

# P A T R I O T

439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING (AIR FORCE RESERVE)

WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE, MASS.

Vol. X, No. 5

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## Reservists "hit the books" for PME seminar

By Capt. Rick Dyer

Remember the term papers and blue book examinations which were the bane of every college student's existence?

For the past three months, 23 of the 439th's field grade officers have been reliving their college days as they participate in a National Security Management Seminar here at the base.

The rigorous academic program is sponsored by the National Defense University and is one of the highest level Professional Military Education (PME) courses offered. Students take 522 credit hours of instruction on national security matters and are frequently tested.

"It's just as hard as college, if not harder," said Maj. John Harris of the 337th TAS. The major, a C-130 pilot, is a seminar student and one of the officers who helped to organize the seminar at Westover.

The seminar meets four times each month. Two classes are held on UTA weekends and two classes are generally held when the 337th conducts its "flying weekend".

Col. Louis Paskevicz, 439th vice commander and a graduate of the course, serves as director of the seminar. All participants attend on their own time and earn retirement points for successful completion of each unit.

"This security management course is generally taken in residence, but the seminar format often works better for Reservists," Colonel Paskevicz said. "With the heavy emphasis that the Air Force now places on PME, completion of this program can mean a lot for the career-minded Reservist," he added.

"Our students appear to be on schedule," Colonel Paskevicz said. "We hope to complete this course on schedule in one year's time."

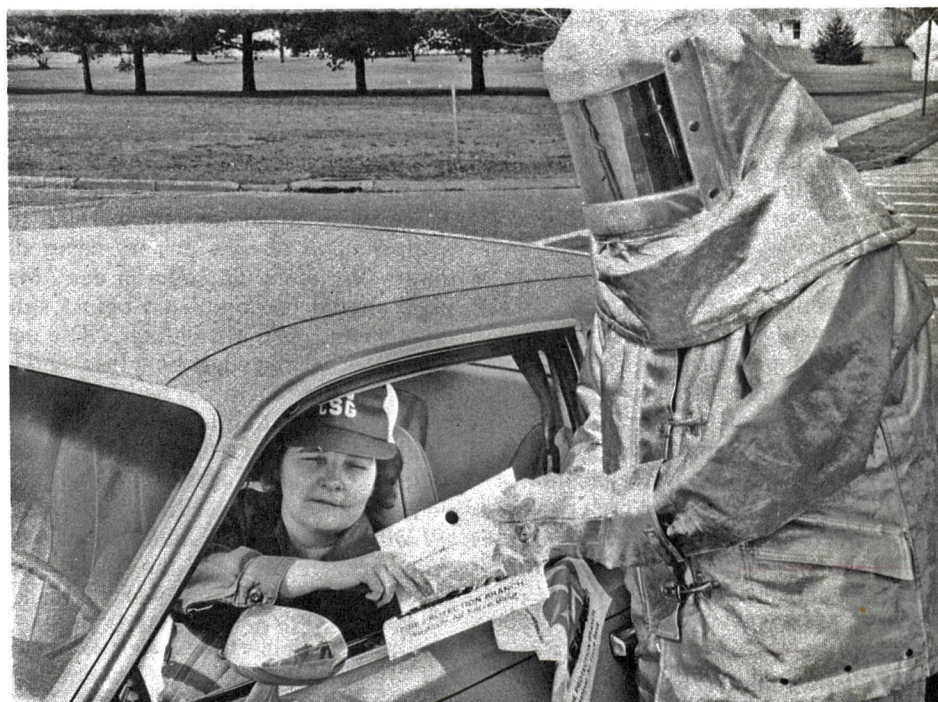
According to Major Harris, the seminar enables career-oriented reserve officers to focus on the "big picture" of

national defense security. "You start to get a feel for why decisions are made, and how they are arrived at," he said.

Officers enrolled in the security management seminar include Lt. Col. Sudro Brown, Lt. Col. Clarence J. Bryant, Lt. Col. Philip W. Crutchfield, Lt. Col. Gale H. French, Lt. Col. Jay A. Johnson, Lt. Col. Lyle H. West, Maj. Henry J. Balch Jr., Maj. Jerold E. Budinoff, Maj. Joseph E. Butler, Maj.

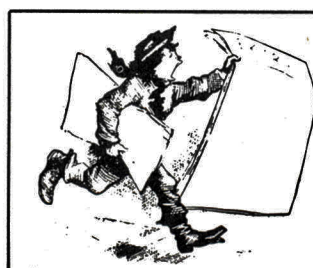
Walter J. Cienaski Jr., and Maj. Edward C. Custer Jr.

