



# THE PATRIOT



439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING

WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE, MASS.

Vol. IX No. 4

April 1982

## Westover survives "shoot-out" at Pittsburgh

By SrA. Sandra M. Bartosz

When all the "shooting" was over, the casualties were few, but the troops had reached their peak of endurance.

The "shooting" was done with basketballs, and early Sunday evening, a weary Westover group arrived home with two third-place team trophies.

Thirteen teams participated in the 1982 AFRES Basketball Championship held Feb. 27-28 at Greater Pittsburgh International Airport. The women from Pittsburgh captured first place in the double-elimination tournament by silencing second-place Duke Field, 70-63 in overtime play. The men's team from Bergstrom AFB, Tx. battled to first place, squeaking by second-place Duke Field 76-75.

Saturday seemed endless for the Westover women as they played four full games throughout the day. Losses to Pittsburgh and Duke Field women placed Westover in third place. Members of the women's team are: Sandi Bartosz, Mary Ferriter, Marian Gibson, Kathy McMahon, Karen Martin, Hazel Perry, Terry Rodriguez, and coach Peter Barbuto.

The Westover men played three games Saturday to make the semifinals Sunday morning. The men's loss to Duke Field secured third place. Members of the men's team are: Dick Carter, Don Divincenzo, Bill Dotson, Sam Gamble, Angelo Leaks, Bob Michaud, Ron Michon, George Morton, Mike Styckiewicz and coach Gary Rogers.

Col. William J. McQuade, commander of the 911th TAG, thought the tournament was great. "The playoff games were an example of the tournament's excitement, with the women's game decided in overtime, and Bergstrom's one-point win."



Bob Michaud (14) and Mike Styckiewicz (55) reach to secure a rebound in a tournament game against Pittsburgh. (photo by SSgt. Gerry Stroud, 911th TAG)

## Wing Commander's Message



By Brig. Gen. Donald E. Haugen

I recently signed a Commanders Policy Letter on drug abuse. I think the subject is extremely important and one worthy of a few more words on my part.

Despite all the technology which surrounds us, people are what makes the Air Force tick. That is why one of my main jobs as commander is to cultivate human potential — to help each person in the Wing do their job to the best of their ability.

Drug abuse is a destroyer of human potential. It destroys families, ruins careers and even takes lives.

The Air Force policy on drug abuse is straight forward — it will not be tolerated. A drug abuser is subject to sanction under the Uniform Code of Military Justice and also faces possible separation from the service.

The jobs we do at Westover are vitally important. They require clear minds and keen concentration. The use of illicit drugs by people who do these jobs could result in disastrous consequences.

Our Social Actions staff is trained to deal with drug and alcohol problems. They have a wealth of information on these subjects.

They can refer persons with problems to appropriate agencies and facilities. They are here to listen and they can help.

If you know of a friend or colleague who has such a problem, suggest they call the Social Actions office at ext. 3546. If you need information, or simply someone who understands, call the Social Actions office.

In the long run everyone will benefit.

## Major Generals visit Westover

# A matter of General importance

By SrA. Sandra Bartosz

Two Major Generals from Scott AFB, IL were present at Westover during the March UTA. Maj. Gen. Robert F. McCarthy and Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Gregory independently observed various units on base.

General McCarthy, Air Force Communications Commander at Scott AFB, IL was at Westover March 5-6. He observed people of the 1917th Communications Squadron, Detachment 5 of the 1st Aerospace Communications Group, and the 905th Communications Flight.

Col. Roy E. Ayers, base commander, was with General McCarthy for most of his visit. According to Colonel Ayers, "The General was very impressed. He specifically commented on the aggressiveness and competency of the people assigned to the units observed."

General Gregory, Mobilization Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Staff at HQ/MAC, Scott AFB, IL was here

March 5-7. Col. Reginald A. Wackford, deputy commander for maintenance, was project officer for General Gregory's visit.

General Gregory's objective at Westover was to survey the logistics facilities prior to conversion and get first-hand information concerning Westover's plans and problems during the conversion process.

Colonel Wackford reported that General Gregory was favorably impressed with Westover's facilities, and felt that the conversion plans were more than adequate to support the mission after conversion.

