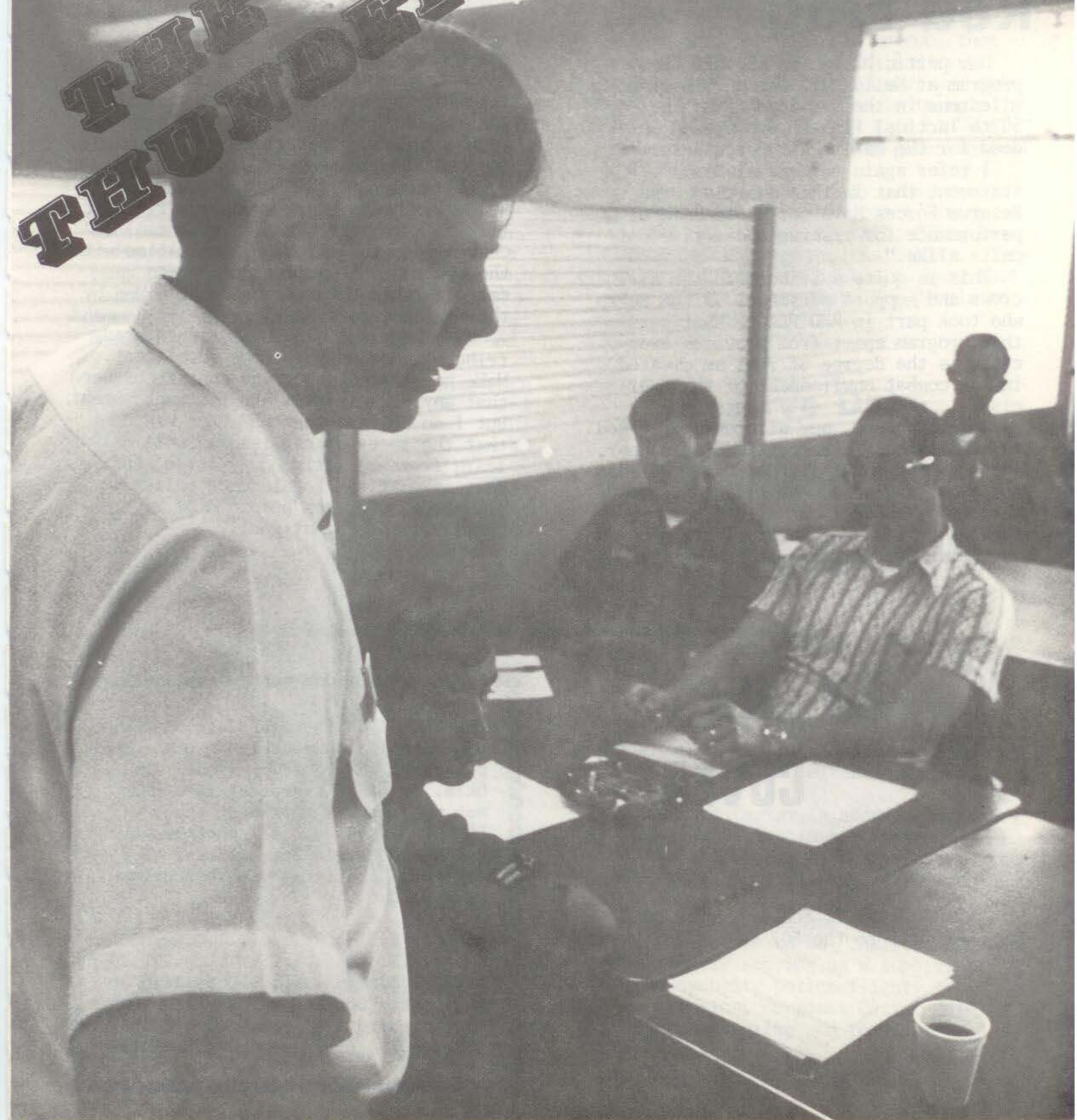




507 Tactical Fighter Group, Tinker AFB, OK
June 1976

THE THUNDERCHIEF



Milestone Passed As Reserves Chalk-up Good Performance in Red Flag

Our participation in the RED FLAG program at Nellis AFB was an important milestone in the development of the 507th Tactical Fighter Group, and indeed for the entire Air Force Reserve.

I refer again to General Dixon's statement that in this exercise "the Reserve Forces have set a standard of performance for reserve and active duty units alike."