Also Maj. David L. Fitzgerald, Maj. James D. Gallin, Maj. John O. Harris, Maj. Charles S. Joslin Jr., Maj. Andrew J. Kasznay Jr., Maj. Edward L. Keins, Maj. Frederick Lindahl, Maj. Michael Lopardo, Maj. Nelson H. Newhouse, Maj. John E. Riley Jr., Maj. Valentine W. Riordan and Capt. Wayne C. Johnson Jr.



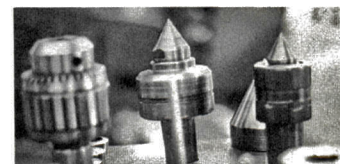
USAF photo by Maj. Robert Carroll

Base firefighter Don Long presents a fire prevention litterbag to SSgt. Judy Young of the 439th CSG at Westover's main gate during the April UTA. The base fire department distributed the litterbags during April as part of the base's "clean-up" campaign.

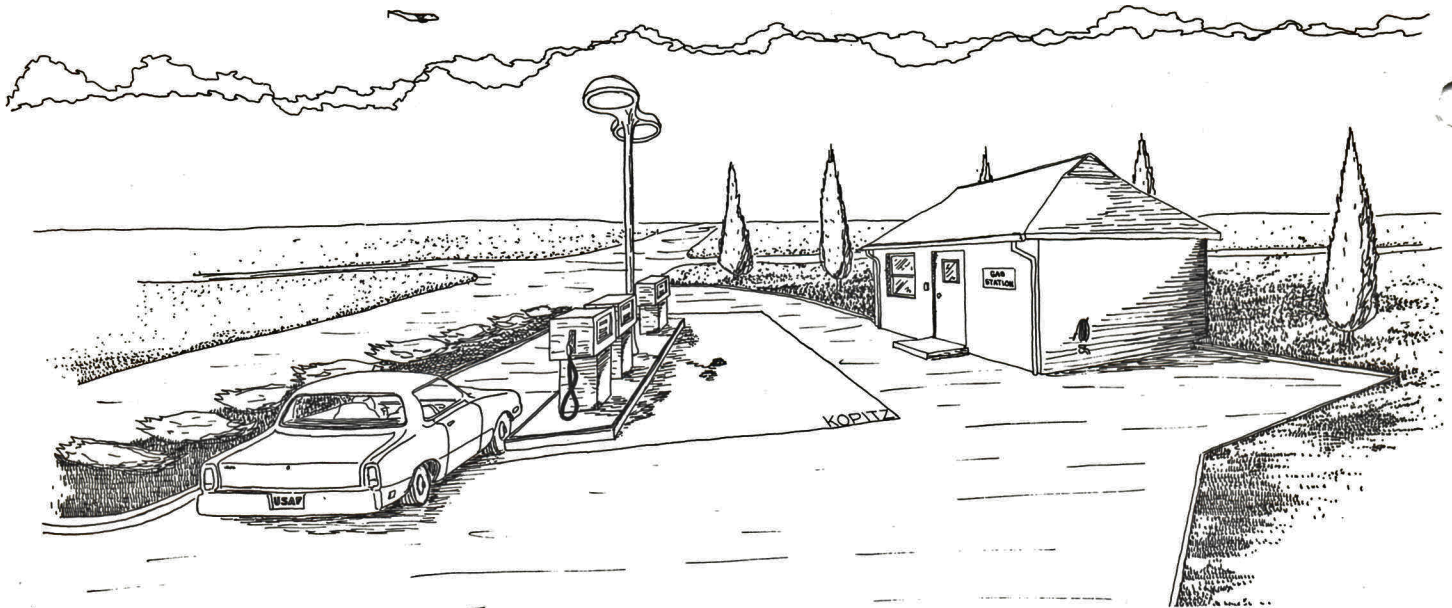


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Art work by William Koptiz, Base Drafting

## New gas station a part of spring clean up

by Sgt. Sandra M. Michon

Springtime spells change and, and for Westover's civil engineers, change means a new filling station as well as many other projects.

Westover's CE personnel keep busy throughout the year, but springtime is their busiest time. "It's hard to know just when to start the work," explained George Hunter, head of base civil engineering. "The weather in New England is so unpredictable."

"At the end of March, all the crews are out working, continued Mr. Hunter. "Snow fences are rolled and stored, and the damage of winter is mended. Snowplows are repaired and stored, potholes are filled, and the roads are cleared of sand and debris. The paint crews touch up the buildings while others repair and patch roofs. Plastic is removed from windows and broken windows are replaced," he said.