While at Westover, General Gregory participated in a disaster preparedness session. According to John Wilson chief of disaster preparedness division, "The General was the first one in the gas chamber, and the last one out." "The General proudly displayed his DP certification card after the session," Wilson added.

## New Color Guard formed at Westover

By Sgt. Peter Maille

An elite base color guard is now being formed. The military contingent of volunteer enlisted Reservists will represent Westover AFB at military ceremonies, various community activities, dining out ceremonies and other appropriate functions.

The idea for the cadre began when TSgt. Howard Cormier, assistant career advisor of the 58th MAPS, approached the base advisory council with a suggestion that a color guard be formed.

Sergeant Cormier said, "The 58th MAPS had an unofficial color guard for several years. Anywhere from a dozen to 20 squadron members have voluntarily donated their off duty time to represent the Reserve at various civil functions throughout the area. We have marched as a unit in the Northfield Memorial Day parades, and other activities for several years now. It has always been a lot of fun but I believe the time is right for an official Westover Color Guard."

Every member of the base advisory

council thought Sergeant Cormier's suggestion worthy and SMSgt. Ronald Koper, NCOIC of Wing Recruiting and SSgt. Paul LeMay from base administration, volunteered to help coordinate the venture.

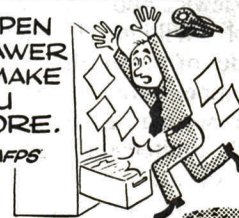
In support, Sergeant Koper said, "The color guard is a great opportunity for those interested in drill and ceremony to play an active role in a worthwhile military activity."

Any enlisted Reservist interested in becoming a member of Westover's color guard is asked to telephone Sergeant Koper at 557-3923 or Sergeant LeMay at 557-2057.

### Rhymes of the Times

AN OPEN  
DRAWER  
CAN MAKE  
YOU  
SORE.

...LEBO-AFPS



## Capt. Shedd Takes Over at 1917th Communications Squadron

Capt. William Shedd replaced Capt. Stephen Gross as 1917th Communication Squadron Commander, on February 26, at the change of command ceremony held at the Consolidated Open Mess.

Captain Shedd has been Westover's Chief of Air Traffic Control since July 1979. His hometown is Bellville, IL, and he attended Southern Illinois University. Captain Shedd started in the communications field as an NCO before becoming an officer.

Captain Gross, 1917th Commander since November 1979, is accepting a position with an Amherst based consulting firm.

MSgt. Floyd L. Burlock has assumed responsibility as Chief of Air Traffic Control.

Captain Shedd relates, "I am pleased about the opportunity to serve as Base Communications officer." "I have found Westover to be a very enjoyable community in which to work."



Capt. William Shedd, 1917th commander listens as MSgt. Floyd Burlock, points out an item on the inbound/outboard strip board at the control tower. (photo by Maj. Robert Carroll)

If there are eight million stories in "The Naked City", there surely must be a few hundred around Westover.

The "Patriot" staff is always looking for good story ideas. You, the readers are our best sources. We'll do the writing, you provide the tips. So if you hear of something out of the ordinary that you feel should be shared with other Reservists, give us a call at (413) 557-3500, 2072 or 2572.

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.

**439 TAW Commander**  
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**Base Public Affairs Officer**  
Capt. Philip Weber

**Wing Public Affairs Officers**  
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**Editor — NCOIC**  
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**Assistant Editor**  
SrA. Sandra M. Bartosz

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### *Westover to play prior to game*

## Air Force teams with Holyoke Millers

By MSgt. Marshall Hathaway

The Holyoke Millers baseball team and Westover AFB will host Air Force Night on the May 1 UTA at McKenzie Field, Holyoke. The observance will begin at 4:30 p.m. with a softball game featuring Westover's varsity team vs. a team yet to be determined. At 6 p.m. the Holyoke club will play the Waterbury Reds.

The base has 3,500 tickets available at \$1 each. Tickets will be sold at the bowling center, the theater, the recrea-

tion complex, the 439th Recruiting Service and the 3512th Recruiting Squadron.

An Air Force band and Westover color guard are scheduled to participate. Base officials said they would try to provide bussing to the ball field.

