



THE PATRIOT



439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING

WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE, MASS.

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Wing flight crews mark successful evaluation

Nine 21st AF flight examiners conducted a five-day Aircrew Standardization and Evaluation Team inspection which was completed on the December UTA. The inspection tested both flying and administrative procedures of the 337th and 731st Tactical Airlift Squadrons.

The squadrons performed well during the ASET, the most stringent of all Air Force unit aircrew inspections. When it was all over, Lt. Col. Ron Wanner, team chief, said the results spoke very highly of the Westover squadrons' conformance to mission standards and safety criteria.

An ASET differs from an operational readiness inspection, delving deeper into unit training and flight procedures. While an ORI measures unit readiness, an ASET examines aircrew proficiency and flight management practices, and in this ASET, 128 written examinations and 61 flight checks were administered to individual crewmembers. Unit managers were evaluated in operations support and program administration areas such as documentation of aircrew training and analysis of evaluation trends.

Colonel Wanner cited some individuals for their particular excellence. For their role in heavy equipment drops from a C-130, he named Capt. Kenneth Ryngala, 337th TAS aircraft commander; and loadmasters TSgt. John Missale, 905th MAPS and TSgt. Larry Muniec, 337th TAS.

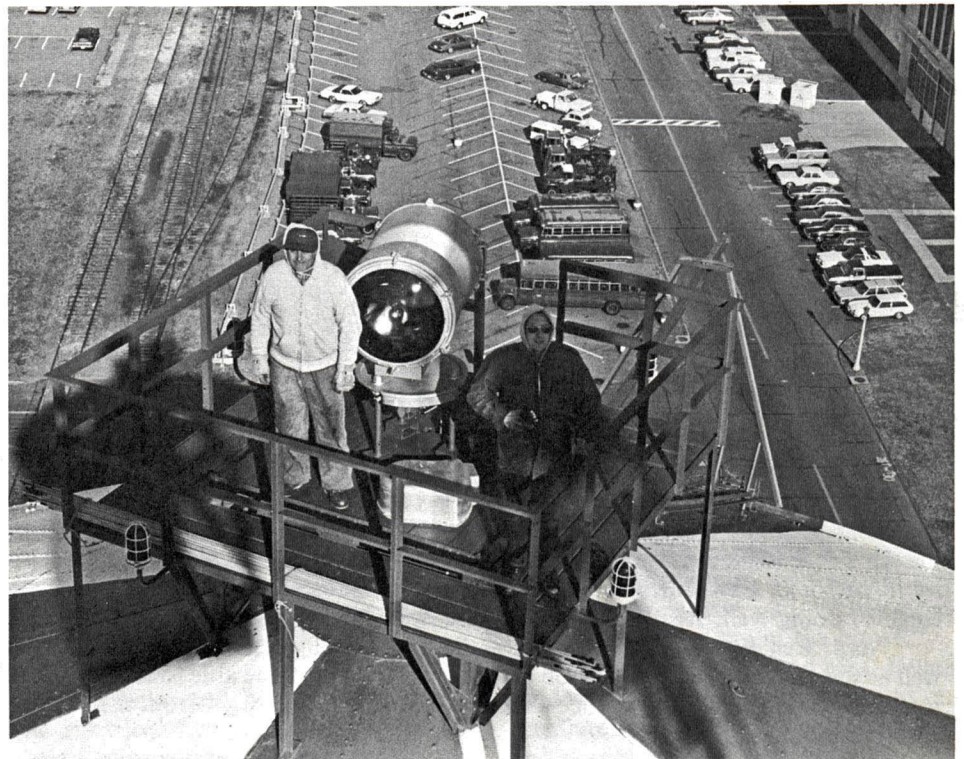
An entire 731st TAS crew was commended for their performance in container delivery system drops. They were Capt. Kevin Wentworth, aircraft

commander; Lt. Col. George Merrill, navigator; Capt. Peter Eiche, co-pilot; loadmasters SMSgt. Donald Cowern, TSgts. William Chapman and Victor Park and flight mechanic SrA. Daniel Plawecki.

Maj. Gen. Stephen T. Keefe, Jr., 21st AF mobilization assistant to the commander and Col. Donald Lemme, 14th AF deputy commander for operations, attended the ASET outbriefing, along with Brig. Gen. Donald E. Hau-

gen, wing commander.