"Then we leave winter behind and get ready for summer. Raking and seeding and fertilizing encourage the transition from brown to green."

"CE is currently supporting many major projects at Westover," said Joe Golas, base engineer. "Most large projects are contracted out to the lowest bidder, but our people support their efforts. Outside contracts also help to stimulate the local economy."

One new change has been the installation of new windows in 10 buildings on base. "Six more buildings are scheduled within the next few months," said Mr. Hunter. "These windows not only look better, but conserve energy as well. The

feedback so far has been positive. Westover personnel say it's more comfortable because the wind no longer comes through the cracks."

"The floors in hangars one and three will soon be repainted with dull gray paint and increase the amount of light available to work on the aircraft.

Another improvement will be the construction of new military filling station. "Work should begin in early May and should be completed before summer's end," said Mr. Hunter. "The new structure will have less heat loss, and be safer because there will be less environmental hazard due to leakage from old tanks. The new station will provide regular, unleaded and diesel fuel all at one location."

Other projects include striping the runways, resurfacing the nose dock roofs and installing a new ventilation system in nose dock 32. "The striping is

done every year by crews from Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio," said Mr. Hunter. He explained that reflective paint is used to improve visibility of the delineation lines for the aircraft operators. "Nose dock 32 is the Aircraft Corrosion Control Facility where many harsh cleaning agents are used. The new ventilation system will better vent noxious fumes created in that area."

Even though all major contracts are contracted out, Mr. Hunter's people support these contractors. "We perform quality control inspections, check time constraints, mix paints, provide transportation support, so forth and so on," explained Mr. Hunter.

"We keep busy," he said, "We're just as concerned about being mission-ready now as we were when SAC was here."

"Civil engineering is a service organization; the only reason we're here is to serve Westover."

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Forecasting the weather —

## Westover airmen fool with Mother Nature

by Sr. A. Kathleen Lincoln

The jobs are the same but the challenges are different. TSgt. John Wallace Spencer, 439 TAW and SSgt. Alan Dunham, OLB, DET 6, 26 WSQ are both weekend weather forecasters for local television stations.

Sergeant Spencer says the challenge of the job lies in its presentation. "To get it just right . . . to say what you want to say and have it sound good. It's a tough challenge to make a perfect delivery."

For Sergeant Dunham, an active duty weather forecaster attached to Westover, forecasting is the key. To guess what Mother Nature is planning is exciting. She's always throwing something different at you."

Sergeant Spencer began his broadcasting career in 1956 while stationed at Ramstein AFB, W. Germany. He was a television announcer for the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service. From Germany he went to Sioux City, Iowa where he spent three years in commercial television. His next move was east and to a radio station as a manager and broadcaster. From the Hartford radio station he joined WDW in Westfield as its vice-president and general manager. He spent five years in Westfield and another 10 authoring four books, one of which became a best seller.

"Last July the station manager from Channel 22 called me and asked if I was interested in coming back to television. Two days after the phone call, I was on the air. When you've been in broadcasting as long as I have it's in your blood."

"We get information from all over — from the US Weather Bureau, Bradley Weather Service, from satellites, radar and our own instruments at the station." Sergeant Spencer sorts through all the data and writes his own broadcasts. "Weather is still very much a mystery. All we can really do is say what the various systems are doing and what the trends indicate. There are many unknown elements. However, the key words in every forecast are "but" and "if."

Sergeant Dunham agrees. "There are no absolutes. Even though you've analyzed all the data and think you've spotted a trend, you might find you haven't got a handle on it at all."

When he entered the service, Sergeant Dunham had three main interests



USAF photo by Capt. Philip Weber

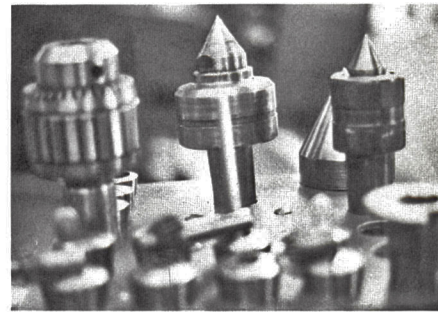
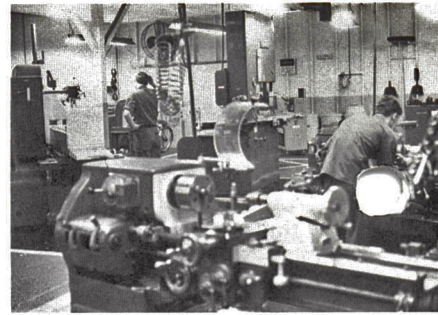
**TSgt. John Wallace Spencer, (left) TV Weatherman Channel 22, goes over weather chart with SSgt. Alan Dunham, TV Weatherman Channel 40.**