This is quite a tribute to the aircrews and support personnel of the 507th who took part in RED FLAG. What sets this program apart from previous exercises is the degree of realism created in the combat environment of the exercise.

In all phases, our aircrews performed their missions in an outstanding manner. They chalked up "kills" of "enemy" F-4s and F-5s, and scored well against ground targets. Three of our pilots were treated to a day of survival training in the desert terrain after simulated

shoot downs.

On the maintenance side, one accomplishment in particular illustrates the quality of their work; that during one month of flying operations, we had only one aborted mission.

In summary, I think it is quite an accomplishment when a young reserve unit (flying a 16-year old aircraft) can charge into the thick of competition with the cream of the active duty force and emerge with such praise as that given by the Commander of the Tactical Air Command.

We cannot, of course, let such heady tribute cause us to become complacent. Make no mistake about the continuous need that any organization has for improvement. But I do believe that RED FLAG proved that the reserves can lead as well as learn from the active duty force, and that is what the total force policy is all about. You can be proud of your contribution to that goal.

ON THE COVER



Lt Col Roger P. Scheer greets some new recruits to the 507 Tactical Fighter Group.

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Lt.Col. R.P. Scheer.....Commander
Capt. P.D. Fletcher.....IO
Barbara A. Vessels.....Civilian IO
SSgt. Skip Dobie...Information Tech
Sgt. Richard A. Caram.....Editor
SSgt. R. K. Brown.....Illustrator

Capt. Wrucha "Fights for Survival" in Red Flag

Injured and unable to walk, Capt Jerry Wrucha crawled painfully over the hot desert earth away from the burning remains of his jet fighter-bomber. He was exhausted, thirsty and surrounded by hostile forces. Would a rescue party recover him before the enemy arrived?

The answer to this dramatic question is yes, but fortunately for Capt Wrucha the situation described above was only a realistic training exercise offered as part of the ongoing RED FLAG program in preparing aircrews for the real thing.

Capt Wrucha was dropped into a "high threat" zone and left. The terrain was dry and sandy. Equipped with the standard survival gear, which includes water, radio, strobe light, signal mirror and a couple of flares. According to the "script", he sustained a back injury during the ejection sequence. He was, however, able to crawl some 30 yards and

hide under some mesquite bushes. Then he was able to call the SAAR by radio.

The exercise called for the Life Support Chief to evade the aggressors and once the message was sent to SAAR, they immediately went into action. They dispatched a C-130 to the area to act as a recon and coordinate the rescue, then several A-7s kept up sustained fire power until an HH53 helicopter was able to have their medical people to help him into the chopper and lift him out. Once he was aboard, he was given medical aid and flown to safety.

Capt Wrucha was highly pleased with the equipment, his previous training, and the SAAR crew. He said, "They performed quickly and professionally. They really built my confidence to know that if a pilot is down, there are people to get him out."



SSgt Ronald C. Carter

Reserve Duty

"Challenging"

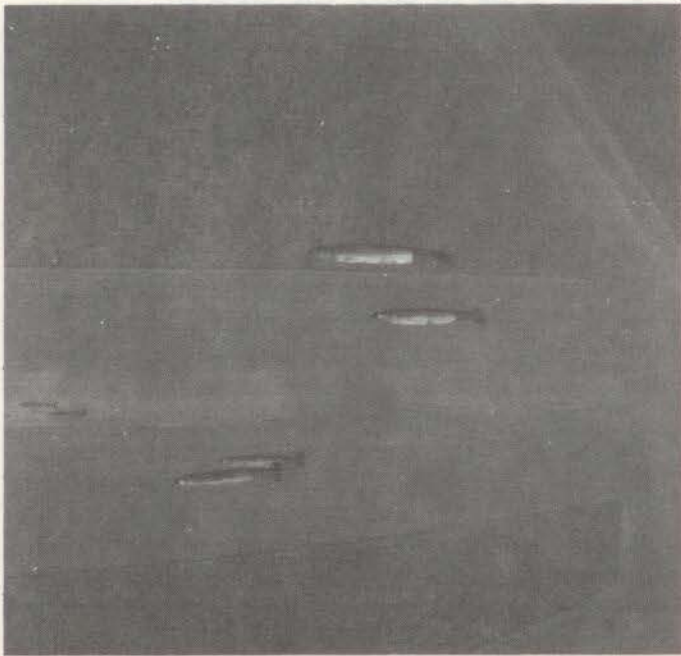
To Airman of The Quarter

A 26-year old Staff Sergeant from the 507 Weapons System Security Flight, Ronald C. Carter, has been selected as Outstanding Airman of the Quarter for the 507 TFG.

