



THE PATRIOT



439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING

WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE, MASS.

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731st TAS wins outstanding unit award

by SSgt. Gordon A. Newell

The 731st Tactical Airlift Squadron is leaving in style.

Scheduled to be de-activated at Westover in October, prior to being re-activated at Peterson AFB, Colo., the 731st is one of only five Air Force Reserve units to be named recipient of the Outstanding Unit Award.

"Naturally I'm delighted and extremely proud that the 731st has been selected for this award," said Col. Edward F. Lincoln, squadron commander. "It is a tribute to the skill, professionalism and dedication of every member of this unit.

"For the 13 years that I've been in this

squadron, I've known it was exceptional. It just took the Air Force that long to find out," he smiled.

Winning awards is nothing new for the 731st. A year ago, the unit won the coveted Claire Chennault Award, a trophy given to the unit with the best record in such areas as mission readiness, safety, flying skills and adherence to a prescribed operational procedure.

"I'm really happy that the 731st was selected," said Brig. Gen. Donald E. Haugen, 439th commander. "They truly deserve this honor, and it is a fitting climax to their distinguished tenure here at Westover."

Lt. Col. Gale H. French, operations

officer of the 731st, offered some statistics to help show why the unit was selected for its latest honor. During the first six months of 1981, the 731st, which has 18C-123 aircraft, 24 CRE and 145 members, logged 2,600 flying hours, 1,560 landings and 723 training and cross-country sorties. They also transported 61.5 tons of cargo and 1,611 passengers.

They air dropped an additional 104.5 tons of cargo and 4,863 paratroopers. The 731st also passed all higher headquarters evaluations and accomplished 100 percent of its training mission requirements for all flight crew members.

(continued on page 8)

Scott selected Senior Enlisted Advisor for AFRES

A veteran Westover Air Force Base Reservist, CMSgt. Henry J. Scott has been selected as the Senior Enlisted Advisor for the Air Force Reserve.

Scott, first sergeant for the 439th CSG at Westover AFB, was chosen for the top enlisted position in the Air Force Reserve by Maj. Gen. Richard Bodycombe, commander of the Air Force Reserve.

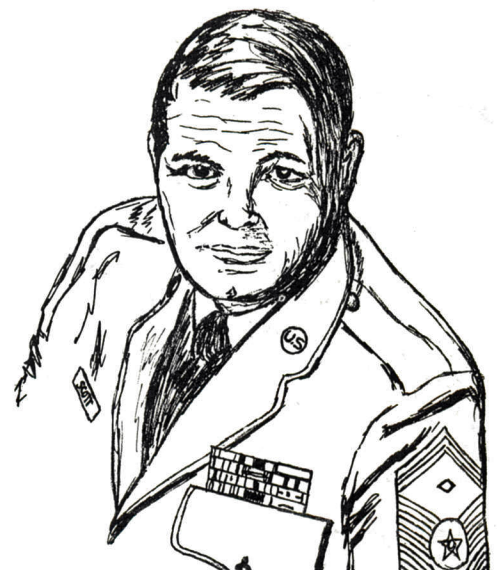
A Reservist since 1964, Chief Scott said, "I feel excited about the challenge of going into the Senior Enlisted position. We face some tough problems ahead, including trying to come up with a better enlisted promotion system. In fact, that will be one of my top priorities when I meet with all of the Air Force Reserve Senior Enlisted Advisors at Robins AFB, Ga. in June.

"I am definitely a people's man and

intend to make sure that enlisted personnel have a voice in the programs and policies that will have a direct impact on them."

One of 19 candidates for the assignment throughout the Air Force Reserve, CMSgt. Scott has been the first sergeant of the 439th CSG since 1973. A graduate of the Senior NCO Academy at Gunter AFB, Ala. and the First Sergeant's Academy at Keesler AFB, Miss., Chief Scott will be reporting to the Headquarters, Air Force Reserve at Robins AFB on June 1.

A resident of Boylston, Mass., he is president of the Nashoba Pump Inc. Scott is married to the former Elizabeth Fuess of Auburn, Mass. They have three daughters Lisa, 18; Wendy, 16; and Robin, 15.



CMSgt. Henry J. Scott
(Artwork by Joanne Pothoff)

Disaster prep takes top AFRES billing

The recent Disaster Preparedness Competition, held by the Air Force Reserve Headquarters, was anything but a disaster for the 439th. Its disaster preparedness personnel took three of the seven awards given.

