

# PATRIOT

439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing | Westover ARB, Mass. | Volume 40 No. 2

February 2013 | Patriot Wing -- Leaders in Excellence

## Westover Delivers Patriot Missiles to Turkey



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## UTA SNAPSHOT

>> Construction continues on the base bowling center; completion is set for March.  
>> Information: [westoverservices.com](http://westoverservices.com)

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**ON THE COVER:** The 439<sup>th</sup> AW joined forces to deploy Patriot missile batteries in support of NATO efforts to augment Turkey's self-defense capabilities. The deployment follows Defense Secretary Leon Panetta's order to deploy the batteries to de-escalate the situation along the Turkey-Syrian border. (photos by SrA. Caitlin O'Neil-McKeown and SrA. Kelly Galloway, cover illustration by W.C. Pope)



**SEALS AND WHALE >>** An oversize Navy SEAL delivery vehicle gets loaded aboard a Dover Air Force Base, Del., C-5M Super Galaxy in January. Westover is scheduled to receive its first M-model in 2014. (photo by SrA. Kelly Galloway)

As we hit our stride in 2013, I want to remind everyone that as a wing we were exceptionally successful last year. You, as a member, either accomplished something great or were a key part of any one of those accomplishments. As an individual you helped make Team Westover the wing of choice by those who needed something done, done quickly and correctly. Congratulations.

As 2013 proceeds we are faced with challenges; some we know about and some we aren't even aware of yet. The fiscal cliff came and isn't going to go away any time soon. The Middle East is still an extremely volatile part of the world. Military operations in Afghanistan are slowly coming to a close. Closer to home, we have multiple major inspections this summer. And these have to be done while still fulfilling "routine" high-tempo daily operations.

Sounds rough, but it's not. Those inspectors will want you to talk to them straight, be transparent, and practice accountability. It all starts with "trust" from this day forward and carries on after the inspection is completed.

The wing is currently in the process of accomplishing our respective Management Internal Control Toolset checklists. These checklists allow us to track and manage our programs and identify discrepancies. Brute honesty is very important as we evaluate

**"We are a wing with a reputation for doing things right."**



each question.

At this phase we get to talk straight and call things what they are. The next step in the process requires we tell the truth about our programs. The inspectors are going to review our checklists before they even arrive. It's important that we be genuine by answering each checklist question accurately. Remember the inspector is going to want to see the data.

Lastly, hold yourself accountable; then hold others accountable. If our process needs fixing right now, say so. Then we can

get it fixed before the inspectors arrive. If we can't get a process fixed before the inspectors arrive, then we'll need to be clear about what we are doing and our final solution.

We are a wing with a reputation for doing things right. Here is our chance to show the inspectors Team Westover's pride and effectiveness. Best of luck in the coming year.

**by Col. Kerry Kohler**  
439<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Group commander

**BRIEFS** |

**C-5s airlift Patriots**

Per the direction of Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta, Patriot Wing aircrews took part in an airlift of Patriot anti-missile batteries to Turkey in early January. The 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing joined Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard units in the northeastern United States in the effort.

For the complete story, visit Westover's web page at [www.westover.afrc.af.mil](http://www.westover.afrc.af.mil).

**Snowline information**

For the latest on winter weather conditions at the base, call the Westover snowline at (413) 557-3444.

**Key Spouse plans trivia night**

Key Spouse Program organizers are planning a "March Madness" trivia night at the Base Hangar at 6 p.m. March 9.

Cost is \$10 per person with funds going to the Friends of Family Support, which in turn assists the Airmen and Family Readiness Center with on-base family events such as the annual children's Christmas party.

To reserve a table, call DeAnne Biscoe at 413-533-5274 or email [deannebiscoe@brochuinsurance.com](mailto:deannebiscoe@brochuinsurance.com).

**Black History Month**

Jan. 1 marked the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. The proclamation declared "that all persons held as slaves" within the rebellious states "are, and henceforward shall be free."