The Millers are a farm team for the California Angels. They were acquired in mid-December 1981 by a local three-person partnership consisting of George Como, Ben Surner, and Jerry Mileur.

## Lt. Col. Lincoln assumes command at the 731st Tactical Airlift Squadron

By SrA. Mary Borelli

Lt. Col. Edward F. Lincoln has been appointed commander of the 731st TAS. Because of the unit's relocation to Peterson AFB, CO he most likely will be the last unit commander at Westover.

However, Colonel Lincoln is no stranger to the position. Although his most recent assignment was wing chief of air crew training, he spent the past six months as acting commander of the

731st. In 1973 the colonel came to Westover from Hanscom Field with the 901st TAG as flying safety officer.

"We intend to keep our standards high right up to the end," said Colonel Lincoln. "I am happy to have moved here from Hanscom and to have the opportunity to be the last commander of this squadron," he added.

As a civilian, Col. Lincoln is a captain for TWA, flying Boeing 747s.

# Space available opens new vistas

By TSgt. John Wallace Spencer

One of the many benefits offered to Air Force Reservists is the privilege of free, space available aircraft flights. Every week Westover's planes are scheduled for missions to various locations coast to coast and other interesting regions outside the country.

Air Operations Superintendent, SMSgt. James Hughes explained, "Every Friday afternoon base operations receives a flight schedule from the 337th and 731st Tactical Airlift Squadrons listing projected missions of Westover aircraft through the following Friday."

## Simple Procedures

Reservists desiring space available transportation are required to follow a simple procedure. The first step is to contact base operations to find out about available aircraft destinations. Air Force reservists are not authorized to fly space available to overseas locations, however, flights to and from Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam as well as locations throughout the continental United States are permitted.

Arthur F. Murphy, Chief of airfield management, said, "After a reservist selects a flight, his or her unit commander must complete DD form 1853, Authentication of Reserve Status For Travel Eligibility. On the morning of the flight it is wise to call us at base operations, extensions 2917 or 2951, to confirm that the planned mission has not been changed or scrubbed."

If the mission is on schedule, Reserv-



ists are requested to report to base operations a minimum of two hours before flight time, dressed in one of the authorized blue service uniform combinations. On a first come, first serve basis, personnel desiring space availability must present their red military ID card (DD form 2) and their completed DD form 1853 to the base operations dispatcher before being manifested. It is extremely important to understand that the DD form 1853 should be kept by the traveling Reservist to assure authorization for return space available flights.

## Schedules can change

Passengers should also be aware that aircraft schedules can be revised on a moments notice. Takeoff times, destinations, over-nights, and cancellations are subjected to mission requirements and the needs of the Air Force.

No responsibility for space available passengers can be assumed by the Air Force. Travelers are on their own for meals, shelter and ground transporta-

tion and are cautioned to carry sufficient funds to cover expenses, especially if their aircraft is diverted to a location other than was planned. Be sure to allow sufficient travel time and advise your civilian employer of the possibility of returning late or of an unforeseeable absence beyond your control.

## Eligibility criterion

Members of reserve components who have received their official notification of retirement eligibility, but have not reached the mandatory retirement age of 60, are qualified for space available travel. To be manifested, retired reservists are required to fill out a Flight Certificate, DD form 1382, present their red ID card and letter of retirement. Wearing of a military uniform is not required.

Dependents of fully retired military personnel are not authorized space available travel within the United States. For overseas flights, on space available, dependents must be accompanied by the military retiree. On return flights from overseas, the first base of landing within the continental United States officially marks the end of the flight for dependents, even though the military retiree is authorized to continue on a space available basis. Overseas flights from Westover AFB by dependents are not authorized. Departures should be from a regular foreign clearance base, such as McGuire AFB, N.J.