The unit won for its Base Disaster Preparedness Program. The office was especially cited for its training of the 220 member disaster response force; liaison with area Civil Defense agencies, and its chemical warfare defense training program. Over 1900 received CWD and mask confidence training.

Westover's Disaster Preparedness Support Team was recognized for its successful completion of all on-base courses and training. In June, 1981, as part of a "mass casualty" exercise with staff from three local hospitals, the team established a control area and communications between the simulated crash site, ambulances, helicopter and hospital emergency room.

DP team members

The team includes: Louis Cote, Daniel Dearborn, David Echols, Curtis Godbolt, TSgt. Richard Halla, Barbara Hurst, Mark Kashimian, Pericles Kastarakis, Richard King, Janet Lemieux, TSgt. Richard LePage, TSgt. Anibal Rivera and MSgt. Stanley Svec.

MSgt. Albert R. Breton also was honored for his role as Disaster Pre-

paredness NCO. In addition to his responsibilities in training Reservists in nuclear, biological and chemical procedures; and inspecting units, Sergeant Breton instituted a Pre-Basic Training indoctrination course and helped develop a computerized method of recording and updating chemical warfare defense training records.

AFRES honor 3 years

In the previous 14 AF regional contests, Westover's John R. Wilson, disaster preparedness office manager, was chosen as its nominee to the AFRES competition. He was honored each of the three years the award has existed. He serves as coordinator of all disaster preparedness activities at Westover and assists other active duty and Air Reserve units. Mr. Wilson is credited for the formation of a training program for unit disaster preparedness officers and NCO's.

In addition, Maj. Harold Lawrence, was cited by the 14th personnel for his work as an additional duty Air Reserve Technician Preparedness Officer for wing/maintenance. He will receive a Certificate of Achievement.

The 439th's Disaster Preparedness, Mobility Team is similarly credited. The team, of TSgts. John Hoerner, Paul Lamontagne, James Lacroix, and Anthony Manuel; and SSgt. Halyna



Chaiewyca, was recognized for its participation in two exercises at local nuclear plants, Yankee Rowe and Vermont Yankee.

"These awards reflect the many accomplishments of the past year. But we wouldn't have been able to complete half of these projects without the assistance and support of a lot of people," explained Mr. Wilson. "Commanders at all levels insured their units participation. Civil engineers helped by building our KMU-450 decontamination mock-up and provided our mask confidence training building. Members of the 439CSG fulfilled our requests for transportation, food and clothing during exercises and actual emergencies. Corpsmen from the base hospital were always available at the mask confidence training to help soothe irritated eyes and offer first aid.

"We could not maintain the high degree of disaster preparedness without their involvement and concern. These awards, therefore, belong to everyone at Westover who helped with the training and who took the training."



The 439th TAW travels on the ground as well as in the air. Col. Warner E. Jones, commander, 439th Tactical Hospital, displays his special license plate which helps to promote the Wing wherever he drives. (USAF photo by TSgt. A. Sorenson)

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58th MAPS welcomed at Dover

Story and photos by
By SrA. Mary Borrelli

The briefing began at 6:30 on the evening of April 16. The C-130 was boarded by 7:00 with takeoff soon after. By 8:15 the 58th MAPS was landing at Dover Air Force Base, Del. for its UTA.

The 58th spends four training periods at active duty bases each year. Of these, three are fly-aways usually to either Pope Air Force Base in North Carolina or Dover. The last is their annual tour.

Because Dover is a busy strategic aerial port, serving the Mideast and Europe, it is an ideal base for aerial port training.

"With upwards of 10,000 tons of materials passing through our aerial port each month, you can be assured we make good use of the reserve troops" said Donald L. McGhee, Reserve coordinator for the 436th APS at Dover.

With such huge amounts of cargo passing through the base, it is an excellent place for the Reservists to get hands-on training in their field.

"Most of the training our unit receives at Westover is classroom oriented. Some pallets are built up with mock cargo and there is always some type of aerial port activity going on, but the chance for real hands-on training comes on flyaway UTA or annual tours," said Capt. Rocky Quintana, squadron operations officer. "Westover is just not equipped the way an active base is," he



Reservists use a 40K loader to load cargo on a PanAm Cargo Boeing 747 at Dover AFB.

added.

