Talon

CADET MAGAZINE OF THE USAF ACADEMY
MARCH 1974



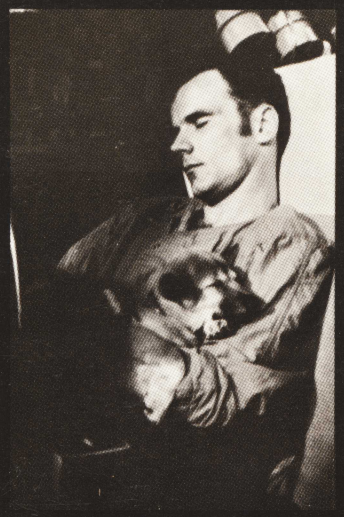


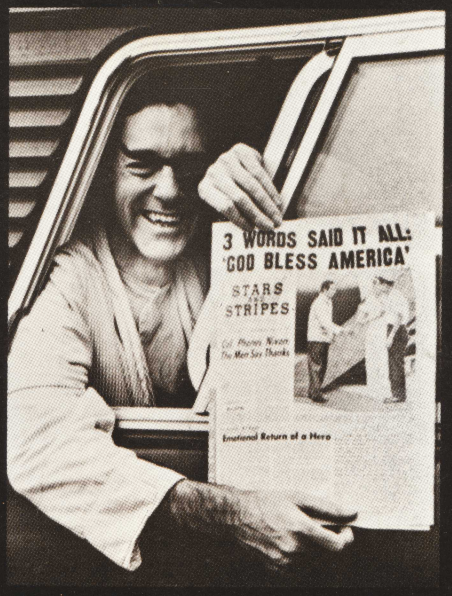






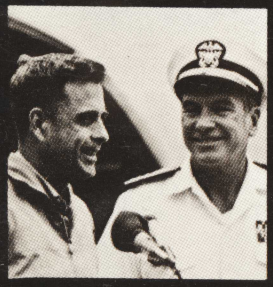




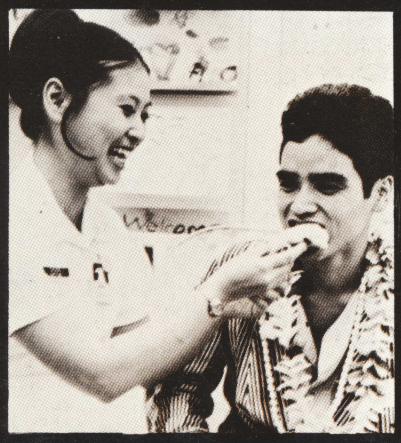






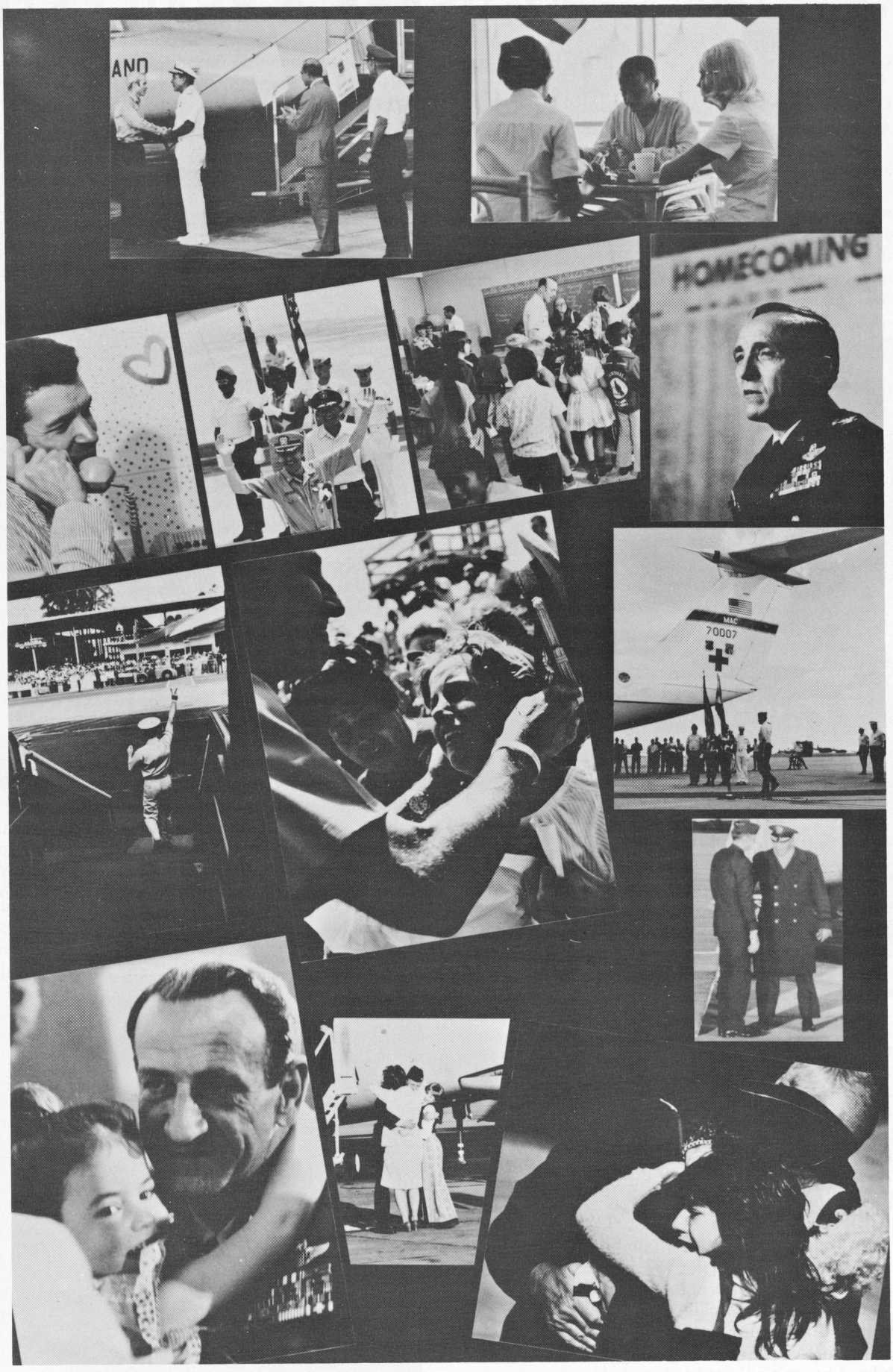











AND
HOMECOMING
MAC
70007

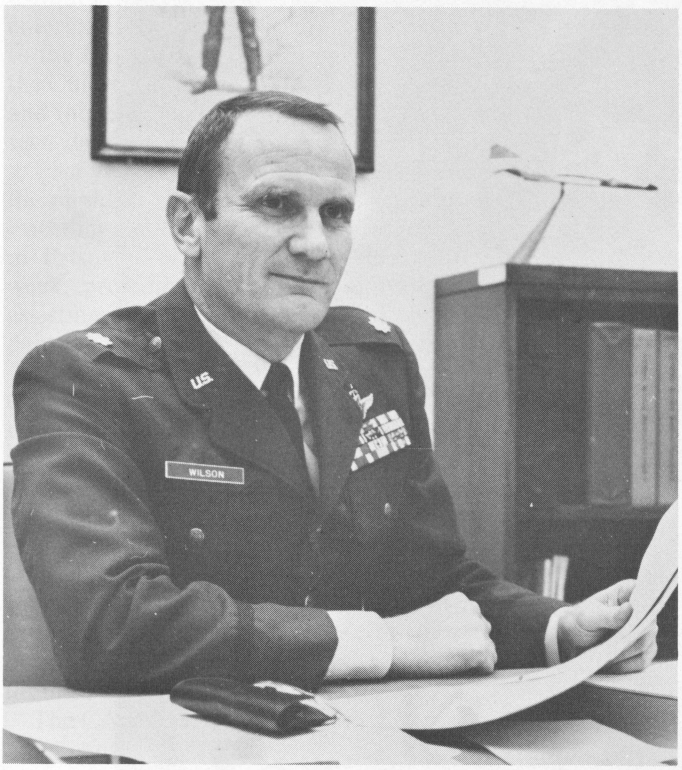
THE POWs — AT USAFA A YEAR LATER

by Jim Keaton '74

On this, the first anniversary of the release of the POW s, the TALON interviewed the five officers on station here who were prisoners of war in Vietnam.

In exploring the ideas and reflections of these men after a year back, they all stated that adjustment was made easier by the pumping of recently captured pilots for information. This information included changes in style of clothes, automobiles, and the American way of life. In fact, a complete resume of the movie "Play Misty for Me" was briefed to give an idea of what an "R" rated movie was.

These are the comments of Lt. Col. G. H. Wilson, Lt. Col. Ben Pollard, Major Paul Kari, Maj. Thomas Storey, and Capt. Leroy Stutz.

