

Mildenhall sailor sets new course

New ensign heading off to officers' school

By MARC MCFANN
U.K. bureau

RAF MILDENHALL, England — Chief Petty Officer Paul Dosen has spent a career climbing the enlisted ladder in the Navy.

Now he's climbing again, but this time as an officer.

After nearly 16 years as an enlisted man, Dosen, 32, has been selected for the Navy's Limited Duty Officers program. His new rank of ensign is effective today.

The only change Dosen anticipates is his work schedule.

"My responsibilities are going to increase by far," said Dosen, who is trained in aviation ordnance but is currently assigned as the operations chief at the Naval Air Facility at RAF Mildenhall.

"On my new ship, the (amphibious assault ship) USS Tarawa, I'll have 53 enlisted members working for me," he added. "That's a lot of people compared to what I'm used to. I'll be the senior 'weaponeer' on the ship, and primarily concerned with getting everyone qualified and certified to handle the ordnance and ensure all programs and policies are carried out."

Dosen's selection makes him part of a small number of enlisted sailors who become officers through the LDO program, said Lt. Cmdr. J.D. Wynn, division director for the Limited Duty Officers and Chief Warrant Officers Indoctrination School in Pensacola, Fla.

Normally the Navy allocates between 450 to 600 slots per year for LDOs, Wynn said. In most cases, depending on how critical the job is to the Navy, the highest

rank an LDO sailor can reach is captain.

"The key to selection in this program is sustained superior performance," Wynn said. "If an individual is identified throughout his career as being a sailor who is trying to continually improve his personal and professional abilities and maintains that superior performance, that's the candidate we want for the program."

For Dosen, the idea of becoming an officer surfaced in 1983, while he was stationed aboard the aircraft carrier Midway.

"The chief I worked for recommended me for the commissioning program," he said. "He's the one who started me thinking about it. And ever since then, I have been recommended at every command I've been stationed."

Although Dosen was recommended for the LDO program all those years, his paperwork to become an officer could not be officially forwarded until he made petty officer first class in 1992. His packet finally was approved three months after his arrival at Mildenhall.

"It's a long process," Dosen said. "From the time your package gets put in, until the time you get final word, takes about eight months. It was January 1994 when the skipper came up and congratulated me and told me I'd made LDO."

In about a week, Dosen will leave the United Kingdom to attend the LDO school in Pensacola. The four-week course is designed as a transition course from enlisted to officer, refining leadership and covering communication, naval law, sea power and naval administration.



'My responsibilities are going to increase by far. On my new ship... I'll have 53 enlisted members working for me.'

— Paul Dosen, who is moving from chief petty officer to ensign

Although sailors who are selected for LDO are recognized as some of the Navy's best, Dosen credits much of his success to his wife, Christine.

"She's sacrificed a lot for my career," Dosen said. "She understands that I have to do certain things like work late hours or go to sea. When my daughter was born, I was out in the (Persian) Gulf during the war. I left my wife when she was six months pregnant and did not see my daughter until she was 6 months old. My wife has put up with a lot."

After completing LDO school in Florida, Dosen, his wife, 4-year-old daughter, Mikaela, and 1-year-old son, Joseph, will move to their new assignment in San Diego.

Rhein-Main ceremony ends era as 'gateway'

By WAYNE V. HALL
Staff writer

RHEIN-MAIN AB, Germany — Several hundred people turned out Friday to watch the 435th Airlift Wing's more than 50-year history draw to an emotional close.

The inactivation ceremony for the 435th — Rhein-Main AB's host unit — signified that the base's drawdown is now rapidly nearing completion. Those attending noted obvious changes to the base's external appearance — like an airport security gate under construction at the base's existing entrance.

For nearly five decades, Rhein-Main has served as the Gateway to Europe for millions of American servicemembers.

"Rhein-Main has been known to all as the Gateway to Europe, and their success means that literally millions are free," said Gen. James L. Jamerson, commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe. He noted the involvement of the base's host unit, the 435th, in the Berlin Airlift, Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and current humanitarian airlift missions.

A new unit emerged during the ceremony as the 469th Air Base Sq, which assumes control of and responsibility for Rhein-Main AB and its mission as a con-

tingency air base.