"We integrate into each part of the aerial port activities," SM Sgt. Edward M. Sierzego, squadron first sergeant explains. "Our troops practice on materials handling equipment, help in the air terminal operations center, on ramp crews, in the warehouse, loading platforms and passengers. This gives our longer standing members a chance to use their knowledge and skills, and the newer members of the unit a chance to

learn new skills and techniques."

"And the Reserve units are a welcome sight. Our workload often surges on weekends, exceeding our active duty manning capabilities," explained Capt. Lovidyas Conner, 436th APS duty officer in ATOC. "So when a Reserve unit comes in to give a hand, everyone benefits. They get training not otherwise available, and we get our work done."

According to Mr. McGhee, there are usually 42 Reserve UTA weekends scheduled per year. With that amount of exposure to units such as the 58th, the active duty personnel have become accustomed to the Reservists help.

The training also gave added confidence to the 58th personnel. "I enjoy the chance to work with equipment we don't have at Westover," said Sgt. Lillian M. Cote, a ramp crew member of the 58th. "These fly-aways give us a chance to put into practice the classroom training we've received. It proves we're a capable unit."

The praise of the Dover training also is shared by the full-time counter parts and Captain Conner, "I like knowing that there are capable people behind me, backing myself and my unit. From what I have seen of the 58th, I am sure that they could take over an active duty aerial port should the need ever arise. And that they would do one good job at it too."



SSgt. Guy H. Roy (l.) and TSgt. Ronald R. Benoit, both from 58 MAPS, review PAX information at Dover AFB.

The Ugliest Bartender in Western Mass.



Blanche Schwartz displays her "ugliest bartender T-shirt. (USAF photo by MSgt. M. Hathaway)

By TSgt. John Wallace Spencer

Mrs. Schwartz, better known to Westover Consolidated Open Mess patrons as Blanche, is proud of her title as the "ugliest bartender in Western Massachusetts."

Ugly in Blanche's case does not refer to appearance, rather the title pertains to the fight against the ugly disease Multiple Sclerosis.

Blanche got involved in the unusual event when her long time friend, retired MSgt. Bob Borewell asked if she would be willing to enter the upcoming MS fund raising contest. To Borewell, it was more than just a fun venture, eight years ago he was medically discharged from the Air Force after contracting MS.

Contest rules were very simple. All wishing to give their support to Blanche had to donate 25 cents per vote. Blanche said it sounded like great fun so she eagerly accepted the challenge.

Open mess regulations prohibit posters in the club therefore, Blanche had to promote the worthwhile cause by word of mouth. Before long voter turnout became heavy as Westover personnel answered the call.

REENLISTED

CMSgt. Sidney W. Wells
MSgt. Paul W. Adkins
TSgt. Joseph A. Beckman
TSgt. Donald C. Cherry, Jr.
TSgt. Gregory W. Cross
TSgt. Richard W. Esselen
TSgt. Michael L. Goldberg
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TSgt. Jerome T. Maxwell, Sr.
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SSgt. Reginald Feazell
SSgt. Michael V. Greco
SSgt. Keith A. Randall
SSgt. Kenneth M. Ware
SrA. Alan E. Jarry

ENLISTED

TSgt. Robert J. Portonova
TSgt. Victor R. Tetreault



SSgt. James W. Beckwith, Sr.
SSgt. Catherine A. Litrenta
SSgt. Kathleen J. Nelson
SSgt. Robert A. St. George
SSgt. Paul R. Seymour
SSgt. Myron W. Spencer
Sgt. Karen J. Bullock
Sgt. William A. Cannata, Jr.
Sgt. Steven E. Murphy
A1C Nancy E. Taylor
A1C John W. Tinnemeyer
AB Philip J. Bergeron
AB Rocco Cardillo, Jr.