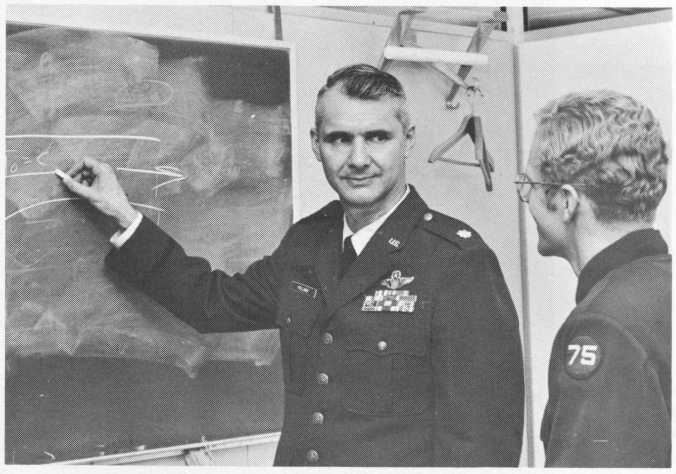


Lt. Colonel G. H. Wilson

Lt. Col. Wilson was born in upstate New York and lived on Long Island. He attended Dartmouth University, majoring in history, where he played varsity basketball. He graduated in 1955 with a ROTC commission in the Air Force and attended UPT at Laredo AFB, Texas. Lt. Col. Wilson flew F-84's and F-100's in Europe in such distinguished company as Brig. General Robin Olds and Lt. General "Chappie" James in the 81st Tactical Fighter Wing. Lt. Col. Wilson was shot down on his 167th mission over North Vietnam on August 7, 1967. He was released on March 14, 1973. He now works in the Comm Shop. Lt. Col. Wilson is married with three children and enjoys golf.

Commenting on his return, Lt. Col. Wilson remarked on the changes in America: "Everything is bigger and better except hairstyles. I haven't adjusted to long hair on guys yet."

Lt. Col. Ben M. Pollard



Lt. Col. Pollard has gained notoriety as the man who taught Thermodynamics in the Hanoi Hilton without textbooks, blackboards, or HP-35's. He hails from Shelbyville, Kentucky and is a Purdue graduate. He was commissioned in 1954 through ROTC. From 1956 through 1959, Lt. Col. Pollard was an instructor and test pilot in T-33's and F-86's as Perrin AFB, Texas. Lt. Col. Pollard received his Master of Science from Purdue in 1961 in propulsion and served as an assistant professor of Aeronautics here at the Academy until 1966. While flying an F-105 he was shot down on May 15, 1967 five miles south of the Chinese border in North Vietnam. Repatriated March 4, 1973, Lt. Col. Pollard is an avid skier and enjoys Colorado ski country with his wife and two children. He is now an associate professor of Aeronautics and will soon become a full Colonel.

Reflecting upon his return, Lt. Col. Pollard had this to say concerning the real heroes of the war. "I feel some of the best soldiers were back in the States in the form of wives. They had the toughest job and made it easier to adjust."

Major Paul A. Kari



Major Kari is assigned to the Academy as SERE instructor. Originally from Akron, Ohio, Maj. Kari is a 1958 graduate of Ohio State University. In 1962 Maj. Kari was high man in the first NATO Aircraft Gunnery Meet held at St. Dizier, France. In 1965 he accompanied the 45th Tactical Fighter Squadron to Ubon Air Base, Thailand. After 64 missions in 70 days Maj. Kari was shot down 100 miles west of Hanoi on June 20, 1965. He was the twelfth U.S. pilot shot down over the North. He was released on February 12, 1973, and was on the first C-141 out of Hanoi. Major Kari won the Distinguished Flying Cross in Southeast Asia.

Major Kari summed up contemporary American life: "After a year, I think that America, if channeled in the next couple of years with the right leadership, could come out of this conflict a much better nation . . . I think any nation this great will have great problems."



Major Tom Storey

"If I ever get out of this damn place I want to go to the Air Force Academy." Major Tom Storey could have had his choice of any fighter unit in the Air Force, but chose to come here in order to relate his experiences to cadets. And his favorite method is the "rap session."

Major Storey has been both civilian and military since he graduated from Western Illinois in 1953. During his first hitch he flew F-84's and then joined the Air National Guard in Illinois. He was recalled for active duty during the Berlin crisis and decided to stay in the Air Force, accepting a regular commission in 1962.

On January 16, 1967, Major Storey was shot down in an RF-4C while assigned to Udorn, Thailand.

"When I got back in the states the one thing that hit me between the eyes was the drug problem." The many miles he travelled around the states following his return gave him a chance to study the problem and talk with young people about it. Major Storey says he understands the problem now and believes it is on the wane in this country.

"Our motto in the prison camp was 'unity before self." Major Storey believes that motto is applicable to cadets.

Major Storey, who describes himself as a super-patriot, has another motto too: "Let's put the United back in the United States."