A former member of the 901st TAG at Hanscom AFB, the previous home of the 731st TAS, General Keefe said, "You have proven your ability to fly effectively and safely . . . your performance over the years has demonstrated real professionalism." He concluded his assessment of the two 439th flying squadron with, "You are among the finest flying organizations in the country."



Randy Malek, left, and Ralph Maratea, both from Base Civil Engineering, stand on the deck holding the new beacon light installed on top of the water tower. (Photo by Charles Vredenburg) (see related story on page 2)

Base continues construction programs

Building or renovation programs at Westover, including one originally conceived by Strategic Air Command planners, now are coming to fruition. These AFRES — sponsored projects have resulted in the expenditure of \$470,800 during the past year and the planned spending of another \$2,330,500 during the next 12 months, reports Col. J. Frank Moore, base commander.

Remodeling of the Vehicle Maintenance Building will cost \$770,000 and result in new shops, drainage and ventilation systems. It will house roads and grounds and transportation personnel. The project will complete the facilities started when Westover was an active duty base.

Also, during the current fiscal year, a \$300,000 Instrument Landing System will upgrade the main runway with the latest state-of-the-art. It should be operational by this summer.

Many of the base buildings, including

supply, avionics, the gym, BOQ and dormitories will get a new coat of exterior paint.

The sounds of bowling balls striking wood pins may soon be heard on base. A \$300,000 loan has been requested from the Military Personnel Center. Its approval will open the base bowling alley with its pro shop and snack bar by this spring.

These planned projects follow a series of renovations recently completed throughout the base.

The Base Hangar roof is the last of the hangars undergoing extensive repairs.

"As part of our crime prevention program, a newly-paved vehicle parking lot will secure all our vehicles in one area," says Colonel Moore. "One well lit area will help prevent theft and vandalism."

Many of the curbs along the base roads have been replaced because of

damage from snowplows. They'll be repainted in the spring.

The flashiest project was the installation of a new beacon on top of the water tower. "Its split lights not only mark our airfield from the sky, but those on the ground, for miles around, also use it for their bearings around Westover," Colonel Moore continues.

The most expensive project was the repairs to the main runway. Two inches of asphalt, one million dollars worth, were added to 05-23's 3,480,000 square feet.

In the next fiscal year, a new surface to 3,500 feet of the short runway will also be added.

Most new construction will focus on recreation activities. Remodeling of the base gym soon will create facilities for women and new areas for special programs such as dance classes and arts and crafts activities.

Eventually a separate new building will feature hobby bays and the relocated Four Seasons Shop. Still later, water will fill Westover's new indoor swimming pool.

With the establishment of the base's present boundaries and the belief that good fences make good neighbors, a new \$905,000 fence will be built around the base perimeter. It replaces portions installed in the 1940s.

ASK THE IRMAN

Recently, SrA. Donna Stewart of the Public Affairs Office asked several reservists: "What do you like best about being in the Air Force Reserve, and what do you do with the money you earn here?"

SMSgt. Richard Haskins, 74th AES — "I'm an Air Reserve Technician here on base, and the thing I like best about being in the Reserve is the benefits. I use the money I earn from my Reserve duty to help pay for my daughter's education."

TSgt. Jan Sledge, 439th CSG — "I like the feeling of belonging, and the satisfaction of a job well done. Being prior service, I can appreciate the Reserve. My Reserve pay goes into the family operating budget."

TSgt. Dave Hawkins, 74th AES — "I really enjoy the people here at Westover. I'm a school teacher as a civilian, and I look forward to coming here and working with adults as opposed to children, for a change. I also enjoy flying, which is something I do a great deal of with my Reserve job. I use my Reserve pay to supplement my regular income and for savings."

TSgt. Michael Roberto, 439th CSG — "The best part of being a member of the Air Force Reserve is the challenge I get from my job. As an information security inspector in Law Enforcement, I find my job interesting, and enjoy the challenge of doing well. Also, I like having the opportunity to serve my country."

Amn. Ken Kwasnik, 439th CGS — "I enjoy the benefits of the military, as well as the variety my Air Force job affords me. It's nice to be able to look forward to doing something different once a month. I use the money I get from the Reserve for entertainment."