AB Robert E. Dixon, Jr.
AB Mary E. Gibbs
AB David Pranaitis

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TSgt. Peter E. Jensen
SSgt. John W. Clark
SSgt. Mary P. Ferriter
SSgt. John W. Giles
Sgt. Mark D. Bernier
Sgt. Richard D. J. Bready
Sgt. Wayne E. Britto
Sgt. David K. N. Carter
Sgt. Paul E. Cote
Sgt. Alan E. Jarry
Sgt. Philip J. Lupien
Sgt. Stephen J. Smith
Sgt. John F. Szewc
Sgt. Michael F. Walton
SrA. John R. Beynor, Sr.
SrA. Pamela J. Nelson
SrA. Judy Osborne
A1C Rita L. Moore
A1C Aurelio Tomas

Commander's Call awards

Brig. Gen. Donald E. Haugen presented the Air Force Commendation Medal to four wing members during the May commander's Call.

Lt. Col. Larry W. Bryant, 439 TAW, for his work with computer programs and personnel management of Mobilization Assignees, pre-bees and Palace Option officers.

Maj. Alvin J. Burge, commander, 905th Communications Flight, received the first Oak Leaf Cluster for his many accomplishments including, "developing and implementing research projects in the field of communications."

Two members of the 439th Tactical Hospital were also presented medals:

MSgt. Raffaele Frieri, NCOIC of the surgical operating room for his skill and professionalism.

MSgt. Mark S. Gilyard, a dental technician and medical services NCOIC for his skill and professionalism.

Communications plaques presented.

Maj. Gen. Robert F. McCarthy, Air Force Communications Command commander, recently toured Westover's Detachment 5, 1st Aerospace Communications Group. After a briefing and tour by CMSgt. Ronald F. Feitel, detachment chief, General McCarthy presented certificates and plaques to SSgt. Martin Slovinsky and A1C Leslie Callan for their selection as the unit's NCO and Airman of the Quarter.



"Welcome to Company A, sergeant. Before you assume your duties, I'd like for us to have a father-to-son-type orientation."

New fraud, waste and abuse prevention program begun

Q. What are some examples of fraud, waste and abuse?

A. There's a case of waste in which an NCO, not at Westover, ordered aircraft parts listed at \$9.60 each. When they didn't arrive, he reverified and was quoted a price of \$28 each. He became concerned and approached his supervisor, who did nothing. The NCO then called the Air Force's Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline and questioned the price. Later, Inspector General personnel found an error in the stock number. The correct price should have been 83 cents each. The net savings from unnecessary expense was \$13,500 at that one base.

An example of fraud concerns people, on TDY, who must list expenses to reclaim a portion of their per diem. Because no receipt is necessary, they inflate their cost of meals. If only a couple of dollars per meal, the figure multiplied by all on TDY becomes huge.

Q. What happened in the past to correct these abuses?

A. When people became concerned over unnecessary expenditures, they frequently heard a co-worker or supervisor say, "What do you care, it's not coming out of your pocket!" But it is — through taxes. President Reagan and his cabinet officers have vowed to cut all unnecessary expenditures of funds. The Air Force Chief of Staff has taken this as a personal responsibility and is supported by all commanders under him.

In the past, the NCO's supervisor, in the first example, had the final word. That's not so today. In the second, a

(an interview with Lt. Col. Donald L. Ridgway)



more honest individual could have informed either a unit commander or the I.G. of the padding. Unit commanders, however, did not truly know which agency to go to, such as the base supply officer or the accounting or finance officer. Often, it would be inappropriately referred. The I.G. didn't have the investigation capability and the Office of Special Investigations needed pretty strong evidence.

Q. How will the new program work at Westover?

A. Suspected irregularities include such areas as the improper justification of incentive awards; the knowingly improper use of government equipment and supplies; civilian workers' abuse of working hours; awarding contracts to companies not qualified and not the lowest bidder; ordering too many items from supply.

Anyone who suspects these irregularities has a duty to report them. They should first try to resolve the problem through their supervisor. If unable, or unwilling to do so, or the problem involves a higher authority than the supervisor, the individual should come directly to me. In March, I was appointed Fraud, Waste and Abuse Oversight and Review Officer by General Haugen. I'm located in the Wing Safety Office, at the Base Operations Building, or could be reached at extension 3122 or 3587.

Q. What happens next?

A. The individual should sign a statement or make an in-person report. I'll investigate and provide an individualized, personal answer. Anonymous reports may be made. However, complainants need have no fear of reprisal. I will investigate all reports without disclosing the source. Then, I'll recommend corrective action to the responsible manager. Using a local office will greatly reduce the time needed to investigate each case.