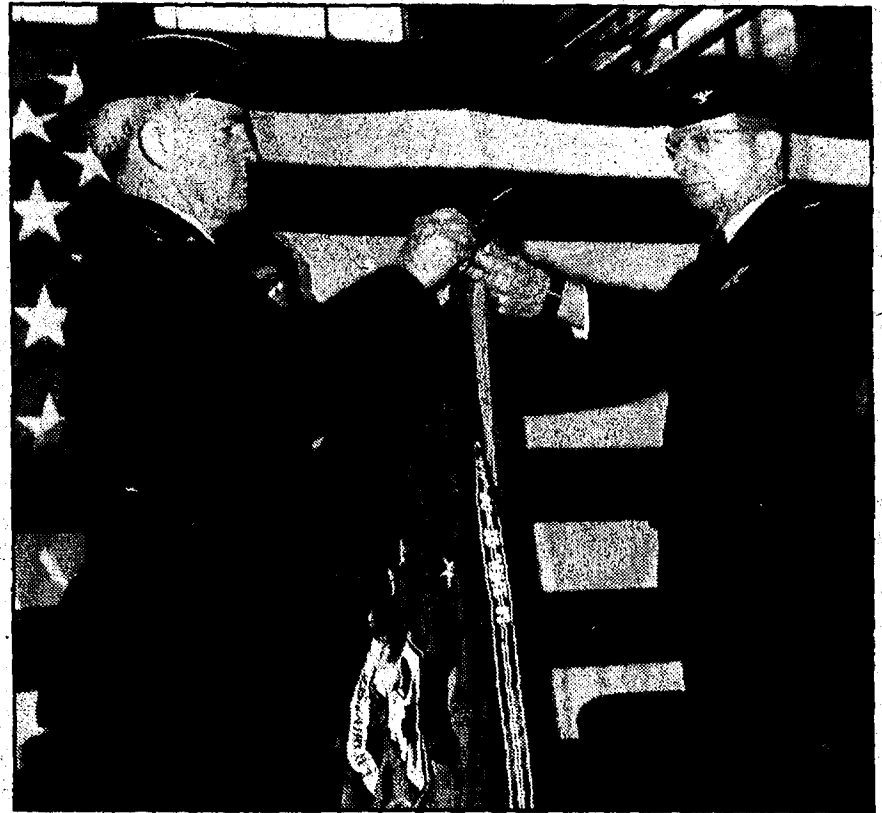
"I'm sure Rhein-Main will continue to do what it's always done — get the mission done," said Col. Don A. Philpitt, former commander of the now-inactivated 435th Airlift Wing.

In wishing good luck and goodbye to the base, Philpitt — who has been a part of the wing for 3½ years and its commander since December — was overcome with emotion. His feelings also were reflected in the crowd, as a number of former base residents revealed some tears.

Upon closing, Philpitt left the podium in tears, as the crowd rose for a standing ovation, signifying the end of the wing and base's long and proud history.

Before the ceremony, USAFE turned over a large portion of the base's property — including the base theater, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service gas station and some dormitories — to the Frankfurt Airport Authority, Air Force officials said.

Several facilities still must be returned, once they've been replaced by like facilities within the base's new boundaries. They are to be returned before April 1997.



S&S: Wayne V. Hall

Gen. James L. Jamerson (left), commander of the U.S. Air Forces in Europe, and Col. Don A. Philpitt, commander of the now-inactivated 435th Airlift Wing, attach a streamer signifying the Air Force's Outstanding Unit Award to the wing's colors during the inactivation ceremony Friday.

2 jail workers face charges in inmate sex case

By CINDY KILLION
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Two female sergeants will face courts-martial charges for allegedly having sex with male inmates at the military prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., Army officials say.

The charges follow an investigation into the behavior of six soldiers working at the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks who allegedly have violated prison rules regarding personal relationships with inmates.

The prison's policy prohibits contact by guards or staff members with inmates unless it is part of official duties, a Leavenworth statement said.

Staff Sgt. Tamara Y. Dale, 27, is charged with having sexual intercourse with an inmate, wrongfully corresponding with an inmate, accepting a gift from an inmate and wrongfully communicating by telephone with

an inmate.

Staff Sgt. Robin A. Warthen, 34, is facing the same charges minus the telephone specification.

Both women are cooks assigned inside the prison.

They will be prosecuted by a military judge sitting alone at Fort Leavenworth. A date has not been set, according to post officials.

If found guilty, the maximum punishment is confinement for six months, a bad-conduct discharge, forfeiture of two-thirds pay and allowances, and reduction to private.

In addition, a female guard, Sgt. Terrina J. Walker, 27, has accepted nonjudicial punishment in lieu of a court-martial for violating prison policy by fraternizing and wrongfully communicating with an inmate.

It is not known if the inmates involved will be disciplined, although the inmate book of regulations prohib-

its such behavior.

Three other sergeants — two female and one male, two of whom are guards — are still under investigation for having improper relationships with inmates.

Early rumors alleged all six are part of a prostitution and drug distribution ring operating within the prison walls.

But inmate advocate Carolyn Dock discounts the magnitude of the problem. She chalks up the incidents to "the birds and the bees" and to the prison's recent relaxation of its rules on where female staff members can work.

"Whenever you have men and women working together in close quarters for long periods of time, hormones are going to get fired up," she said. "It's just natural that some things like this are going to happen."