SrA. Thomas Wright, 439th CSG — "I enjoy being part of the organization, and the NCO club. My pay goes into savings for a trip to Bermuda this winter."

TSgt. Noel J. Underwood, 439th CSG — "I like the fact that I have a chance to meet different people and make new friends. I use my pay for family activities."

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Base Commander

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Disaster exercise tests base response

by TSgt. Marshall Hathaway

Police, fire and emergency vehicles sped down Westover's main runway on Thursday, Nov. 20. In an overturned bus, many injured were waiting for aid. The Fire Department fought an aircraft fire under the threat of nuclear materials. The entire flight line was a scene of furious activity as the base disaster response force swung into action.

A C-141 Starlifter from Mildenhall, England, had experienced hydraulic control problems and diverted to Westover. On the ground, it struck the bus with its 30 passengers, knocked it over and began spilling JP-4 fuel.

The aircraft, further down the runway, burst into flames. Soon crash and rescue crews began removing injured crewmen while a helicopter ambulance from the 1059th Medical Detachment, Mass. Army National Guard, waited to

transport the injured to a local hospital.

The flames soon engulfed the onboard weapons. The high explosive components of one exploded and caused widespread damage. Radiation monitors detected alpha contamination, pressing the base decontamination team into service.

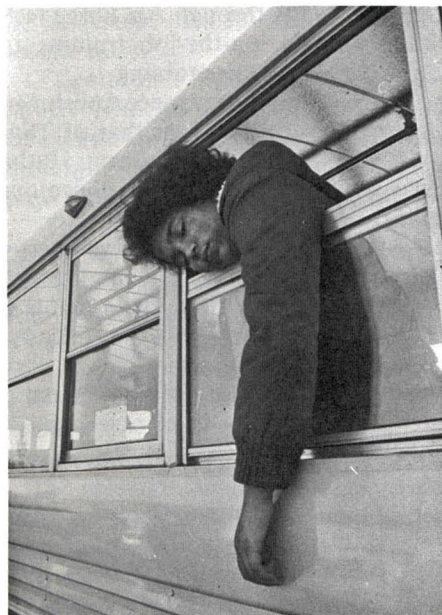
Luckily, the above was just the scenario of an exercise — the largest and most comprehensive disaster drill ever conducted at Westover. It involved all appropriate base agencies as well as many emergency units from surrounding communities.

Support came from the Ludlow, Chicopee and Springfield civil defense agencies; Chicopee and Granby Fire Department, and Chicopee and Springfield paramedics. Augmentation to base communications was provided by the Military Affiliate Radio

System and Mt. Tom Repeater Association, a group of local amateur radio operators. Personnel from Bay State Medical Center in Springfield provided assistance both at the scene and upon arrival of patients at the hospital.

The 731st TAS added realism to the scenario by using one of their C-123K Providers as the burning aircraft. Westover Job Corps students acted as the 30 accident victims.

At the briefing, exercise director Richard J. Smart indicated the exercise's value as a learning tool. According to Smart, the wing and civil units emerged with greater capability to handle emergencies. For their efforts, they were given very high marks and the few problems that arose would be quickly remedied. "The exercise proved that Westover is well equipped to respond effectively to a multiple disaster," he said.



Westover Job Corps Center student Irene Maldonado plays an unfortunate victim of disaster. (Photo by TSgt. Marshall Hathaway)



From left, George Kudla, Phil Bayer and Edward Birkel rush an injured crewmember to a waiting ambulance. (Photo by TSgt. Marshall Hathaway)

Burned out family needs help

A worker in Westover's vehicle maintenance shop, his wife and two children are badly in need of winter clothes in the aftermath of a fire which damaged their house and destroyed many of their possessions.

The smoke and heat emitted from the electrical fire which broke out at David Echols' Ludlow home Dec. 5 was responsible for most of the damage.

"I've seen the house and the damage

from the heat and smoke is unbelievable," Ted Buckhout, a co-worker with Echols at Westover, said. "They essentially lost everything in the house."

Buckhout said Mr. and Mrs. Echols and their nine and 11-year old sons immediate need is for winter coats and other cold weather garments.

Donations may be left at the base's fire department or transportation section.

It'll take a while but—

More pay is on the way

Reservists now find more pay in their checks, thanks to President Carter's signing into law two bills authorizing \$52.7 billion for military pay, procurement, research and development and \$500 million for increased military benefits.