If court action becomes necessary, the individual must be prepared to testify. I must also caution against those individuals who knowingly make malicious or untruthful statements. They could be held responsible for their actions.

I believe there are only few violating the trust of the American people. There will be some cases resulting from misunderstandings. But it is imperative that we uncover the "bad guys." It's the only way we can stretch our budget dollars.

Briefs

Budget officer gets credit

Doing a balanced job has paid off for Budget Officer Jim Farrell as he recently received AFRES recognition.

Farrell was honored as the AFRES Budget Officer of the Quarter, first quarter FY 82. He was awarded a plaque at the AFRES Budget Officers Conference in Marietta, Ga.

Farrell has been with the Westover budget office for the six years.

CCE during June UTA

More than 120 members of the 439th TAW will receive continued training during the Combat Capability Exercises, scheduled for June 5. The exercise is designed to appraise the readiness of 439th personnel in a simulated combat environment.

SMSgt. Owen F. Connelly, Wing Mobility Plans NCOIC, estimated that over 37,000 pounds of cargo will be processed and loaded on two C-130 aircraft during the exercise. "This is the necessary training to ensure that all critical areas work together well."

Civic leaders tour in May

The 439th TAW hosted more than 45 area civic leaders on a tour to Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio, on May 13 and 14. The event is designed to keep business, industry, and government leaders in touch with Westover and the mission of the Air Force Reserve. The two-day tour included briefings on Air Force exercises and a tour of the Air Force Museum. Mayor Robert F. Kumor, Jr. of Chicopee and Mayor Ernest E. Proulx of Holyoke were among the guests.

How much money will Reservists receive if mobilized?

by TSgt. John Wallace Spencer

Exactly how much money can you count on from the Air Force in the event of mobilization?

To alleviate the concern in advance, and to assure that pay record information is current and correct, periodically every Reservist is mailed a personalized test, Leave and Earnings Statement, AFR Form 141.

An unofficial survey indicates that more than 80 percent of Westover Reservists do not thoroughly understand the various breakdowns and abbreviations on their statements.

To assist in the understanding of this important area, each section of AF Form 141 is briefly explained. The language used is in the past tense as if mobilization had already occurred.

ENTITLEMENTS - BASE PAY: Rate of monthly basic pay before deductions.

QUARTERS: Basic Allowance for Quarters, BAQ, is paid to military member with dependents.

RATIONS: Basic Allowance for Subsistence, BAS, is paid to single personnel authorized to reside off base and to married personnel living with their dependents.

CLOTHING: Replacement clothing allowance is paid to active Air Force members.

VHA: Variable Housing Allowance is the amount paid to members residing in the United States or for member's dependents living in the USA while the active duty member is serving an unaccompanied overseas assignment.

TOTAL: Total monthly entitlements prior to deductions.

DEDUCTIONS - FICA: The amount deducted as authorized by the Federal Insurance Contributions Act, (Social Security).

FITW: The amount of Federal income taxes withheld.

SGLI: The amount of premium deducted for Servicemen's Group Life Insurance.

STATE TX: If the reservist's home of record is Massachusetts or another state requiring an income tax, the Air Force will withhold appropriate taxes.

EVEN \$: The Air Force pays in even dollars with odd change held in reserve to be paid at a later date.

TOTAL: Total amount of all deductions.

PAYMENTS MM 6781: Mid-month

pay issued by the Hanscom AB disbursing station.

TOTAL: Total net pay Reservist will receive on the 15th of each month.

YOUR EOM PAY: Total net pay Reservist will receive on the last day of each month.

TAXES, SOCIAL SECURITY, FEDERAL, STATE:

WAGES THIS MONTH: The three repeat amounts represent the before deduction, base pay for the initial month of activation.

WAGES YR TO DATE: Since the test pay statement is prepared for the initial month of activation, the three repeat amounts represent the gross wages before deductions.

BAL TO ETS: is listed at 30 days because the Air Force assumes the member will serve through their estimated term of service. **EXCESS:** is the number of leave days taken in excess of those accrued.

The information provided in the box below the LEAVE section shows the year, month and day. In brackets is the Gregorian calendar countdown. This section also shows the start and change dates to quarters and housing allowances. **ACCESSION:** the date named reservists was activated and the number of exemptions claimed for federal and state income tax purposes.

FOR-SSAN: Social Security Account Number. **PERIOD:** Month of activation.