Sergeant Carter, a security officer in civilian life, is a veteran of four and one-half years of active duty, with assignments in Viet Nam, Texas, and Maryland.

Sergeant Carter has found his work in the reserves to be "challenging" and is currently serving as a supervisor in the security police flight.

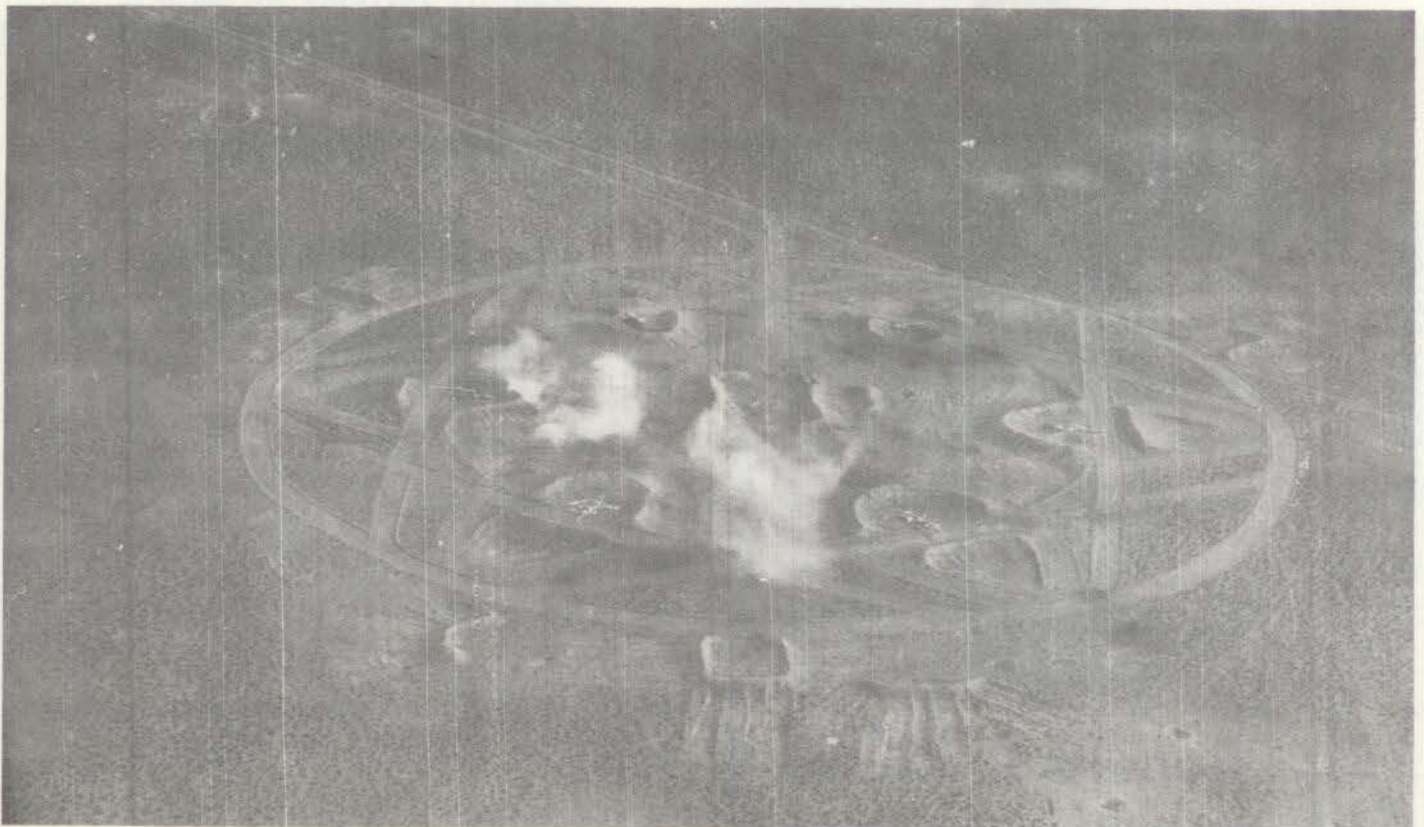
A bachelor, Sergeant Carter enjoys reading, bicycling and tennis.