## Uniform changes announced

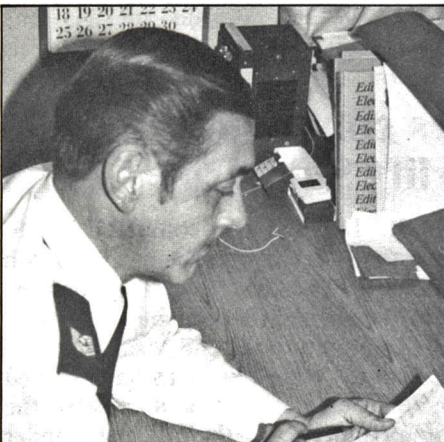
There are some changes in Air Force Regulations 35-10. A blue, wool pull-over sweater, for both men and women, is now authorized. The sweaters are on order at the base exchange. They will not be issued through clothing supply as they are an optional item.

Master, Senior Master, and Chief Master Sergeants are now authorized to wear insignia epaulets. The new grade insignia epaulets are now authorized to be worn on the light blue, short or long sleeve shirts. The insignia

should be placed as close to the shoulder seam as possible.

The metal chevrons for enlisted persons, placed on the all weather coat, should now be one inch up from the bottom collar and parallel with the outer edge. If in doubt, consult the diagram on pages 7-10 of AFR 35-10.

Clothing that will be phased out by July include the light blue long sleeve shirt without epaulets and the women's shade 1549 overcoat.



MSgt. Marshall Hathaway displays the new epaulet insignia senior NCOs are now authorized to wear.

(photo by Maj. Robert Carroll)

**DON'T FORGET**  
*Income Tax Deadline — April 15*

## Base photographers are Westover's image makers

By MSgt. Larry Lenz

Their jobs take them from pit fire exercises to a children's Christmas party; from the bright lights of center stage of commander's call to their dimly lit, windowless darkroom.

They're the base photographers whose responsibilities and travels range from documenting most of Westover's activities to taking official photographs.

### Accidents to passports

"One day we're shooting an automobile accident on base for the security police," explains SSgt. Howard Garbarsky, NCOIC of the Photo Shop. "The next day, we're processing passport pictures for a unit's personnel prior to their overseas deployment. We also support the Public Affairs office with photos for press releases and The Patriot. We've covered everything from training exercises in the field, to dining-outs and retirement ceremonies."

Other 439th Reserve photographers are, SSgt. Donald Talbot, SSgt. Debra Nogas and SrA. Mary Jean Adams. All four have extensive military and civilian backgrounds in darkroom technique and photo journalism. In 1976, Sergeant Garbarsky took second place honors in the MAC Photography Competition for his color work.

During the month photo assignments are completed by SMSgt. Clay Gallant. In addition to his primary responsibilities as the Wing Training Office's training technician, he oversees the overall operations of the photographer's section; supports the active duty and Reserve units' requests for photo coverage; and takes the passport photographs for military dependents.

"Before each UTA, I prepare the chemicals, load the film packs and assign some priority work," Sergeant Gallant explains. "But once the Reservists arrive, they're totally self-sufficient and have proven to be morfe than capable of handling any assignment."

### Over 3000 prints

In addition to their visible role of taking photos, each assignment includes film development and processing of prints. "Last year we made 3,199 prints from 2,622 exposures," reports Sergeant Garbarsky. "That doesn't include our participation in

Condor Redoubt. Last year, Sergeant Talbot was praised for his support of the exercise by helping to process more than 2,000 prints within a two-week period."

The photographers spend most of their time in the base photo lab — the small brick building on the base ellipse. It contains offices; a studio with a Deardorff 4" x 5" portrait camera; and darkroom suite which has all the required equipment from developing tanks with assorted chemicals to a photo enlarger.

"Yet the photographers enjoy getting out with camera in hand. Each assignment brings a different challenge and opportunity to become involved with different aspects of the 439th," concludes Sergeant Gallant. "As the eyes of Westover, it has been a very rewarding, positive experience."



SSgt. Howard Garbarsky, SSgt. Donald Talbot and SrA. Mary Jean Adams select negatives for printing.  
(photo by Maj. Robert Carroll)

## Public Affairs Captains highly "productive"

By SrA. Sandra M. Bartosz

Public affairs work can be a productive endeavor as was illustrated recently by Westover's public affairs officers.

In a recent coincidental burst of productivity, the wives of Capts. Rick Dyer and Dave Keefe, delivered infants just two days apart from each other.