**CFC tops \$50,000**

The Patriot Wing topped an annual campaign goal in December. The wing raised \$50,034 for the 2012 Combined Federal Campaign, which began in late September and wrapped up Dec. 15. The campaign goal was \$45,000. Members of the 439<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Group raised the most funds, while the airlift wing staff agencies tallied second.

**Chief earns FM awards**

CMSgt. Glenn Brault, reserve superintendent of the wing finance office, recently earned the Robert D. Stuart Award of excellence in financial management. CMSgt. Brault also earned the CMSgt. Larry P. Gonzales Superintendent of the Year award.

# HONORARY COMMANDER “LEADS” A UTA

by SSgt. George Cloutier

Westover’s first honorary commander took office during a commander’s call Jan. 5 at the Base Hangar, when Col. Steven Vautrain, 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing commander, swore in Bud Shuback.

The Honorary Commander Program encourages the exchange of ideas, experiences, and friendships between Westover leadership and key members of the local community, according to base officials.

Shuback, owner of Shuback Photography Studio in Chicopee, has a long history of involvement in the Westover community, going back to 1996 when he joined the Galaxy Community Council. Since joining the GCC and taking the position of president in 2007, Shuback has been involved in numerous Westover events, including several Family Days and the Great New England Air Shows.

He’s “semi-retired,” as a photographer and still volunteering hours to support Westover activities. He is an Air Force veteran, having worked as a Russian linguist and radio intercept operator from 1962 to 1969. He and his wife Sandra reside in Chicopee.

The honorary announcement caught Shuback off-guard.

“It was a shock,” he said. “I’m truly humbled to be awarded this honorary commander position.”

Westover is not the first base to start an honorary commander program. Mr. Shuback said one of his first steps as new honorary commander will be to look at those programs at other bases for ideas on how to tie together the military and local communities.



**HONOR >>** Wing honorary commander Bud Shuback talks with CMSgt. Michael Thorpe, 439<sup>th</sup> AW command chief, before Commander’s Call Jan. 5 in the Base Hangar. Shuback is the wing’s first honorary commander and continues to volunteer many hours in support of the base. (photo by SSgt. George Cloutier)

“Mr. Shuback is an outstanding choice as our first honorary commander,” said CMSgt. Michael Thorpe, 439<sup>th</sup> AW command chief. “He’s able to foster relationships between the base and Chicopee, which increases an already strong bond between the wing and our community partners. This role will allow him to increase the visibility of Westover and the 439<sup>th</sup> throughout Western Massachusetts.”

## Comm Squadron dials up command awards

By MSgt. Andrew Biscoe

Air Force Reserve Command recently honored the men and women of the 439<sup>th</sup> Communications Squadron with two command awards.

The squadron earned the 2012 Lt. Gen. Harold W. Grant Air Force Information Dominance Unit Award – for the third time in four years – and the Outstanding Information Assurance Element Award.

The dominance award honors the top communications unit in AFRC. Among the reasons for the award was its timely

communications support which ensured a quick aircraft evacuation during preparations for Hurricane Irene in the fall of 2011, according to the award citation.

Ninety military and civilian members staff the communications squadron. While its primary mission is the operation and maintenance of the base computer and telephone networks, Comm members also maintain the airfield’s navigational aids.

The award citation included the squadron’s “outstanding” support of the instrument landing system that ensures

an all-weather capability for flying operations.

Comm members also assist with joint-service operations and the award cited their establishment of a secure and critical network and link for the Navy Reserve Seabees unit assigned to Westover.

The Westover dominance unit award package now competes for the Air Force-level award.

“I am extremely proud of their efforts and continued dedication to the Air Force mission,” said Col. Kimberly Ramos, AFRC Director of Communications.

## Why does Westover remain under a continuing resolution?

To understand the defense spending fiscal “dance” that happens in Congress each year around this time, it’s important to recognize the difference between authorization and appropriation.