PAY				TAXES					
ITEMIZED		SUMMARY		SOC SEC		FEDERAL		STATE	
BAL FWD		00		WAGES THIS MONTH	927 90	927 90	927 90	927 90	
ENTITLEMENTS				WAGES YR TO DATE	927 90	927 90	927 90	927 90	
BASE PAY	927	90		DEDT'N YR TO DATE	61 71	147 52	461 56		
QUARTERS	8	70		EXEMPTIONS	SINGLE	0	STATE OF LEGAL RES.	MA	
RATIONS		00		LEAVE					
CLOTHING				BAL FWD	EARNED	USED	NEW BAL	BAL TO ETS	EXCESS
TOTAL			936 60	0	25	0	25	300	0
DEDUCTION				START	EVEN \$ PAYMENT			811201	(335)
FICA	61	71		START	ACCESSION			811201	(335)
FITW	147	52		START	QUARTERS ALLOW			811201	(335)
SGLI	5	25		CHANGE	FITW EXEMPTION			811201	(335)
STATE TX	46	56		CHANGE	SITW EXEMPTION			811201	(335)
EVEN \$		56		EVEN DOLLAR HELD PAY BAL					\$.56
TOTAL			261 60						
ALLOTMENTS									
TOTAL			00						
PAYMENTS									
MM 6781	337	00		FOR	SSAN	PERIOD	DEC 1981		
TOTAL			337 00	GRADE	E5	YRS	06	PAYDATE	740416
				ETS 821130					
				SAMPLE					
YOUR EOM PAY				338 00		EOM PAY			
CARRIED FORWARD				00		SENT TO ACCOUNT NO.			

FORM 141 AF APR 80 PREVIOUS EDITION IS OBSOLETE

THIS IS A TEST PAY STATEMENT OF WHAT YOUR MONTHLY ACTIVE DUTY PAY WOULD BE IF MOBILIZED. YOUR LOCAL PAYROLL OFFICE CAN ASSIST YOU IN MAKING NEEDED CHANGES OR CORRECTIONS AND PROVIDE YOU ALLOTMENT OR SURE PAY INFORMATION. KEEP THIS FORM FOR MOBILIZATION PROCESSING

You must present this statement to your AFO for all pay matters.

DEDT'N TO DATE: Deductions are for the initial month of activation and are the same as those listed under DEDUCTION.

EXEMPTIONS: Marital status and number of dependents.

STATE OF LEGAL RES.: Your state of legal residence used for tax purpose.

LEAVE: Active Air Force personnel accrue 2.5 leave days for each month served. Since the test pay statement is for the initial month of activation no balance is brought forward, (BAL FWD) and only 2.5 days have been accrued, (EARNED). No leave time has been USED and the NEW BAL is 2.5 days.

GRADE: Pay grade. **YRS:** Number of years for pay purposes. **PAYDATE:** This date indicate the year, month and day used to establish paydate. The date is arrived at through a finance computation and does not necessarily coincide with enlistment, re-enlistment or discharge dates. **ETS:** The member's estimated term of service by year, month and day.

It is important to carefully review your test AF Form 141 and if an error is detected contact the 439th CBPO payroll office as soon as possible. Also it is advisable that Reservists keep this form for mobilization processing.

They read the skies before Westover flies

By MSgt. Larry Lentz

"If you want a truly reliable weather forecast — don't ask me — go ask a farmer!!! I only have the services of the most sophisticated equipment and the Air Force's Global Weather Central at Offutt AFB, Neb. Farmers can tell the future by looking at their cows. When a storm approaches, the animals huddle together and lay down," MSgt. Dennis Gagne, said tongue-in-cheek. He's Chief of Operating Location B, Detachment 6, 26th Weather Squadron, 3rd Weather Wing, at Westover.

'If you want a truly reliable weather forecast . . . go ask a farmer!'

"While everyone talks about the weather, it seems they all ask me what is it going to be. If we sometimes miss our predictions, they get upset and don't let me forget. But like that farmer, we can only observe present conditions, consider past performance and then make an educated guess. Unlike the farmer, we use the latest in weather technology."