On February 28, Rick Dyer's wife Kathleen gave birth to Brian Patrick Dyer, who weighed in at 7 pounds, 4 ounces. Brian is the second child for

the Dyers, who have a daughter Meghan, age 4.

Two days later on March 2, Dave Keefe's wife Pam gave birth to Emily Jean Keefe, a 7 pound, 9 ounce little girl. The Keefes have two other children, Matthew, age 6 and Benjamin, age 5.

The closeness of the births came as a surprise, especially to Kathleen Dyer "The baby wasn't due until March 20," she said.

## Westover Rifle Club established

By SrA. Mary Borelli

The Westover Reservist Rifle and Revolver Club (WRRRC) an affiliate of the National Rifle Association, has been established for Westover Reserve personnel.

The club was organized by a group of individuals from the 58 MAPS. After a formative meeting in December, the charter and by-laws were written and submitted to the base commander for approval. In February that approval came.

"Our objectives include demonstrating proper care and handling of firearms and helping members improve marksmanship for qualification shooting," said SMSgt. Leonard F. Dube, 58th terminal services NCOIC and

elected secretary/treasurer of the club. "We plan to offer programs for beginner to champion level," he added.

The club already has about 30 members and more are expected to join. The annual dues are \$3.00 and meetings are scheduled to be held during off-duty hours of UTAs.

"One of our goals," says SMSgt. Thomas E. Straight, NCOIC of air terminal operations command and president-elect of the club, "is to get together a team of marksmen from the WRRRC to represent Westover at Camp Perry's national competition."

Anyone interested in joining this club may contact TSgt. Lester H. Eldridge, the club's executive officer, during UTA's at the 58th MAP.

# Titan muscle hits Westover

By Sgt. Debbie Elliot

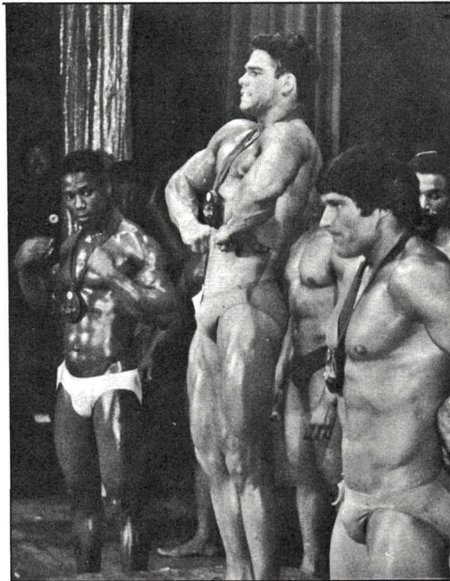
Mr. Titan sounds like a comic strip character but he is a real-life Reservist at Westover.

SSgt. Paul T. Burke, 439th CSG recreation specialist, is the current Mr. Titan, an international body building champion. Sergeant Burke, who joined the Reserve in January, won the tall-class title in London last year competing against a field of 33. The contest was sponsored by MGM Productions to promote their movie *The Clash of the Titans*.

Sergeant Burke has also won titles in U.S. body building competitions. Last August, he took third place in the Region III championships which included the states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, and Northern Florida. One month later, he placed third in the New England Region I championships.

"I've always had the desire to be strong," said Sergeant Burke, who began his athletic career as an arm wrestler. Just after high school graduation, Sergeant Burke won his first arm wrestling trophy. Two years later he took first place in the Northern Country Arm Wrestling Championships in Berlin, N.H.

About this time, Sergeant Burke decided to join the active duty Air Force. "I enlisted for two reasons. Number one, I'm not an ordinary person and I wanted to do something out of the



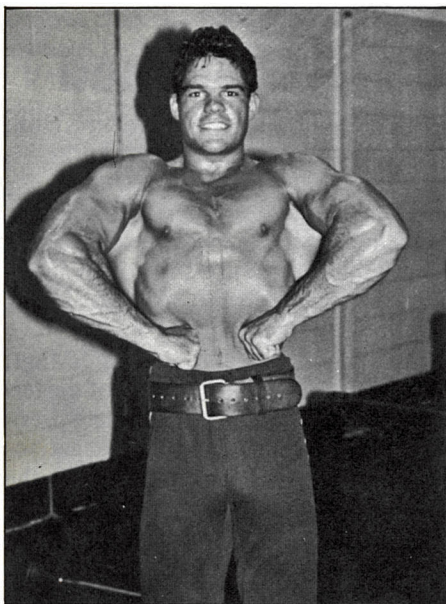
In only his second body building competition, Paul Burke takes his place on the center stage signifying him as Mr. Titan.