But this good news is somewhat offset by some not so good news — a new payroll system can delay the checks.

According to Jeanne Beauchamp of Westover's Pay Section, the new "SURE PAY" program, under which Reservists can have their checks mailed directly to their local banks, has caused the Reserve payroll to be coordinated with the active Air Force's system.

The accounting office in Denver has established "run dates" and checks are issued around the 15th and 30th of each month, according to active Air Force practice. Yet untimely UTAs and voluminous workloads may cause Reserve Pay sections to miss these dates. Also as the active Air Force has a higher priority, Denver might not be able to immediately process all the Reserve pay cards.

But there apparently was some Christmas spirit floating around Westover's Pay Section during the December UTA. They worked on Sunday to insure Reservists would receive their checks before Christmas.

Recruiters receive AFRES accolades

The Air Force Reserve Recruiting Service honored the 439th TAW's recruiters at their biennial workshop at Miami Beach Oct. 27-31.

The Westover office received an Excellence Award for surpassing its 4th Quarter, fiscal year 1980 goal by 22 percent.

During the same period, TSgt. Bob Hartung was named top recruiter of nonprior servicemen and women, while MSgt. Roger Perrault was best recruiter for his enlistment of 26 prior service personnel.

Sergeants Perrault and Hartung and TSgt. Carl France were among the "Two Per Week" award winners.

Reservists' achievements cited at commander's call

Several members of the 439th CSG were recognized for their achievements during the December UTA by Brig. Gen. Donald E. Haugen, 439th TAW commander.

2nd Lt. Paul A. Bailey, 58th MAPS, was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal for his distinguished service as flight instructor while he was a member of the 74th AES.

MSgt. Roger F. Perrault, 439th CSG recruiter, received his medal as a result of his outstanding professional skill and knowledge which aided in the attainment of the goals of the Air Force Reserve.

TSgt. Herman W. Jones, 905th

WSSF, was recognized for implementing research projects capable of solving problems within the field of weapons system security.

Also presented were two Community College of the Air Force diplomas.

TSgt. Theodore T. Grace received a diploma in the area of transportation management. Sergeant Grace completed 64 semester hours to attain his diploma.

TSgt. Arthur C. Weber, Jr., a 439th CSG member, was awarded a diploma in restaurant management. Sergeant Weber attended Springfield Technical Community College.

Both recipients received 30 of the

college credits through Air Force technical schools, on-the-job training internships and basic training.

Another important accomplishment that was recognized was that of TSgt. Marshall Hathaway. Sergeant Hathaway was chosen as AFRES' photojournalist of the year.

AB Mary Jane Adams was recognized for her distinct accomplishment of attaining honor graduate status in basic training as well as technical school honor graduate. This is especially noteworthy as only 10 percent of a flight or class is eligible for the honor.

Reservists save lives at hotel fire

(AFNS sources) More than 100 guests and employees of the MGM Grand Hotel were saved during Las Vegas' tragic fire because of the efforts of 35 Air Force active duty and reserve helicopter crew members.

The helicopters were dispatched within minutes after requests from police and fire officials. First on the scene were three UH-1N Hueys, from Detachment 1, 57th Fighter Weapons Wing, based at Indian Springs Air Force Auxiliary Field, 40 miles north of Las Vegas.

The other units were on temporary

duty at Nellis AFB for RED FLAG training exercises. They were the 20th Special Operations Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Fla., also flying Hueys; and the Reserve's 302nd Special Operations Squadron from Luke AFB, Ariz. with three CH-3E helicopters equipped with exterior rescue sling devices.

The Reserve aircrews hoisted 15 people to safety from the balconies. The Reservists flew seven hours in four flights. The Hueys made 38 trips to the hotel roof and rescued another 93. They also airlifted firemen and rescue personnel to the roof and down again

when they became exhausted.

The 302nd pilots kept their "jolly green giant" helicopters above rooftop level to avoid hitting their rotors. Even then, balcony overhangs prevented rescue slings from moving in close. MSgt. James Connett solved that problem by carrying a cargo strap down the hoist and tossing an end to the people on a balcony. They would pull on the strap and start him swinging like a pendulum. Once close enough, he would grab the balcony railing and scale it. The waiting people were then strapped into the seats and pulled to safety.

