals. The act of keeping the peace will insure the continuation of these policies. These goals will require the commitment and support by all citizens. Our heritage serves as a reminder to the rest of the world of the effort necessary in maintaining this goal.

Peace through strength, not intimidation, is the image that we wish to present. This goal is manifest in our country's actions and deeds. How other nations perceive these efforts will determine our ultimate success. Our leaders must focus their efforts in support of this ideal. The standards that we, the citizens, set for this country are carried forth by our elected officials. Their policies and decisions will impact the success of peace negotiations throughout the world. Each citizen of this country is represented in the efforts toward the attainment of world peace. Our children will judge the ultimate success of our efforts. They will carry on the standards and values of a heritage that believed in the importance and responsibilities of PRESERVING THE PEACE.

"Peace through strength, not intimidation, is the image we wish to present."

guage and ideology, a common bond of truth and understanding is essential. This country has taken the initiative to halt the inertia of disorder by recognizing the reality of the options. Our stand for the ideal of freedom and democracy serves as a sentinel to those who would try to deny our birthright.

rest of the world of our desire to establish a basis for advancing the quality of life. The dedication to these ideals is supported by our nation's policies in supplying food, medical supplies, and educational assistance wherever needed. We want all nations to have citizens who are well fed and educated so



"Patriot People"

Name: BRENDA A. MIAZGA

Rank: SSgt.

Age: 24

Address: 88 Harkness Rd.
Pelham, MA

Unit: 439th TAW/RMX

Position: Staff support administrator

Civilian Occupation: military
personnel clerk

Favorite Food: pizza

Favorite Beverage: wine

Favorite Sport: skiing

Ideal Vacation: Florida

Best Way to Relax: listening to
the stereo

Preferred Entertainment: concert

Favorite Celebrity: Eddie Murphy

Favorite Music: mellow rock

Favorite Book: The Other Side
of Midnight

Favorite Color: blue

Favorite Car: Supra

Pet Peeve: early rising

Best Thing About Westover: gym

Worst Thing About Westover:
too far to drive

Commander's call

A Meritorious Service Medal (First Oak Leaf Cluster) was presented to **Col. David L. Webber**, deputy commander for operations by Brig. Gen. Jack P. Ferguson, wing commander, during the February UTA commander's call.

Colonel Webber was recognized for outstanding service as commander, 907th Tactical Airlift Group, Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base, Ohio from 1981 to 1985.

Also honored at commander's call with Air Force Commendation Medals were, **Maj. Rachel E. Fraleigh** and **Maj. Mary A. Roche**.

The flight nurses of the 74th AES were honored for outstanding professionalism in the field of Mobile Aeromedical Evacuation from 1982 to 1985.

Air Force Achievement Medals were presented to **MSgt. Edward J. Burnett** and **TSgt. Luciano Giovannucci**.

Sergeant Burnett, Senior Air Force Reserve Recruiter, received recognition for his leadership in the successful accomplishments of the Fourteenth Air Force Fourth Quarter Olympiad, Fiscal Year 1984.

Sergeant Giovannucci's award was presented for solving problems in the 439th TAW Command Post from 1978 to 1985.

Squadron member to recover from injuries

SrA. Cheryl Harper, 337th TAS administrative specialist, is expected to make a full recovery from serious injuries suffered in an auto mishap while driving home from the January UTA. Because she was enroute during a UTA weekend, the Air Force is providing full medical coverage.

Airman Harper was hospitalized with multiple head injuries and broken bones after she reportedly lost control of her auto when it hit an ice patch near her Putnam, Conn., home. She was driving home during a day of snow and bitter cold when the vehicle flipped onto its roof and hit a rock.

She was taken by helicopter to the University of Massachusetts Medical Center, in Worcester. She remained there until early February when she was transferred to Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, D.C.

Maj. Robert Martens, 337th TAS operations officer, visited her at Walter Reed Hospital during the first week of February. She was in good

spirits while undergoing physical therapy and doctors expected a full recovery, he said.

Airman Harper told Major Martens she was wearing a seat belt because of the recent Massachusetts law requiring them.

Her medical care is provided for under a recent expansion of coverage on UTA weekends. Congress extended the period of coverage to include not only duty hours but travel to and from home.

Coverage is limited to injuries and does not include disease unless it is a direct result of Air Force activities.

Reservists injured while travelling to and from home on UTA weekend are not eligible for continuation pay. Such pay is provided for those incapacitated during duty hours.

Col. (Dr.) Warner Jones, 439th TAC Hospital commander, said a Reservist needing more care than available on base would normally be transferred to Holyoke Hospital, or Bay State Medical Center, Springfield.