— firefighting, weather and acting. "The Air Force sent me to weather maintenance, observation and forecasting schools and before I came in I had two years of theatre arts. So when I heard about the job opening at Channel 40, I went right down. After an interview they asked me to wait in the hall. Within five minutes I was offered the job. Being a TV weatherman was something I always wanted. In one way I find television much harder than forecasting for the Air Force. In order to cover your viewing audience, you have to forecast for a much larger area not just along a specific air route. But then again it's easier in the sense that the information you provide to your television audience is more general."

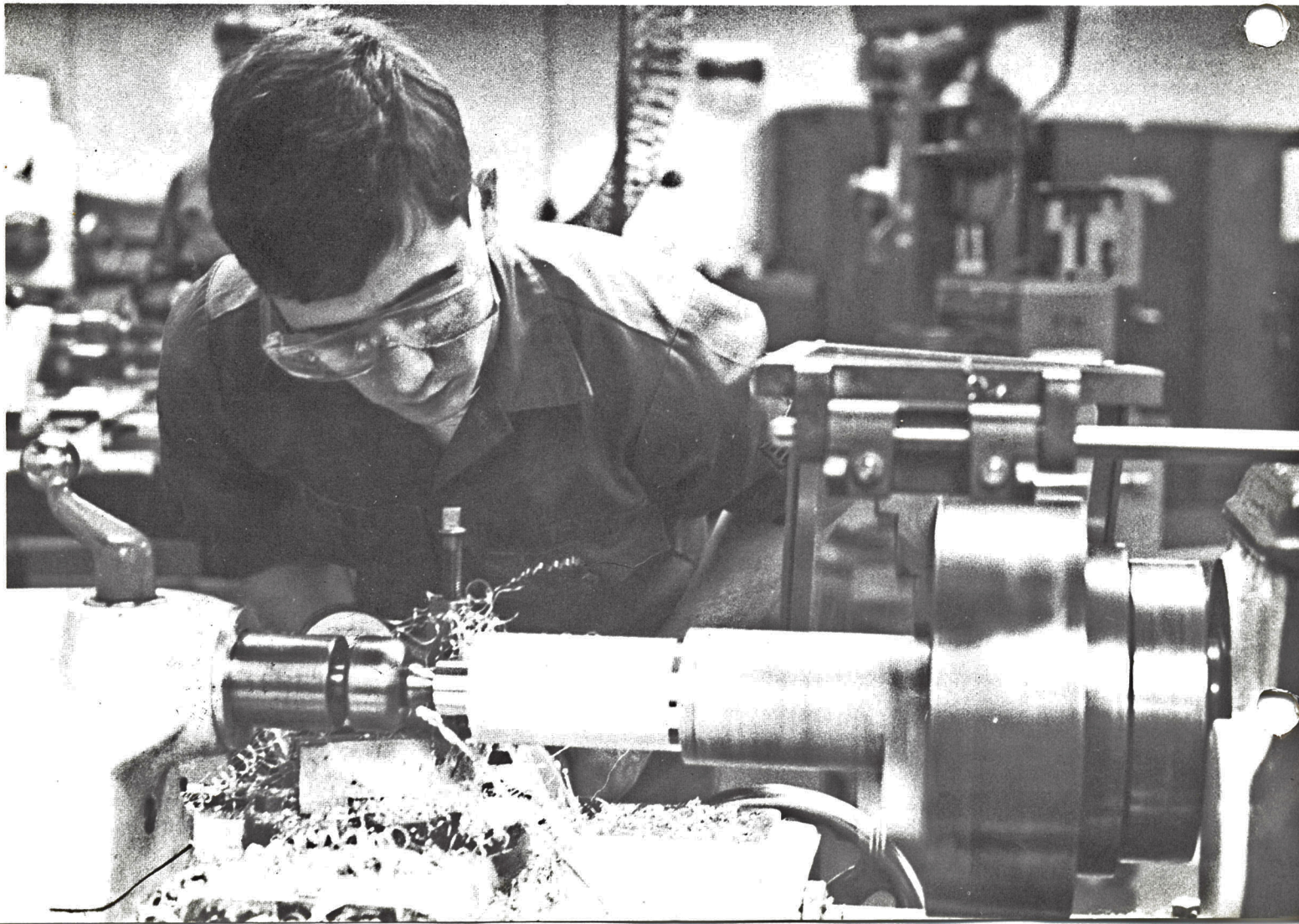
It appears that Sergeant Dunham also has broadcasting in his blood. "I want to continue with television broadcasting but I'd like to take additional courses in meteorology. I'm particularly interested in drought stages and moisture content. Good interpretations in this area can be very helpful to area farmers. All in all I'd say I'm pretty lucky. I've found a career that allows me to pursue two out of three interests."