“Pinball Machine” airlift boosts Bradley Air Museum

by Capt. Rick Dyer

A C-130 aircraft replaced Santa's sleigh and reindeer recently as a crew from the 337th TAS delivered an early Christmas present to the Bradley Air Museum in Windsor Locks, Conn.

Thanks to the Westover Reservists, the museum added a vintage World War II RP-63C “King Cobra” fighter plane to its inventory on Nov. 26.

It was a welcome gift for museum officials, who are still rebuilding as the result of an October 1979 tornado which destroyed the facility and many of its aircraft.

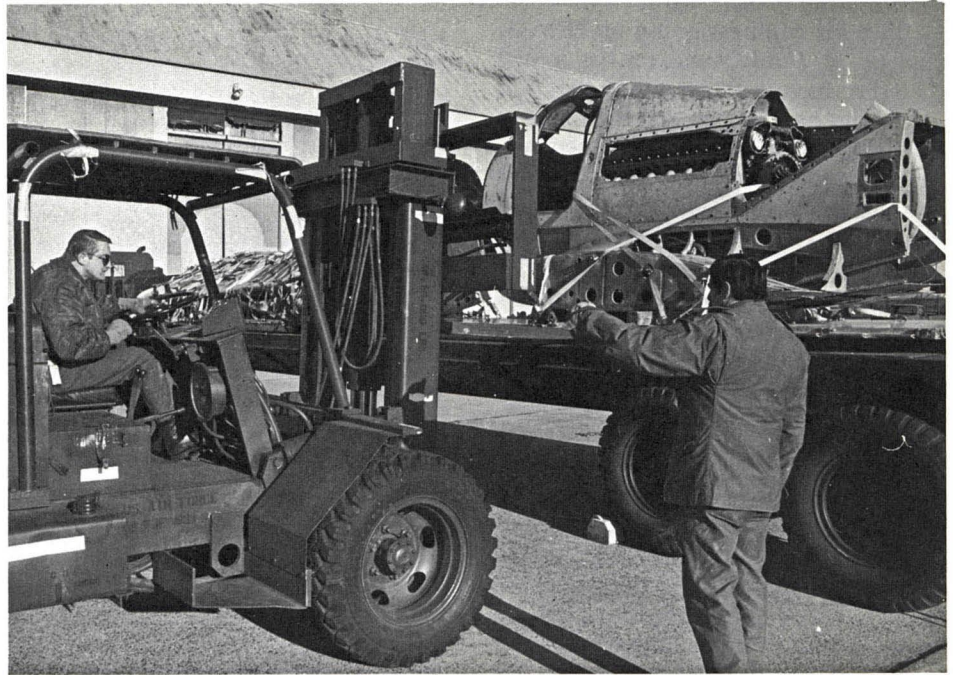
Air Museum director Phil O’Keefe said the plane, which is nicknamed the “Pinball Machine,” is the only one of its kind still in existence.

“It was an innovative aircraft for its time,” O’Keefe said. “It was one of the first aircraft to have a tricycle landing gear, and its engine was mounted behind the pilot in order to allow for the placement of a 33 mm cannon under the nose.”

O’Keefe said the plane was nicknamed “Pinball Machine” because it served as a flying target for World War II bomber gunners, and actually lit up when hit by special practice bullets.

“The plane is heavily armored around the engine and cockpit, and was used to give bomber gunners realistic air-to-air combat experience,” O’Keefe explained. “The bomber gunners would fire frangible bullets at the ‘Cobra’ and a red signal light on the outside of the plane would flash when it sustained a hit.”

The museum director said the plane bears the markings of the 456th Fighter Interceptor Group. It displays a crest with the mock-Latin inscription, “Exertus Mostus, Fightus Bestus.”



SSgt. Robert Mercure, right, guides a forklift operated by TSgt. Raymond Lakota. Both men of the 905th MAPF made the final preparations to ship an RP-63C King Cobra to the Bradley Air Museum.

The 337th crew picked up the plane at the Daggett-Barstow Airport in California when a regularly scheduled mission brought them to the area. With plenty of cargo space for the return trip, the Westover Reservists were able to provide “opportune airlift” for grateful museum personnel.