Reenlistments — Enlistments

REENLISTMENTS

CMSgt. Paul N. Dube
SMSgt. Charles D. Arvin Jr.
SMSgt. Richard P. Dedinas
SMSgt. Peter P. Wysocki Jr.
MSgt. Casimir M. Cerniauskas
MSgt. Winfred W. Dailey
MSgt. John M. Madden
MSgt. John H. Pelletier
MSgt. Michael W. Schuell
TSgt. Allen G. Alward
TSgt. Steven N. Charest
TSgt. David Kelley
TSgt. Gary A. McNab
TSgt. Arthur J. Pollier
TSgt. Paul A. Rudnicki
TSgt. Constance M. Ruel
TSgt. Charles E. Twitchell
TSgt. Linda S. White

SSgt. John A. Aukstikalnis
SSgt. James A. Beachell
SSgt. James W. Beckwith Sr.
SSgt. Edward J. Brewer Jr.
SSgt. Ralph A. Cuillo
SSgt. James R. Fleming
SSgt. David E. Holding
SSgt. Ralph M. Jones Jr.
SSgt. Gary A. Kelly
SSgt. Eunice R. Langlois
SSgt. Vincent C. Messina
SSgt. Frankie C. Pierce
SSgt. David M. Pirog
SSgt. Eugene H. Reilly, Jr.
SSgt. David D. Shrader
SSgt. Myron W. Spencer
SSgt. Louis F. Vezina Jr.
SSgt. Wayne J. Vezina
SSgt. Michael W.S. Walley

Sgt. Lynne V. Saya
SrA. John S. Manzone

ENLISTMENTS

SSgt. Michael R. Ford
SSgt. Hans J.E. Keyser
SSgt. Thomas E. O'Brien
SSgt. Romuando Perez
SSgt. Stephen P. Plante
Sgt. Harry D. Delude
Sgt. Luke T. Gelinas
Sgt. Allan Stetson Reed Jr.
Sgt. Michael A. Sullivan
SrA. Thomas G. Durkin Jr.
A1C. Bonnie D. Jenkins
A1C. Teresa D. Johndrew
A1C. Stephen E. Kida
A1C. Sharon C. Male
AB. Wendy L. Cohrs

Award presented to parents of TSgt. Paul Crespo

By TSgt. Mark LaFrancis

TSgt. Paul H. Crespo Jr., a former member of the 439th Information Systems Squadron, received his Air Force Reserve Meritorious Service Medal posthumously Feb. 8.

Sergeant Crespo's parents, Paul H. and Hope Crespo, were presented the award by Brig. Gen. Jack P. Ferguson, 439th Tactical Airlift Wing Commander, during a brief ceremony. The Crespos were accompanied by Sergeant Crespo's sister, Sandra Cullen, and brother-in-law, William Cullen. Sergeant Crespo, a communications center specialist, lived in West Brookfield, Mass.

The award recognized his outstanding service to the unit from Jan. 1, 1980 until his death on March 23, 1985. He was 39.

Mrs. Crespo, moved by the ceremony, said that although Sergeant Crespo was a quiet, soft-spoken person, he often spoke highly of the Air Force Reserve and attendance at UTAs and two-week encampments was a high priority in her son's life. At his request, he was buried in uniform, she said.

A former buddy, Michael Noonan,



Brig. Gen. Jack P. Ferguson, 439th TAW commander, presents the Air Force Reserve Meritorious Service Medal to Mr. and Mrs. Paul H. Crespo Sr. on behalf of their deceased son, TSgt. Paul H. Crespo, Jr.

(USAF Photo by SSgt. Kathleen Lincoln)

former master sergeant with the 439th, added, that for Sergeant Crespo, Reserve duty "was a second life. He looked forward to coming here. He had a great performance record behind him."

Noonan stressed that Sergeant

Crespo, "assisted everybody. He didn't have to be told; he just did it."

Sergeant Crespo had been a supervisor in the communications center. He joined the unit, the former 905th Communications Flight in 1973.

He is survived by five children.

Wing helps Air Force achieve safe flying record

"The Air Force just completed the safest year of flying in its history," said Gen. Charles Gabriel, Air Force chief of staff.

The general announced that the 1985 Air Force-wide major flight mishap rate was just 1.49 per 100,000 flying hours. This was 14 percent better than the previous record, set in 1983.

A major flight mishap is one which causes more than \$500,000 damage, explained Lt. Col. Gale French, wing chief of safety. "We can be extremely proud of the wing's contribution to the Air Force safety record. Our three flying units have a combined total of more than 68 years of accident-free flying," Colonel French said. The three squadrons are Westover's 337th TAS, Niagara's 328th TAS, and Pittsburgh's 758th TAS.

While compiling the 1985 record, the Air Force flew more hours than in any previous year — nearly 3.5 million.

The major mishap rate for Reserve crews was slightly better than the Air

Force-wide rate at 1.41. The 439th TAW's three flying squadrons have not been cited for a major flight mishap since 1966.

Colonel French credited the wing's outstanding flight safety record to the experience of its crews and maintenance personnel. "For example, the 64 pilots of the 337th TAS have an average of 3,500 hours of flying time. That's more than twice the active duty average," said the safety chief.

The 337th flies an average of more than 550 hours a month, according to the colonel. "The wing's safety record is even more remarkable considering our tactical mission requires a lot of low-level flying, which is naturally more dangerous than many other kinds of missions. Combine that with the adverse weather conditions so common in the northeast, and you can see this is a tremendous accomplishment."

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