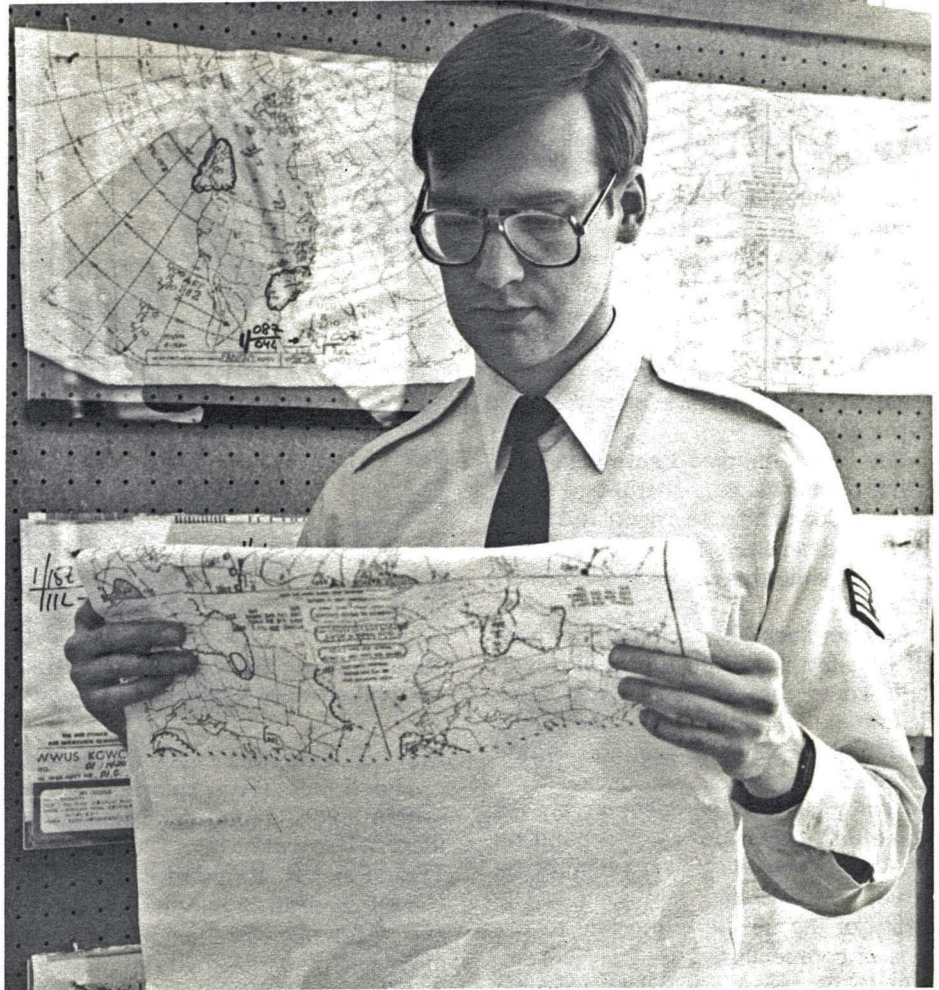
The record snow storm of last April, which dumped 15 inches of snow in the Springfield area, pointed out our reliance on the forecaster's ability to predict the future yet vulnerability to changing atmospheric conditions.

"Every weekday morning, I or SSgt. Bob Cari, also a weather forecaster, brief General Haugen and other key wing members," Sergeant Gagne continued. "On Monday, the day before the storm, using our computer printouts from Offutt and our best estimates, we warned of a one to two-inch snow fall, and more if the storm center moved north. By Tuesday, we had revised our forecast to a four to six-inch accumulation. Our predictions were similar to those of other local forecasters."

'Talking about today's weather is a science'

The discrepancy between the actual and the predicted was based on two assumptions.

The first was made by the computer. It determined that the storm would intensify. But a one half degree change in a storm's temperature could significantly



SSgt. Bob Cari inspects a weather map for forecast information (USAF photo by MSgt. L. Lentz)

alter the precepitation amount. Or, it is impossible to be totally accurate on a long range forecast. Generally, the computer has a 60 to 70 percent accuracy.

"We also considered the unlikely possibility of a major storm here," said Sergeant Gagne. "In the past 40 years of record keeping at Westover, there has never been an April with any storm dropping more than five inches in 24 hours. Only once did we ever have a total monthly accumulation of more than seven inches."

The forecasters' also use information about local conditions provided by Westover's weather observers, Bob Bender, Tom Hinckley, Ted Houghton and a Reservist, SSgt. John Wagner.