Crew members on the flight included Col. Paul Huffman, Capt. Charles Cole, Capt. Patrick Dery, SMSgt. John Burnat, Jr., MSgt. Thomas Durkin, TSgt. Thomas Dzwonkus, TSgt. Wayne Huot, TSgt. John Missale, SSgt. Dwight Cook, A1C. Geoffrey Gelinis and AB Robert Motley.

“I can’t say enough nice things about the people at the 439th and

337th,” O’Keefe said. “They’ve just been so generous and helpful to us in our rebuilding efforts.”

The 337th TAS was formerly a neighbor of the Air Museum when it was located at Bradley Field, and in the past year has airlifted other aircraft and aircraft parts for the Windsor Locks facility.

O’Keefe indicated the King Cobra needed extensive refurbishing and it would be almost a year before it goes on display.

The museum hopes to move into a new permanent building next fall. It is currently open from 10 a.m. to dark, seven days a week, at a temporary outdoor facility at Bradley Field.

Briefs

The eagles again have landed at the 439th. Four officers will soon have new colonel’s eagle insignias. Of the 2,063 eligible reserve lieutenant colonels, either on active or reserve status, 236, or 11 percent, were selected for promotion. The effective date will be determined as vacancies occur. The chosen Westover four are Lt. Col. Joseph Hellauer, base executive officer; Lt.

Col. Louis Paskevicz, 731st TAS commander; Lt. Col. Clarence Smith, assistant deputy commander for resource management; and Lt. Col. Don Williams, 58th MAPS commander.

Two other wing family members also received the promotion. Lt. Col. Edwin E. Mench, Jr., 328th TAS commander at Niagara Falls and Lt. Col. Eugene X. Pappert, 911th TAG deputy

commander for resource management at Greater Pittsburgh IAP will also be replacing their silver wings with an eagle.

Congratulations to SSgt. Ann Myers, 439th CSG Orderly Room and TSgt. Michael Roberto, 439th Law Enforcement Section, who became husband and wife on Oct. 12.

Overstreet joins "Colonel K's OCS"

With his commissioning on Nov. 3, 2nd Lt. H. Paul Overstreet has joined 11 other former members of the 74th AES who have exchanged their stripes for officers' gold bars. Unit members refer to those numerous new officers as graduates of "Colonel K's OCS" in tribute to their commander, Lt. Col. Edward Kosakoski and his assistance and encouragement in securing these commissions.

The new alumnus also graduated from Brockton (Mass.) Hospital School of Nursing with an R.N. diploma in 1978. He joined the 74th AES that summer. Lieutenant Overstreet later completed, in six months, his OJT aeromedical technician's training at the Air Force Academy.

With his commission, the lieutenant hasn't ended his education. He is scheduled, starting in January, for five weeks of additional schooling at the Air Force Flight Nurse's Training Program at Brooks AFB, Texas.

That course won't interfere with his studies at Boston State College where Lieutenant Overstreet is completing a bachelor's degree in nursing.

"My new position has greatly changed my role within the 74th," explains the new officer. "I'm more in-



In honor of his first salute, 2nd Lt. Paul Overstreet gives TSgt. William Gifford a dollar bill. (Photo by MSgt. Larry Lentz)

involved in the decision making process especially in new policies and procedures for training programs."

"These commissions, to a great extent, hurt the 74th," reports 2nd Lt.

Wesley Carter, another "Colonel K" graduate. "But the loss of these highly qualified flight instructors and examiners will be offset by their eventual contributions as officers."

Learn not to burn

In case of a fire, do your children know the best emergency escape from your home? Has your lawn mower been properly rid of gasoline and stored for the winter? Is your clothes dryer vented?

Answer No to these and many other questions and you could end up a statistic. In 1978, fires claimed more than 8,700 American lives. To reduce the likelihood of such tragedy at Westover, the Base Fire Department's MSgt. Wilbur Hunt is inspecting all 313 homes and is discussing with their occupants common sense fire prevention practices.

Sergeant Hunt, a Reserve firefighter and supervisor of team 1, is a 20-year veteran of active duty firefighting including time with the Pittsfield (Mass.) Fire Department. He is now on a 90-day active duty tour.