Authorizations, such as the National Defense Authorization Act, allow a program or agency to exist and recommend funding levels for that organization. In this case, the 2013 NDAA established \$633 billion as the funding limit for the DOD for 2013.

Appropriations, like the Defense Appropriation Bill, allow federal agencies to actually incur obligations and make payments from the U.S. Treasury for a specified purpose. In other words, a 2013 DAB would give the DOD the money it needs to operate, based on what is outlined in the NDAA.

In the absence of a DAB, Congress passes a continuing resolution authority to allow the DOD to pay its bills. Since there isn’t a DAB for 2013 yet, Westover remains under a continuing resolution.

## Defense act authorizes pay raise, takes another look at C-5 fleet

By TSgt. Timm Huffman

On Jan. 2, President Barack Obama signed the \$633 billion fiscal 2013 National Defense Authorization Act into law, authorizing the funding the Department of Defense needs for this year.

However, until Congress signs the Defense Appropriations Bill, the DOD and Westover remain under a continuing resolution, according to a DOD press release (see sidebar).

This is because the NDAA recommends funding levels for the DOD, but does not actually appropriate the funds, said Maj. Ryan Biladeau, Westover’s reserve financial management officer.

Under the NDAA, the Air Force is allowed to institute pay raises, bonuses and incentive pay for personnel. The 2013 NDAA includes a 1.7 percent pay raise

for military members.

The NDAA also includes a provision requiring the Air Force Reserve to re-evaluate its air mobility needs before enacting the cuts proposed by the DOD last year. Those cuts could result in a reduction of Westover’s fleet by eight C-5s in fiscal year 2016.

According to Air Force spokesperson Ann Stefanek, the C-5s are still slated for transfer, but the new legislation requires the Air Force to conduct a “mobility requirements study” before making any final decisions on the transfer.

The new law delays the retirement of 26 older C-5As until 45 days after the mobility requirements study is completed. At the same time, it terminates the moratorium on retirement, reduction, realignment and transfer of aircraft.

“Now that the (act) has been signed, we have to work through

what impact this will have at each location,” said Stefanek. “The major commands are going to need a little time to develop implementation plans.”

Other changes that come with the NDAA are an increase in co-pay for medication under TRICARE through 2022, limits on annual increases in pharmacy co-payments and retiree cost of living adjustments, funding for abortions for servicewomen in cases of incest and rape, and authorization to enact changes needed to deter sexual assaults across the military, according to a DOD press release.

Under the continuing resolution, the DOD and Westover will operate at 2012 budget levels until March. At that point, Congress must either sign the Defense Appropriations Bill into law or extend the continuing resolution to ensure DOD remains operational.

## What the fiscal cliff means to your paycheck

By American Forces Press Service/439<sup>th</sup> AW Public Affairs

The legislation President Barack Obama signed Jan. 2 postponed the fiscal cliff and means changes to military and civilian paychecks, according to Defense Finance and Accounting Service officials.

The legislation increases Social Security withholding taxes to 6.2 percent. For the past two years during the “tax holiday” the rate was 4.2 percent. The increase in Social Security withholding taxes affects both military and civilian paychecks, officials said.

For civilian employees, officials said, this will mean a 2 percent reduction in net pay. That means a person making \$30,000 annually will see a \$600 reduction in net pay, for example.

For military personnel, changes to net pay are affected by a variety of additional factors

such as increases in basic allowances for housing, subsistence, longevity basic pay raises and promotions. Service members could see an increase in net pay, no change or a decrease, senior military officials said.

For military members, Social Security withholding is located on their leave and earnings statement in the blocks marked “FICA taxes” -- for Federal Insurance Contributions Act. Defense Department civilians will see the change on their leave and earnings statement under “OASDI” -- for old age, survivors, and disability insurance.

Reserve component members will be the first to see potential changes in their net pay as a result of the law, DFAS officials said. Changes will be reflected in their January paychecks.