507th Shows True

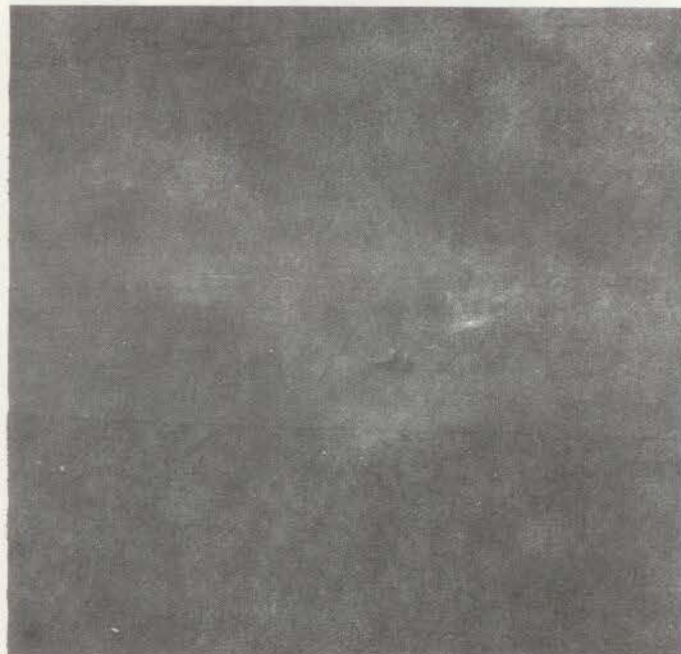
507th pilots bomb mock runway attempting to put it out of commission.

In an exercise during RED FLAG, the fighter pilots practice bombing missions on a mock SAM site.



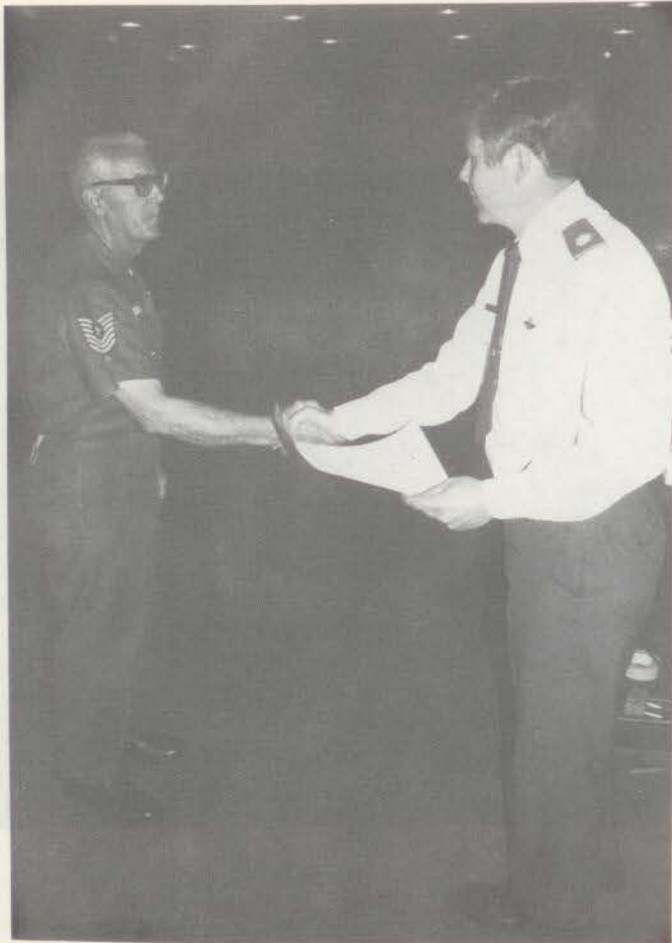
Colors in 'Red Flag'

"Direct Hits" were chalked up for the 507th as they showed top-notch gunning.