"The most common violations have been those of human error," he

reports. "For example, combustible material, such as a paper towel rack or contact paper has been placed over the gas stove. Another has been the number of appliances plugged into one receptacle, thus overloading electrical circuits. People sleeping in a home's basement is a fire code violation. There's only one exit. If there was a fire, they might be trapped."

Sometimes Sergeant Hunt finds flammable liquids improperly stored or faulty fireplaces or screens. "Depending on the nature and seriousness of the violation, I give the family a specific time period to correct the situation. Combustible material must be removed immediately. I'll give the occupants a few days to install a vent for their electric clothes dryer."

He also inspects the home structurally and reports deficiencies to Base Civil Engineering for their followup and repair. In one house, he discovered a

water leak deteriorating wiring and creating a potential hazard.

"The hardest part of my job is educating some of the people. A few, not familiar with base housing regulations, don't accept an inspector's brief intrusion into their home. Others simply can't be bothered and don't realize the value of a fire protection program," Sergeant Hunt noted.

Most of the families, however, are very appreciative of the inspection and guidance. Sergeant Hunt leaves behind numerous pamphlets which range from operating a fire extinguisher to a baby sitter's handbook. He also distributes "tot finder" decals and specially prepared adhesive labels listing Westover's emergency telephone numbers.

When he does finish his report, and all violations are resolved, Sergeant Hunt leaves knowing there's another family which, most likely, won't become another fire statistic.

Hartford policeman is one-man community actions program



TSgt Lee Martin

by Capt. Rick Dyer

Lee Martin doesn't want much — he just wants your blood.

TSgt. Arnold L. (Lee) Martin is a flight chief with the 901st WSSF, and is also an 18-year veteran of the Hartford, Conn. Police Department, where he serves as a sergeant.

That should be enough to keep most people occupied, but not Lee. He's a dynamic, one-man community action program, and donates much of his time as a recruiter and donor for the Greater Hartford Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Sergeant Martin became interested in the blood program as a young man, but was rebuffed in his initial attempts to donate.

"I was stricken with rheumatic fever as a child, and I was told several times that I couldn't give," he said. "Finally, in 1968, I decided to give it one more try, and this time they allowed me the opportunity to give."

Lee has never stopped giving—in more ways than one. He has donated nearly five gallons of blood, and has also participated 13 times as a special donor in the Red Cross pherisis program.

Pherisis is a special process where white cells and platelets are skimmed from a donor's blood, for transfusion to leukemia victims. The pherisis procedure is a lengthy one, and requires the donor to be on the table for between two and five hours.

The sergeant was honored in 1979 by the Red Cross for his extensive participation in the pherisis program. He has been named to the board of directors of the Greater Hartford Red Cross chapter, and is chairman of the advisory council to the Red Cross' Hartford branch. He is also a member of the board of trustees of the Connecticut chapter of the National Hemophiliac Foundation.

Sergeant Martin's interest in the Red Cross has a personal aspect. His 14-year old son, Marty, was diagnosed as a hemophiliac as an infant. Compounding the problem, Marty also has AB negative blood, an extremely rare type.

"Prior to his 10th birthday, Marty was in the hospital more than he was out of it," Sergeant Martin said. "But thanks to medical advances and help from the Red Cross, his condition has stabilized."

The sergeant said he is most thankful for the assistance the Red Cross has given his family. Red Cross officials undoubtedly feel the same way about him.

In addition to giving his own blood, Sergeant Martin spends extensive time recruiting donors for the pherisis and regular blood programs.

He recently organized a donor program among his fellow police officers in Hartford. "The department previously only had a handful of regular donors, and now there are more than 80," he said. "What's more, some of them are giving every 60 days.

"I feel tremendous about my involvement with the Red Cross, particularly when I think of my son, and the good that can be done by a simple act like giving a pint of blood," he said.

Sergeant Martin also noted that Connecticut is one of the few states that has a "free" blood program. Donors are not paid, and recipients are not charged for the blood they receive. "That's extremely important when you consider that a pint of blood costs as much as \$95 in other states," he added.

When he's not giving his own blood, or urging others to donate, Sergeant Martin helps people in many other ways. He is active in Hartford's Police Explorer Program, and in the Police Athletic League. He taught a law enforcement course at Weaver High

School in Hartford, an assignment which he enjoyed, and which also involved a good deal of youth counseling.