"Talking about today's weather is a science. But when we try to forecast tomorrow's, meteorology becomes as much an art. Because of the countless

variables and our inability to control or alter weather, totally accurate forecasts will never be a certainty," Sergeant Gagne concluded. "There's nothing we can do other than become as knowledgeable as possible about the atmosphere. We have a long ways to go. We know we're not perfect. A few days before that last storm, I, like everyone else, took off my snow tires."

Dining Out date set

Save Saturday evening of the November UTA, Nov. 7. That's the date set for the NCO/Airmen Dining-Out. The festivities will include roast beef dinner, and music by the Limelighters. Tickets are available from CMSgt. Ray Gosnell, dining-out chairman, and other committee members.

Air Force Night with the Millers

Take me out to the ball game

By Capt. Dave Keefe

The peanuts and crackerjacks were optional, but nearly 500 Westover Reservists were taken out to the ball game on May 1 when the Holyoke Miller's minor league baseball team hosted the 439th at "Air Force Night."

For only one dollar, Westover personnel enjoyed a double header which featured the Westover Flyers softball team in its season opener against the Pease AFB team, and the Millers squaring off against the Waterbury Reds in the nightcap.

The Flyers handled Pease with ease in the opener as they charged to a 7-1 victory. Coach Mike McNicholas had his team so defensively fine-tuned that the 7-inning game was completed in just 50 minutes.

Catcher Jack Murdock got the Flyers off to a fast start with a pair of singles that scored the games first two runs. Teammate Tom Brown, the Flyer golden glove winner a year ago, added a triple.

"The ability to compete in an Air Force ball league does not depend on whether or not the unit is active or reserve," McNicholas said later. "The ability of the athlete is the key to this type of competition."

In the night cap, the Millers, a double A farm team in the California Angels' farm system, were defeated by the Reds 8-3.

In honor of Air Force night, ticket prices were reduced for reservists from \$3.50 to \$1.00. Throughout the balance of the Miller's season, Reservists



Reds Manager Jim Lett, General Haugen, and Millers manager Jack Hiatt discuss tactical strategy before the opening pitch. (USAF photo by MSgt. L. Lentz)

with I.D. cards will receive a discount.

The 439th TAW color guard presented colors during the National Anthem. The color guard consisted of TSgt. Peter R. Kingsbury, and SSgt.'s Gerald E. Barron, John P. Leshure, and Scott D. Buchanan. They are members of various 439th units who represent the Wing at official ceremonies.

Brig. Gen. Donald E. Haugen, 439th commander, threw out the first baseball to start the game. "I trust this event will become an annual happening," General Haugen said. "This is the type of activity that demonstrates that Westover and the surrounding communities care about each other."

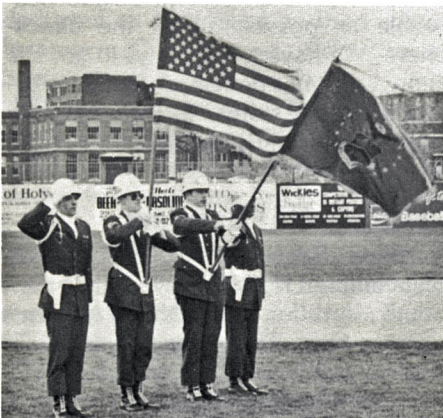
Miller's ticket info: 533-7580

731st Unit Award . . .

(continued from page 1)

In addition to its regular Reserve duties, the unit supports all phases of the 74th Aero Medical Squadron mission here at Westover, Special Forces operations at Fort Devens, cargo and personnel drops at Natick Labs, U.S. Army basic jump school operations at Fort Benning, GA., the U.S. Navy Seal precision skydiving team in Florida, Virginia and Puerto Rico and a number of static displays for CAP and ROTC airlifts.

Other Reserve units also receiving the award are 459th Tactical Airlift Wing, Andrews AFB, MD., 928th Tactical Airlift Group, O'Hare ARFF, Ill., 940th Refueling Group, Mather AFB, Calif. and the 50th Aerial Port Squadron, Norton AFB, Calif.



Westover's Color Guard assemble at McKenzie Field, Holyoke to commemorate Air Force Night. (USAF photo by MSgt. L. Lentz)

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

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