With their experience and backgrounds, both Sergeants Spencer and Dunham have maintained a 85 to 95 percent forecasting accuracy for their respective stations. Despite the stiff competition and close scores between the stations both weathermen "really enjoy" their part-time predicting.





**TOP**— 439th CAMS Machine Shop Personnel (left to right) SRA Thomas Brown, SSgt. William Oliver, TSgt. Richard Anderson, TSgt. Robert Fetherston, TSgt. Thomas Stepniak and SSgt. Steve Willey. **BOTTOM** — SRA Thomas Brown working on engine lathe. **TOP LEFT** — Machine Shop. **MIDDLE LEFT** — TSgt. Robert Fetherston, shop NCOIC, right discusses problem with TSgt. Richard Anderson. **BOTTOM LEFT** — Machine accessories, collets, drill chuck and live centers.





# HEAVY METAL SHOP

Photos and Story by Capt. Philip Weber

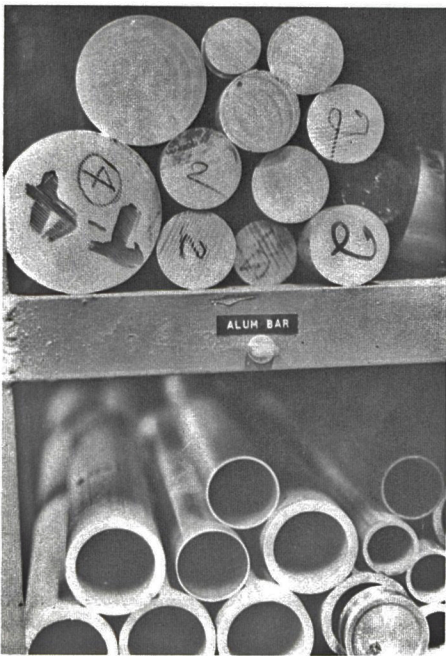
"You break it, we make it!" that's the motto of the 905th CAMS Machine Shop.

TSgt. Robert Fetherston, NCOIC at the shop, heads up the six man team that works with "heavy metal".

The shop manufactures and reworks machined parts for not only the aircraft at Westover, but also anyone on base who might need their assistance on a machined project such as Base Engineering.

"Sixty percent of our work is accomplished right in the shop", said Sgt. Fetherston, "but forty percent of the work we do is right at the scene with a set of mobility tools. Much of that work is accomplished in cramped, awkward and confining positions right on the aircraft. By doing it right on the flightline, we're often able to preclude the grounding of the aircraft and the cost of removing major components."

"We're really a team in the machine shop", Sgt. Fetherston states proudly, "and we enjoy each other's company



Machine shop stock rack.

which makes for an ideal work place. I'm really proud of our record of achievement, we've really got a bunch of professionals assigned to the shop."

The professionalism Sgt. Fetherston was referring to, includes a combination of both military and civilian experience in the machinist field by those assigned.

TSgt. Fetherston has eight years of active duty experience working in the machine shop on various aircraft including the F-100, C-7A, KC-135 and B-52. Aside from working on aircraft while on active duty, he was also assigned to the Camera Repair Shop, Air Force Audio Visual Agency at Norton AFB, Calif. machining parts for professional camera and television equipment. He's been the Air Reserve Technician assigned to the Machine Shop at Westover since 1975.

Other members of the Machine Shop include:

TSgt. Richard J. Anderson brings six years of experience working as a machinist for M.I.T. Reactor Laboratory each time he puts on the Air Force Uniform and comes out to Westover. While serving a six year stint on active duty, he was a crew chief on F-111 for six years.

TSgt. Thomas S. Stepniak is a tool-maker for Hoppe Tool Co. in Chicopee. He has had more than ten years experience working as a machinist aside from his 19 years in the reserve program.

SSgt. William G. Oliver is a living example that reserve training pays off. He joined the Air Force Reserve with no prior military experience and received sixteen weeks of technical training at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland. With that training, he was able to get a job with Unimation Inc. of Waterbury, Conn. as a machinist. He has been a member of the machine shop for four years.