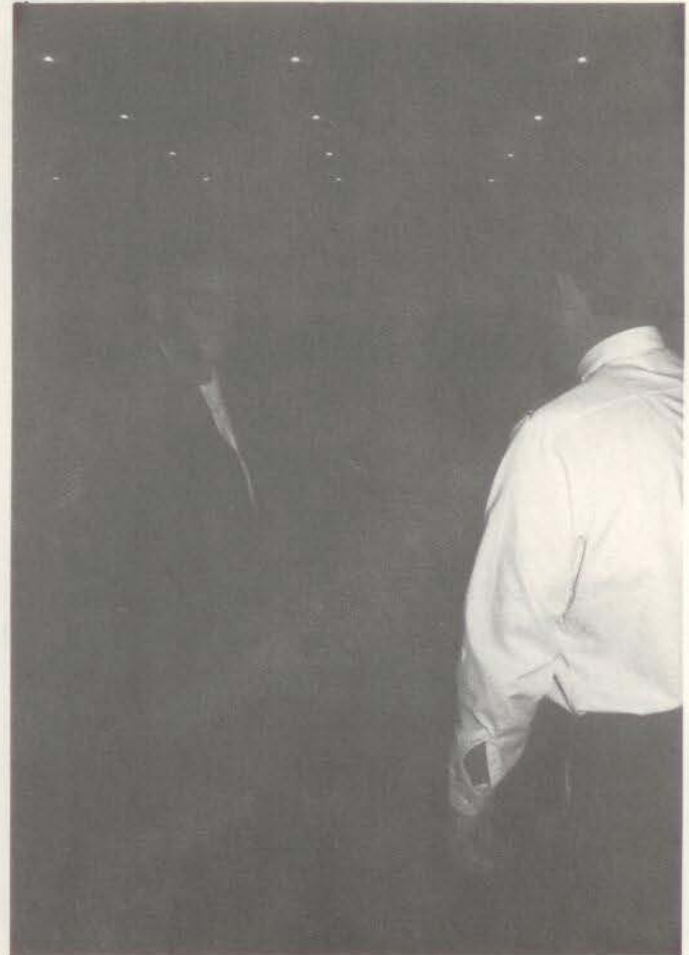


Capt Barry Whipple, Maj Hugh Jackson and Maj John Closner are being briefed on flight instructions during RED FLAG.





Retiring after many years of service to the Regular Air Force and the 507 Tactical Fighter Group, MSgt Carmin Petruccione was given an award during Commander's Call in May.



TSgt Curtis L. Lovelady received the Air Force Commendation for outstanding service in the Reserves at Commander's Call in May.

Airmans's Advisory Council Still Exists

The Airmen's Advisory Council was developed for enlisted men in the 507th to increase greater understanding of the Air Force Reserves.

Its purpose is to let airmen come to meetings and discuss their problems or give suggestions to the council.

The council is only a listening body and cannot actually act upon any suggestion--they can only help make higher authority aware of problems.

In May, the Council discussed the plight of the "Rip off--Bending Machines." Open Rank Inspections were talked about as well as Commander's Call.

It is also available as a group to help problems that might affect any airman. If you have any suggestion that might

help them, or the Reserves, let them know. Their names and phone numbers are listed below.

MSgt Mathews	X7486
SSgt Flowers	X7638
SSgt Weavers	X3742
SSgt Jackson	X7867
Sgt Kaloyanides	X7849
Sgt Cummins	X7849
Sgt McGinnis	X7486
Sgt Curren	X7486
SSgt Lones	X7075
TSgt Nero	X2278
TSgt Handyside	X2278
SSgt Brown	X7485
AIC Walters	X7485
Sgt Grantham	X7486
SMSt Hawley	X7638
Sgt Echerria	X3268
SSgt Drake	X7486

LIVE & LEARN

by Chaplain
Robert Helmich

Never Underestimate the Power of Prayer

A little lad of six was invited out to lunch in a neighbor's home. As soon as all were seated at the table, the food was served. The little boy was puzzled. With the forthright frankness of a child he asked the host, "Don't you say any prayer before you eat?"

The host was uncomfortable over the boy's blunt inquiry, and mumbled, "No, we don't take time for that."

The lad thought silently for a while and then said, "You're just like my dog! You just start right in!"

More and more I am disturbed by the ungrateful attitude expressed by the vast majority of the people of our nation. Very few possess the sensitive awareness of the goodness of God that this lad expressed. To take for granted the blessings of God without so much as a "Thank You" is indeed a heinous crime against Him.

Then there are the self-centered people who attempt to reduce God to an errand boy like Marie Bachkireseff, a young Russian girl who prayed: "My God, grant that I may never have the small pox; that I may remain pretty; that I may have a beautiful voice, and that I may be happily married."

Prayer is the greatest source of power known to mankind, and yet it is relied upon more often as a last resort when it should be first. Nuclear power is not worthy to be compared with prayer power if humanity would only seek as diligently to master it. Tenyson said, "More things are wrought by prayer than the world dreams of."