DOD civilians will see social security withholding changes reflected in paychecks based on the pay period ending Dec. 29, 2012, for pay dates beginning in January.

# Air Force to iTunes

By SrA. Charles  
Hutchinson IV

"I'm an Airman," said SrA. Victor Rivera, 439<sup>th</sup> Logistics Readiness Squadron vehicle maintainer, during a recent interview. "I'm also an entertainer."

In 2004, a 20-year-old Rivera said he wanted to do something different with his life. He didn't want to get caught up in the negativity that often comes with being in the music industry at such a young age, so he decided to go into the Air Force straight out of high school and gain some stability and discipline. He signed a four-year active duty contract. After basic training, and technical school, Rivera was stationed at Seymour-Johnson Air Force Base, N.C., before joining the reserve. He finished his commitment and focused solely on his music.

Rivera started singing about 10 years ago, and as a disc jockey in Boston, he got a sense of what the people wanted to hear.

"Being a D.J. put me in place to be open-minded to music," he said.

In uniform, he looks like an ordinary airman, but once he puts on his designer jeans, V-neck shirt and thick black sunglasses, the entertainer in him comes out. His passionate lyrics come through with a smooth beat in the background, and it feels like he is singing directly to you.

SrA. Rivera said it isn't easy to balance a military and musical career.

"It was very difficult when I was on active duty," said the urban Latin singer. "Once I completed my four years, I came back to Boston from North Carolina and worked on my first record. The structure and discipline acquired from my military service enabled me to utilize those

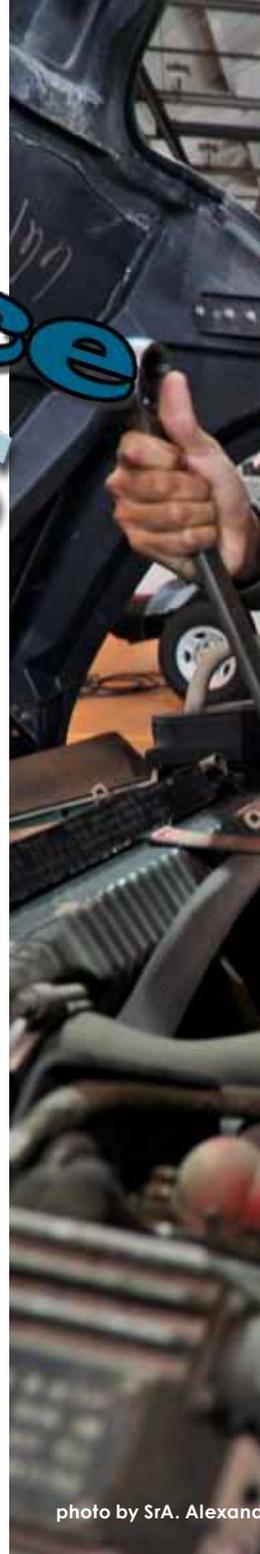


photo by SrA. Alexander



attributes towards my music.  
These days, he strives for  
"As far as balancing both  
them the same," he said. "I  
annual tour as being booked for  
contract to perform my debut  
SrA. Rivera used his time  
"Being in the military helped  
network by introducing me to  
said. "It also provides me with  
from the busy lifestyle as a  
ful songs."



Her Brown

sical goals.”

balance.

“In my music and military careers, I treat my music as a priority. I consider my UTA weekends and any other dates when I am proudly under my command as my designated tasks as a vehicle maintainer.”

He is in active duty to his advantage.

“My military career has actually enabled me to expand my reach with my music to the different places I go,” he said. “With the time and distance needed away from home, I am an artist to create and compose wonder-

During technical school at Naval Base Ventura County, Calif., he made many contacts. He credits a lot of the contacts and networking he has done to the Air Force.

Seven years later, he returned and did a show in Oxnard, Calif., in November.

With aspirations to become a well-known artist, some people might think that SrA. Rivera would focus solely on his musical endeavors. That’s been far from the case.