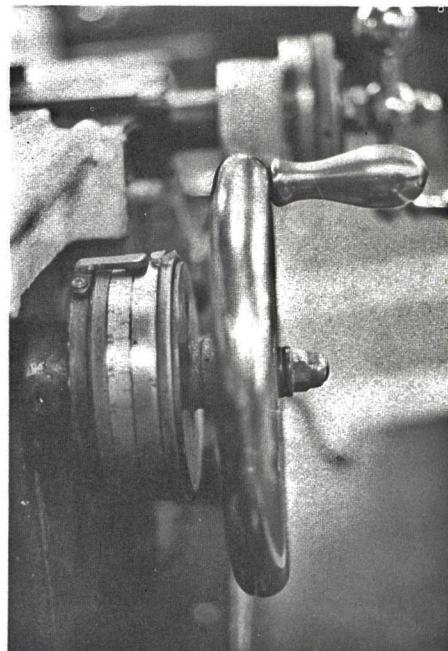
SSgt. Steven C. Willey is a student at

Springfield Technical Community College working toward a degree in Electronic Technology. He's been assigned to the Machine Shop the last 3½ years. On active duty in the Navy for 6 years, Sgt. Willey was a Weapons Control Specialist.

SRA Thomas M. Brown is the youngest member of the shop. A machine operator for a paper mill in Rockville, Conn., he has been a member of the Westover Machine Shop for 1½ years.

"Because of this experience, we've been able to establish an outstanding O.J.T. program in the shop," said Sgt. Fetherston. "Classes are held each U.T.A. to discuss machining developments people encounter in the private sector for adaptability to the shop. We encourage everyone to train each other because of this vast amount of experience."

As a result of this training, three members of the shop have been upgraded to 7-level technicians in the last four years.



Long feed control handle.



# Officers continue tradition at Wing Dining Out

An eight year tradition was continued by the 439th TAW as the unit conducted its Ninth Annual Officers' Dining-Out on April 9. As in past years, the dinner-dance was highlighted by numerous toasts and fellowship; the presentation of awards and the remarks of a distinguished guest speaker.

2nd. Lt. Michael J. Marten, a 337th TAS pilot, was named Outstanding Aircrew Member of 1982, while Capt. Robert L. Karpinski 74th AES, was selected Outstanding Officer of the Year.

The keynote speaker was Maj. Gen. Philip J. Conley, Jr., vice commander of the Air Force System Command's Electronic Systems Division at Hanscom Air Force Base. He reflected on the successful flight of the space shuttle Challenger which had completed its maiden voyage earlier that afternoon. He reminisced about the vital role Edwards Air Force Base and its personnel has played in the development of manned space flights by Air Force and NASA test pilots.

"The bottom line about those successes (throughout the Air Force) are the great, dedicated people," the general concluded. "As a member of the active force, I salute you as you carry on the tradition of the citizen-soldier. It makes a difference in this world."

Lieutenant Marten was honored for "Exceptional level of experience in a very short period of time in C-130 aircraft." He has flown more than 1,000 hours, an accomplishment rarely ac-



USAF photo by MSgt. Larry Lentz

**2nd. Lt. Michael Marten (left) accepts congratulations from Brig. Gen. Donald E. Haugen on his selection as "Outstanding Aircrew Member."**

chieved by a second lieutenant.

His participation in Volant Rodeo helped take highest honors in two of seven categories competing against C-130 crews from around the world. Lieutenant Marten also flew in the Air Warfare Tactics Development Exercise at Nellis AFB and was highly praised for his map reading and low level flying abilities in a "hostile" environment. He also aided in the development of aircrew chemical warfare in-flight training.

The Officer of the Year award went to

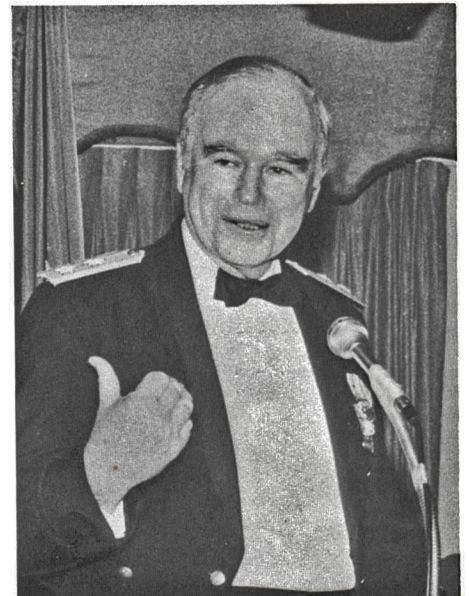
Captain Karpinski for his accomplishments in 1982. His management of the Aeromedical Evacuation Control Center received several commendable findings by the Norton AFB Inspector General team. He completed an 11 week in residence Health Service Administration Course and spent two weeks at Rhein-Main attending tactical workshops and training.