Lee is vice president of the West Hartford Lions Club, a service organization which provides extensive assistance to the blind and hearing impaired, and chairs the WTIC Radio Advisory Council, a group which advises the station on community relations and affirmative action matters.

To top it all off, Sergeant Martin earned his bachelor's degree in September, following completion of night college courses at the New Haven, Conn. branch of New Hampshire College. His major? You guessed it — human services.

Somehow, it all fits into place, and Lee Martin finds time to spend at his West Hartford, Conn. home with his two children and his wife, Remona. He's even setting his sights on another goal, a master's degree in counselling.

No one could ever accuse Lee Martin of suffering from "tired blood."



Jennifer Peltier, two, daughter of Capt. and Mrs. Roger Peltier, and Mark Martens, four, son of Capt. and Mrs. Robert Martens strut their stuff. They were models for a luncheon-fashion show Dec. 7 hosted by several officers' wives who also were models. Clothes were furnished by the BX with commentary by Mrs. Mary Sullivan. Piano music was provided by Daniel Mashia of Chicopee. (Photo by TSgt. Marshall Hathaway)

'Twas The Night Before Christmas

by 1st Lt. Clifford Turcotte, 74th AES

'Twas the night before Christmas
 When all through the base
 Not an engine was turning.
 Planes parked in their place.
 The covers were hung on the jet pads with care
 In hopes that Maintenance soon would be there.
 The pilots were nestled all snug in their beds
 While visions of airdrops danced in their heads.
 And the crew in their bags, and I from my trip
 Had just settled down in the club for a nip.
 When out on the base there arose such a clatter
 I sprang from my table to see what was the matter.
 Away to the window I stumbled and crashed,
 Tore open the shutters and threw open the sash.
 On Gallin! On Clancy! On Newhouse and Harris!
 To the top of the world, to the south we will haul,
 Now Dash One! Dash One! Dash One for all!
 As 130s that, before the wild hurricane fly,
 When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky.
 So up to the clouds the coursers they flew
 With a sleigh full of cargo, and St. Nicholas too.
 And then in a twinkling, I heard on the line
 The roaring of engines, the jets' wheezy whine.
 As I drew in my head and was turning around,
 Through the bar door St. Nicholas came with a bound.
 He was dressed all in Nomex from his head to his foot,
 And his clothes were all covered with oil and with soot.
 A bundle of cargo he had flung on his back,
 And he looked like a Provider crew just coming back.
 His eyes how they looked all red and all puffy
 His cheeks were all swollen, his nose was all stuffy.
 His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow

And the beard on his chin was not the one that I know.
 The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth
 And the smoke, it encircled his head like a wreath.
 He had a broad face and a little round belly
 That shook, when he laughed like a bowl full of jelly.
 He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
 And I quoted 35-10 in spite of myself.
 With a wink of his eye and a twist of his head
 He turned and to me said, "I'm retired, 35-10 I don't dread."
 He spoke of the wing and all their good
 And filled all the pitchers, on the table he stood.
 Raising his glass, he proposed up a toast
 To the 439th, You guys are the most.
 Then he sprang up to leave, to my team I must go
 The crewmembers then stopped him with, "No, it's our show."
 They loaded their aircraft with gifts to deliver then
 Fired their engines and took off in a quiver.
 They dropped packages all through the night and
 Returned to the club at dawn's early light.
 And what did they see that morning, you say?
 Santa still standing, it made their day.
 So a crew member they made him of this here wing,
 And loaded him up with vodka and gin.
 One last trip was in order, so they brought him back home,
 And I heard Mrs. Santa exclaim with a moan,
 "When you left, Mac my darling, I thought it would end."
 But a crewmember's a crewmember and men will be men.
 So he said to the crew, "Thanks for this gift,
 You've renewed my spirit, and thanks for the lift."
 Each Christmas you'll see an old gent in the club,
 And he will wish you good cheer and give you a hug.
 Don't call for the police or the manager hear,
 It's only a crewmember. Merry Christmas and Good Year.

FY 1981 UTA Schedule

Jan. 10-11	May 30-31
Feb. 7-8	June 27-28
Mar. 7-8	July - None
Apr. 4-5	Aug. 15-16
May 2-3	Sept. 12-13

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

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
 PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300



THIRD CLASS-BULK RATE