

# JOY

Dear Friends,

As 1986 closes, I am still reeling a bit from the latest intense moments. Flying Tigers' new boss beat labor up, and it wasn't fun. It is amazing how much attention we got in the national media — company propoganda which can be discounted. The final outcome is a 25% payout but it may go up to 38%. So for all of you who were expecting me to have some time off, it looks as though I'll be busier than ever.....NOT my idea.

Working really took up most of my time (and sleep) as you were able to guess by either no visits or one day ones. Considering my general attitude towards work, it is ironic that I was reprimanded by my union for working too MUCH. Yes, it is official and a major source of amusement for those with whom I fly.

I am based in Kansas City, though I have only been more than a mile from the airport once this year. Additionally, I fly out of Minneapolis and Oklahoma City a week at a time, so much of this year has been a hotel existence. Santa Maria remains the best place for messages though I rarely get home. I do have a mail box at Tigers' Columbus hub — c/6 Flying Tigers P.O. Box 297 Groveport, OH 43125.

In June, I quit the Reserves — again — but not before, against all my requests, USAF promoted me to Major, backdated to 1 Oct 84. The logic of it escapes me but I asked for backpay and got it. This is the final end to my Air Force career (and don't tell me you've heard that one before.)

In September, I got a son. His name is Steffano Bay. He's 2½ with brown hair and 14.2 hands tall — an Arabian stallion. He is standing stud in Pennsylvania for \$400, but if his offspring are good that goes up. If they are bad, he loses his social standing and he'll become a pleasure horse, i.e., the rider's, not his.

A review of the year drives home how much time I have spent asleep in a recliner. I only can hope that Tigers will be able to put our concessions to good use. I am not going to start on a B-scale somewhere else since I am only in this for the money.. And if the time off doesn't improve, I'll find something else. Let's face it. I am a Renaissance Handyman who most enjoys visiting and puttering around at friends! If I win the lottery, watch out!!!