Capt. Mark D. Halsor served as Mr. Vice insuring a steady stream of toasts and levity.



USAF photo by MSgt. Larry Lentz

**Dining Out — a formal affair (left to right) 1st Lt. Alan Harrington, TSgt. Gail Mas, Jessica Carter, 1st Lt. Wesley Carter, Capt. Robert Karpinski and Karen Karpinski.**



USAF photo MSgt. Larry Lentz

**Maj. Gen. Philip Conley, Keynote Speaker.**



# Westover police, chief, cop top awards

By Sgt. Sandra M. Michon

What do you get when you combine 30 Westover security policemen, their supervisor, and outstanding performance? Awards - that's what.

Harold Voelker, chief of security police at Westover, has won the AFRES outstanding DOD Guard Supervisor award and the men that he supervises have won the DOD Civilian Guard Force award. These are the highest honors presented by HQ/AFRES within the security police field.

Chief Voelker and his staff competed against supervisors and groups from 10th, 14th and 4th Air Force. "We worked together as a team," said chief Voelker. "Anything that came up, we just did our best. It was not only that we are a competent unit, but the fact that people recognized our competency."

The nomination package submitted for the award was filled with letters thanking Chief Voelker and his staff for outstanding support of activities and missions. "What probably put us over the top," explained Chief Voelker, "was the letter from Secretary of State George P. Shultz." Mr. Shultz has a second home in Chesterfield Ma. and often uses Westover as an arrival point. Chief Voelker handles the security arrangements during these visits.

## well trained unit

The award criteria is unit accomplishments and a recommendation by the base commander. "I have extreme pride in our unit," said Col. Roy E. Ayers, base commander. "They are a cohesive, well-trained force."

As the largest AFRES base, Westover's 30-man guard force stays busy. "Our main function is to protect government property and personnel," explained Chief Voelker. "We check all government buildings, patrol base property, investigate all accidents and domestic disturbances, issue traffic tickets and process all service/dependent ID cards." They man three gates, protect some 2545 acres and 117 buildings, patrol 313 housing units, protect the resources of 10 DOD tenant units and provide ID service to approximately 13,000 DOD-related customers.

Flightline security is an important responsibility of the force, providing security for the 16 Westover-based aircraft and over 1000 transient aircraft. "It's a challenge to protect these



USAF Photo by Capt. Phillip Weber

**Westover Security Police Chief Harold Voelker (right) passes on flightline security information to the oncoming Security Flight (left to right) Officer Richard A. Haslam, Lt. Richard Ware, Officer Walter C. Coe, Officer Francisco O. Flores and Officer John N. Frasco.**

aircraft," said Chief Voelker, "we do our part to insure mission-readiness.

The guard force is instrumental in supporting the many activities hosted by Westover. Activities supported include, Global Shield 82, Flintlock 82, Sentry Watch III, Mordt 82, Gallant Eagle 82, Project Rondo and Alloy Express. The 14th AF Conference and the 14th AF/JAG Conference were two major events supported.

"We are also busy in the local community," explained Chief Voelker. "We have mutual assistance agreements with all local communities. Other organizations use Westover whenever feasible, and we help by supporting local events."

## training pays off

Chief Voelker's philosophy may have contributed to his and his unit's award. When he became chief, he said his goal was, "to make his department the best in AFRES." He believes that increased training has produced better trained personnel.

"Most of the guard staff have police or guard background," said Chief Voelker. "In addition to the initial orientation and on-the-job training, they must also go through classes on radar and the laws of Massachusetts. We have also developed an excellent program with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Criminal Justice Training Council. They

use our facilities and our personnel can attend their classes." Voelker's unit also provides assistance and training to assigned Reserve law enforcement personnel. The 905th WSSF has also won top AFRES honors on the Reserve category.

## career policeman

Awards are nothing new to Chief Voelker. Born in Rhode Island in 1934, Voelker has spent much of his life in the security police field. Chief Voelker joined the Air Force in 1953 as a security policeman. He has been stationed in Georgia, England, Vietnam, Germany, New Mexico and Westover. He served here from 1957 to 1966 in a variety of security capacities, including flight chief at the 8th AF's "Notch" command post. During his twenty years of active duty, he earned three Air Force Commendation Medals for his work in law enforcement.