ordinary. Secondly, I'm patriotic; I feel a responsibility to this country and I wanted to serve in some way." Soon Sergeant Burke was on his way to RAF Woodbridge in England where he became a crew chief on an HH-53C, the "Jolly Green Giant." In England he was involved in many search and rescue missions in the North Atlantic.

While in England, Sergeant Burke was the reigning arm wrestling champion in his weight class. "In arm wrestling," said Sergeant Burke, "there are six weight classes. They include: the under 150, 150-165, 166-185, 186-200, 201-225, and over 226-pound weight classes." He explained that the most difficult weight class to wrestle in is the 166-185 pound class because this is where most of the wrestlers participate. Until two years ago, Sergeant Burke competed in this weight class, but now competes as a 186-200 pound wrestler.

"Body building and arm wrestling are two different and distinct activities," he explained. "Body builders don't usually arm wrestle because they're afraid of breaking an arm. Arm wrestlers aren't usually body builders, because they then have to develop the entire body." In his case, arm wrestling led to body building. He has won championships in both sports.

"It's unusual to do both," repeats Sergeant Burke, "but then again, I'm not your ordinary person."



Paul Burke poses to show the results of consistent weight lifting.

## Briefs

### MSgt. Burlock receives air traffic control award

MSgt. Floyd L. Burlock, new Chief Controller with the 1917th Communications Squadron, has been selected Air Traffic Control Watch Supervisor of the year.

Sergeant Burlock, received the award for outstanding performance of job duties as control tower watch supervisor. Sergeant Burlock joined Westover, from Pope AFB, N.C., on December 31, 1981.

### 74 AES Volunteers

Capt. Mary Griffin-Bales, a 74AES flight nurse instructor and five flight medical technicians conducted a free blood pressure screening clinic for senior citizens at the Chicopee boys club on March 10. Volunteers from the 74th were: TSgt. Donald Cheevy, TSgt. Cindy Muniec, SSgt. Steven Caraker, SSgt. Patricia Peterson, and SSgt. Bill Roberts.

### Reserve keeps C-123s for aerial spray mission

ROBINS AFB, GA. (AFRNS) — Three C-123K Provider aircraft are being retained in the Air Force Reserve inventory at Rickenbacker ANG Base, Ohio to continue the Department of Defense aerial spray capability. The mission to control disease-carrying insects and pests, such as mosquitoes, grasshoppers and Japanese beetles, was taken over from the active forces in 1973.

Earlier plans called for retirement of all Air Force C-123 aircraft and inactivation of the unit containing the aerial spray branch.

The aerial spray mission will transfer from the 906th Tactical Airlift Group at Rickenbacker to the collocated 907th TAG.

**PROMOTED**

Lt. Col. Jay A. Johnson  
 Maj. Stephen V. Morrison  
 Sgt. Frances Breedlove  
 Sgt. Thomas J. Brown  
 Sgt. Robert L. Foley  
 Sgt. Richard E. Heath  
 Sgt. Helen M. Hillman  
 Sgt. Janet E. Marcello  
 Sgt. Kevin T. O'Brien  
 Sgt. Brian P. Picard  
 Sgt. Robert E. Rys  
 Sgt. Ellen E. Smith  
 Sgt. Bryan P. Stewart  
 Sgt. Laberta D. Squires  
 Sgt. Kathleen M. Yost

**ENLISTED**

TSgt. Patrick F. Kennedy  
 TSgt. James M. Long  
 SSgt. Arthur F. Flynn Jr.  
 SSgt. Gary C. Kwasnik  
 SSgt. Thomas L. Taylor  
 Sgt. Vincent T. Algozino  
 AB Ardel M. Callender