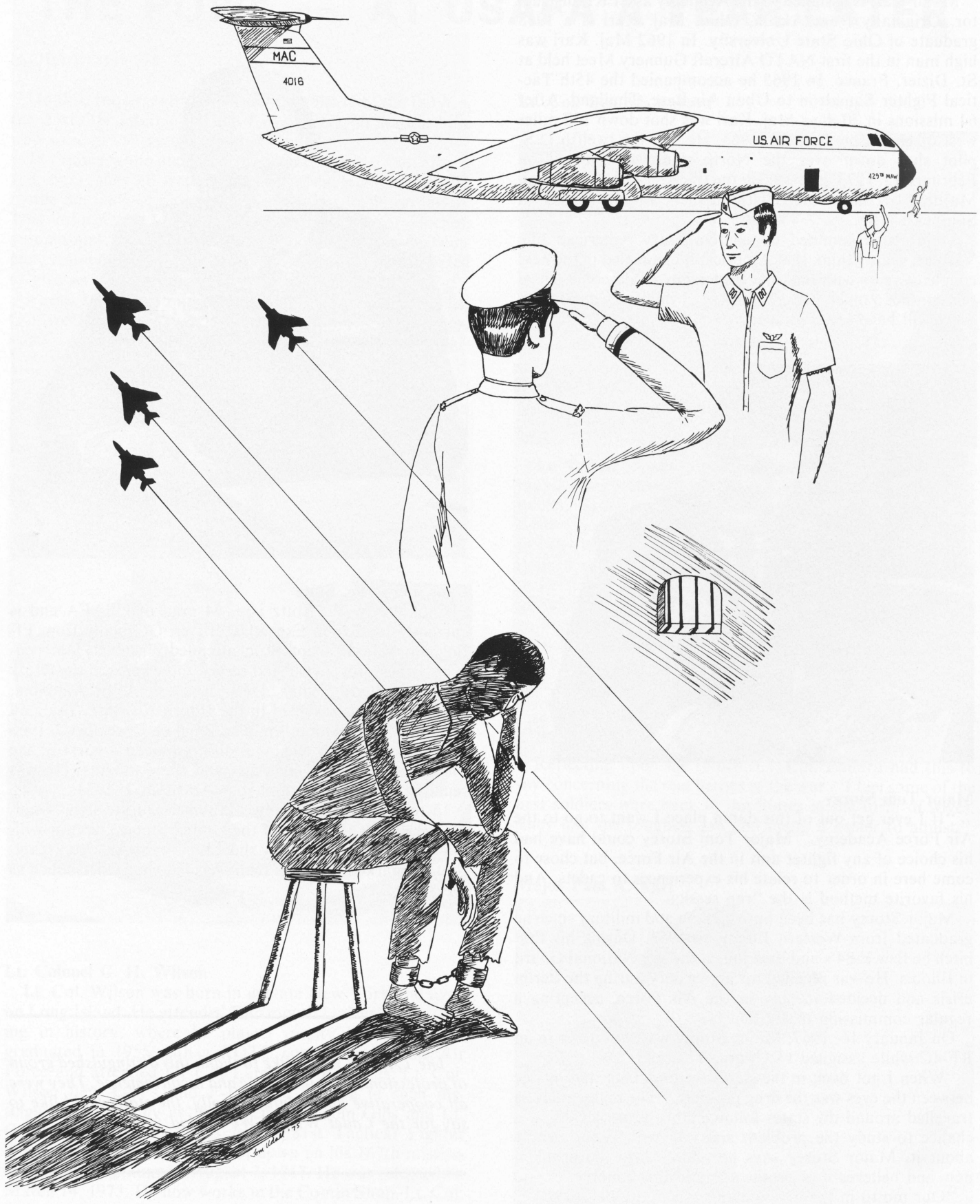


Capt. Leroy W. Stutz

Capt. Leroy W. Stutz is a '64 grad of USAFA and is currently 1st Group Executive officer. Originally from Effingham, Kansas, Capt. Stutz attended Washburn University in Topeka for a year and served three years in the Army National Guard. After UPT at Craig AFB, Alabama, Capt. Stutz was assigned to the Udorn Air Base, Thailand in 1966. He was shot down in an RF-4 on December 2, 1966 twenty miles north of Hanoi and remained a guest of the "Hanoi Hilton" for six years and three months. He was reunited with his wife and son on March 7, 1973.

In response to the changes in American life styles Capt. Stutz said: "The people of the United States aren't as willing to work as hard as they should." On the Academy Capt. Stutz remarked, "Things really haven't changed as much as I expected."

The TALON would like to thank this distinguished group of professionals for their time and inconvenience. They were all cooperative and helpful. Finally, the staff would like to say for the Cadet Wing: "We're glad you're here."



Drawing by Tom Udall '75

"We're glad you're here..."