He joined Westover's security force as a patrolman in May 1974. He subsequently earned promotions to sergeant, lieutenant, and deputy chief before assuming his current role in June 1978. Under his leadership, the unit won the AFRES DOD Guard unit award in 1980. He has an associate degree in law enforcement and has taken additional courses in security management. He has three children and lives in Chicopee with his wife Audrey.



## Westover TSgt. tops class at NCO academy

Four Westover sergeants recently attended NCO Academy courses. One, TSgt. Barbara A. Morris of the 59 MAPS, was awarded the Commandants Award at the academy she attended.

The other three were, TSgt. Greydon B. Held of the 58 MAPS who attended the TAC NCO Academy at Bergstrom AFB, Tex. TSgt. L. C. Mays of the 74 AES attended the TAC NCO Academy at Malmstrom, AFB. Mont. TSgt. Robert J. Portonova of the 58 MAPS attended the ANG NCO Academy in Knoxville, Tenn.

"Receiving the Commandants Award is an outstanding achievement since Sergeant Morris is only one of three reservists in a class of 120 NCOs," said CMSgt. Eugene Longfield of the Wing training office.

### course recommended

The Commandants Award is given by the Commandant and the instructors to the outstanding overall student at the academy. The citation reads, in part: "The award recognizes attention to detail, personal initiative and sustained effort in all areas of the Academy Program."

"I was really surprised to win the award," said Morris. "It totally shocked me to be honored by the staff of the academy."

Sergeant Morris enjoyed the 6-week course. "It was a demanding course that covered World Affairs, communication skills, leadership skills and drill," said Morris. "We had eight hours of class each day and about four hours of study time each night."

### top student

Morris, an administrative clerk, highly recommends the course. "The information I learned at the academy was well worth the time I spent."

According to Chief Longfield any NCO in grades E-6 and E-7 may apply for an academy. "We can send an individual to any academy that has space and matches the availability of the NCO," said the chief.

For more information contact Chief Longfield at wing training.

## MSgt. "Pappy" Nolan retires

What greater tribute could an outstanding non-commissioned officer receive than have nearly 200 fellow Air Force reservists, friends and relatives turn out to honor him.

That's exactly what happened to MSgt. Howard A. (Pappy) Nolan, 58th MAPS, at a retirement ceremony held at the Moose Club in Chicopee the evening of April 9.

At the dinner-dance occasion, Sergeant Nolan received many gifts and momentos, but the highlight of the

evening was a congratulatory message from the Commander-in-Chief, President Reagan.

Paul Dooley, representing Congressman Edward Boland presented Sergeant Nolan with a certificate stating that a United States flag which flew over the nation's Capitol that day would be forthcoming.

A 58th MAPS honor guard added a touch of formality to the festive evening when he was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal.

## Commander's Call

Col. Roy Ayers, base commander, presented 14 awards during Group Commander's Call ceremonies, April 10.

Four received the Air Force Achievement Medal. They were: **SrA. Daniel G. Sklut**, 905 WSSF, **TSgt. Gregory K. Swanson**, 59 MAPS, and **TSgt. Robert G. Erhardt** and **SSgt. Thomas W. Jarvis**, 905 CES.

Airman Sklut earned top honors in the AFRES Security Police Peacekeeper Challenge competition. Sergeant Swanson demonstrated professionalism in the Air Transportation. Self Evaluation/Quality Control field. Sergeant Erhardt's expertise contributed to the extremely efficient operation of the 905 Civil Engineering Squadron's administration. Sergeant Jarvis established effective and well managed disaster preparedness and security programs.

Two reservists were awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal. **TSgt. Kevin P. Cahill**, 439 CSG, distinguished himself as a Law Enforcement Specialist. **TSgt. Ricardo T. De Grace**, 59 MAPS, received the medal

for his service as an Air Cargo Specialist.

**MSgt. Charles H. Scott**, 439 CSG, was awarded a Retired Reserve Certificate in recognition of honorable service and continued interest in the defense of the nation. His wife, Beverly, was also honored with a Certificate of Appreciation for supporting her husband and his career throughout the years.

**TSgt. Barbara A. Morris**, 59 MAPS, received a diploma from the NCO Academy and the Commandant's Award for demonstrating outstanding leadership characteristics while attending the Academy.

Three Certificates of Excellence were presented to Morale, Welfare, and Recreation for three of their outstanding programs — the Bowling Center, Sports, and MWR Supply programs.

Lastly, Disaster Preparedness received two awards. The Support Team took an Outstanding Performance Certificate while **MSgt. George Copeland** was honored with an Exceptional Performance Certificate.

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