AB Carl R. Candiano  
 AB Mark S. Hager  
 AB George A. Jenkins  
 AB Lori J. Lester  
 AB William N. Mailhott  
 AB Charles L. Mello  
 AB John M. Zabawski

**REENLISTED**

SMSgt. Charles D. Arvin Jr.  
 MSgt. Lawrence H. Lentz  
 MSgt. Nicholas F. Perfido  
 MSgt. Robert H. Tetreault



TSgt. Paul A. Carroccia  
 TSgt. David A. Cavanaugh  
 TSgt. Michael J. Conboy  
 TSgt. Francis A. Dicorleto  
 TSgt. Joseph E. Enderle Jr.  
 TSgt. Michael B. Horton  
 TSgt. Kenneth M. Huckins  
 TSgt. Walter W. Lagasse  
 TSgt. Robert N. Lareau  
 TSgt. Christopher A. Lee  
 TSgt. John C. Miller  
 TSgt. John M. Missale  
 TSgt. Donald E. Plouffe

TSgt. Frank S. Rys  
 TSgt. Russell G. Sabbag  
 TSgt. Alan J. Sorensen  
 TSgt. Robert A. Sousa  
 TSgt. Joseph R. Sullivan  
 TSgt. Raymond W. Wright  
 SSgt. Robert D. Brown  
 SSgt. Charles W. Collier  
 SSgt. Martha F. Costa  
 SSgt. Andrew J. Devault  
 SSgt. Roberto Diaz  
 SSgt. Christopher P. Doyle  
 SSgt. Suzanne M. Henderson  
 SSgt. David W. King  
 SSgt. Donald L. Loveland Jr.  
 SSgt. John J. Maslowski  
 SSgt. Herbert B. Montana  
 SSgt. Anthony Naylor  
 SSgt. Cedric L. Ricketts Jr.  
 SSgt. Danial J. Turner  
 SSgt. Richard E. Wojtowicz  
 Sgt. Nicholas B. Staszko III  
 SrA. Joseph M. R. Berthiaume  
 SrA. Linda E. Gould  
 SrA. Donald E. Kobis

**Commander's Call**

March's commanders call included the presentation of an Air Force Commendation Medal to Tech. Sgt. Barbara A. Lozanski of the 439th Tactical Hospital.

Sergeant Lozanski received the award for outstanding service as the NCOIC of aeromedical services. Her skills, knowledge, and leadership were cited as an immeasurable aid to the success of her unit's mission.

**Sergeants elect**

Retired CMSgt. Joe Kulewicz, was reelected president of Chapter 109, Air Force Sergeants Association at its annual elections in February. Other winners were MSgt. Marshall Hathaway, wing historian, as vice president; Sgt. Rick Williams, Detachment 5, 1ACOMMG, trustee for active duty affairs and SMSgt. Rodney Reinhold, 104th TFG, trustee for Air National Guard affairs.

First trustee a floating position and the trusteeships for retired and AFRES affairs are held by Ken Poteete, retired MSgt; Dale Altman, 439th transportation officer; TSgt. Wilbur Hunt, 905th CES fire inspector, respectively.

Chapter 109 holds general membership meeting the first Tuesday of every month, 7:30 pm at the Consolidated Open Mess.

**New option: an IRA**

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Military members may establish individual Retirement Accounts beginning Jan. 1, 1982, under a provision of the administration's tax package.

Amounts put in the account are excluded from gross income and the interest income is not taxed until withdrawn. To get full advantage of an IRA the money should not be withdrawn until age 59½. Presumably, the taxpayer will then be in a lower tax bracket.

In the past, a person could put 15 percent of his/her earnings into an IRA, up to a maximum of \$1,500 a year — or \$1,750 if the IRA included a non-working spouse. In January, that amount will increase to \$2,200, or \$2,250 in a spousal IRA.

Allowance for a spousal IRA has also changed. Under the old provision a worker with a spousal IRA had to split the contribution 50-50. If the full \$1,750 was deposited, \$875 went to each spouse's IRA.



Brig. Gen. Donald E. Haugen, 439th TAW commander, explains the significance of the Gen. Claire Chennault trophy to Chaplain (1st Lt.) James N. Drucker, 439th TAW, and to the Most Rev. Michael J. Dudick, D.D., the bishop of Passaic (N.J.). The Bishop, in Massachusetts to rededicate Father Drucker's St. Michael's Church in South Hadley, visited Westover Sat. Feb 6.