In gratitude and self-centeredness were not in the mind of Christ when he said, "After this manner pray ye!" Would to God our great men--military, political and social--would acknowledge their own personal need for this power by using it and lead the people of our nation to do so. Abraham Lincoln said, "I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom, and that of all about me, seemed insufficient for the day."

Increased Popularity of Water Sports Brings Increase in Water Fatalities

During recent years, our country started a mass move toward water sports, a fabulous, fantastic pastime. Unfortunately, the increase in water sports led to a like increase in water related fatalities. Almost 90 per cent of Air Force's sports and recreation fatalities involve water activities. Most fatalities occur off-base and during off-duty hours where Air Force supervisory influence is least effective.

A few years ago, the Air Force ran a survey and discovered that about 11 per cent of the officers and 21 per cent of the airmen would have difficulty surviving a water mishap which occurred 20 or more yards from a point of safety. The full accountability for drownings, however, cannot be attributed entirely to poor swimmers. Instances occur wherein strong swimmers perish as a result of overextending themselves, or through acts of indiscretion. The obvious point is that everyone should be able to swim and those who can should know their limitations. If you can't, learn; If you can, take it easy.



"Sir, one of the technicians wants to see you about a possible misprint in a safety manual."

Secretary Hoffmann Speaks Out

Military Unions 'Inconsistent'

Secretary of the Army Martin R. Hoffmann believes that a unionized military would not be a constructive thing for a citizen Army so close to the people, and that it would be totally inconsistent with the established chain-of-command.

On a recent "Directions 76" interview heard over the American Forces Radio and Television Service, he said, "My own view as Secretary of the Army is that unionization would not be a constructive thing for a citizen Army that is as close to the people on the one hand, and as close to the government, and particularly the Congress and Executive, on the other.

"Regardless of the fact that the unions say they will put aside the right to strike ... that right to strike is still an ultimate dynamic for them, just as the ultimate dynamic for us is going to combat, or the ultimate dynamic for a lawyer is going to court. And you can't get away from the fact that the

right to strike, that act of withholding availability of people, is totally inconsistent with the Constitutional chain-of-command."

PAY

When asked about pay, the Army Secretary said an outright comparison with the civilian work force doesn't exist and really can't be made.

"I don't think you can build comparability if you want to recognize only through the paycheck the contribution that the soldier makes. It's a different life," he said. "It has rewards over and beyond anything in civilian life in terms of national service and in terms of personal accomplishment."

PROMOTIONS

Mr. Hoffmann said the Army is no different from any organization as you go near the top. Promotions are competitive. The need is really for a stable end-strength, he said, "because we need to be able to predict assignments, to predict

promotion scale, and to predict resource levels."

The Army Secretary tackled head-on the recent forced attrition of some senior captains and majors. He said in part, "We unfortunately have men who are being asked to leave the Service today who would qualify in anybody's army.

"I hope," he added, "it will spark Congress to take an enlightened look at the retirement system so that an individual who retires or leaves the Army short of 20 years is not penalized for that service by having no portion of a retirement upon which to build a successive career."

PEOPLE

The Army Secretary said the ultimate weapon, despite marvelous technologies, is the ready soldier on the ground with the weapons at his disposal. He pointed out that in today's all volunteer Army the quality is generally better and that there is no substitute for having people who really want to be there.

Recalling his own experience as part of the draft Army, he said the professionals were somewhat distrustful of the draftees and the draftees resentful they were called while others were not. "Today we're getting the young man that can go to almost any job that he wants, and he prefers a changeable life, prefers some national service," he noted.

Secretary Hoffman said one of his goals is to make the all volunteer Army a continued success. A second is to overcome shortcomings in materiel to make the Army more combat-ready, and a third is to make the Reserve components truly a part of the total force.

PROMOTIONS

TO MAJOR

Lindel V. Adair
Clifford A. Cole
Aaron R. DeWees
John R. Brooke

TO SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT

Billy K. Burnette
TO MASTER SERGEANT

William Pepper
TO STAFF SERGEANT

John A. Sinclair
Stephen S. Collins
Rudolph E. Ryan
James A. Royce
James A. Dixon

TO AIRMAN

Carlton K. Jackson
Lena Taylor



TO TECHNICAL SERGEANT

Thomas M. Morse
David W. Hamm

TO SERGEANT

Joseph M. Bussell
Robert H. Hanes
William W. Smith

TO AIRMAN FIRST CLASS

Mary J. Porter
Timothy D. Dennis
Cherry L. Norfleet