## After Pilgrim Airlines Crash

# Wing Pilot nominated for Airman's medal



The wreckage of the Pilgrim Airlines twin-engine de Havilland Otter is shown shortly after the Boston-bound commuter plane carrying 12 people crash landed on the frozen Scituate Reservoir in Rhode Island when fire broke out in the cabin.

By SSgt. Gordon A. Newell

Capt. Harry R. Polychron, a 731st aircraft commander, has been nominated for the Airman's Medal for his role after the crash landing of Pilgrim Airlines Flight 458 on a frozen reservoir in Rhode Island on Feb. 21.

"This was the first and hopefully the last time I'll be in a situation like this," the veteran of some 5,000 flying hours said.

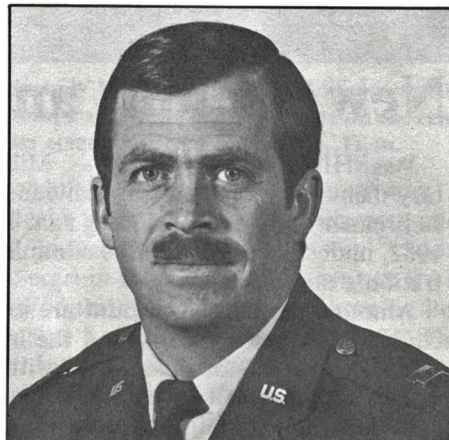
Captain Polychron, who in civilian life is a flight engineer on a Boeing 727 for USAir, boarded the ill-fated De Havilland of Canada DHC-6 Twin Otter in Groton Conn. heading for Boston where he was scheduled for duty in a USAir flight.

"Between 15 and 18 minutes into the flight," he said, "I noticed ice was building up on the windshield. We were flying in clouds and I soon noticed gray smoke drifting from the cockpit area."

"Not long after that, heavy black smoke began to fill the cockpit and the pilots were obviously having trouble. The smoke then started flowing into the cabin area and my first reaction was to open the air vent above my head."

"The next thing I remember doing was smashing three or four windows with my tennis racquet. That was when I first noticed flames behind the captain's side of the cockpit. I tried to extinguish the fire with a trench coat but was not very successful."

"At one point I stuck my head out one of the broken windows and could see that we had emerged from the clouds. The pilots were doing an excel-



Capt. Harry R. Polychron, Jr., 731st TAS aircraft commander.

lent job of keeping the plane under control. I soon could see the ground and knew it wouldn't be long before we touched down."

"I then headed back to my seat to strap myself in but the seat was on fire, forcing me to remain standing during impact. When the plane finally came to rest, I tried to pull myself through one of the open windows but the opening was too small so I then headed for the

main entry door."

"On the way to the back of the plane, a girl who was still in her seat, told me she was blind and asked me to help here. I dragged her off the plane and onto the ice where other passengers and the crew were waiting. We had no way of knowing if everyone had gotten off safely; it was too late to go back aboard anyway because the fuselage was completely engulfed in flames by then."

Unfortunately everyone had not gotten out. One passenger apparently burned to death in her seat. Officials said they did not know why the woman could not get out of the burning craft.

Captain Polychron suffered a dislocated right shoulder, second degree burns to a leg, his back and face and a possible knee injury. He and other survivors were also treated for smoke inhalation. He will be recuperating at his East Lyme, Conn. home for at least four and possibly six weeks with his injured arm immobilized in a sling.

### Pilots praised

Captain Polychron was very high in his praise of the pilots' actions in bringing the plane down. "At one point they were flying with their heads out the windows.

The plane slammed onto the two-foot thick ice of the Scituate Reservoir and slid 400 yards before coming to rest 200 yards short of Tunk Hill Road in Scituate.

The aircraft, a 19-seater, burned for 35 to 40 minutes after the crash. Both flight officers as well as 11 other passengers were injured.

The National Transportation Safety Board and the Federal Aviation Administration were investigating the crash and have yet to publish any cause.

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