“During my first year out of the military, I began to miss the structure and overall proud feeling of wearing the uniform. I returned, so that I could accomplish my personal (musical) goals.”

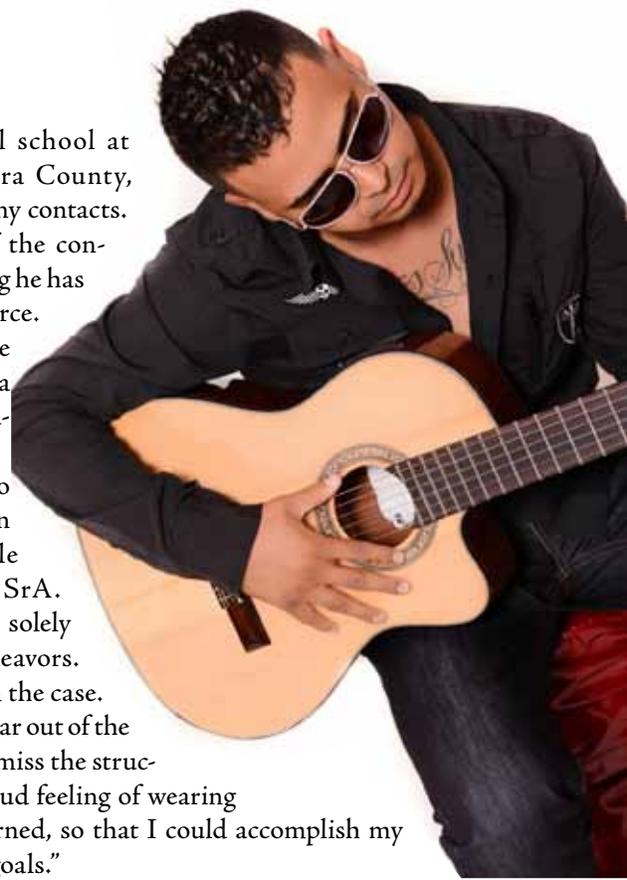
Also a songwriter, he recently signed with Inthemix Record Label, and also signed a multi-song contract with Grammy award winner Richy Pena to write tracks for various artists.

SrA. Rivera’s most recent single “Decir lo Siento” meaning “To Say I’m sorry,” off his CD “Just Vinny” is being aired in the Springfield and Hartford radio market as well as in parts of Spain.

Rather than the money or fame, the real motivator in the music industry is the chance to help people. “Music is a way for me to be able to do more humanitarian work, and that’s my ultimate goal,” he said.

Since the start of his career, SrA. Rivera has performed in multiple charity events benefiting causes such as autism and also a program which supports the building of schools in places like the Dominican Republic. He has helped raise \$5,000 for charity in two concerts.

His music can be heard by visiting [facebook.com/vinnyriveraofficial](https://www.facebook.com/vinnyriveraofficial).



a continuing series exploring Westover  
**DID YOU KNOW**

By Wayne Williams

Did you know...

... that Base Civil Engineering and the 439<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineering Squadron are two separate units?

At active-duty installations, and at some AFRC bases, these two organizations are usually merged into one larger unit, which can lead many to assume that they are combined here at Westover as well. But while they support each other extensively, and were recently recognized as AFRC's best CE team for their combined efforts, the BCE and CES organizations are completely independent of each other.

-- Base Civil Engineering (439<sup>th</sup> MSG/CE) is a staff agency aligned directly under the 439<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Group, and is responsible for all base facility operations and maintenance, construction, environmental management, fire

and emergency services, and emergency management. The BCE team consists of about 160 full-time civilian and contractor personnel. The Base Civil Engineer is Mr. Wayne Williams.

-- The 439<sup>th</sup> CES is a stand-alone squadron also aligned under the MSG. It is responsible for organizing, training, and equipping a 180-person traditional reserve

team of deployable engineers, firefighters, explosive ordnance technicians and readiness craftsmen. Maj. Rob Russo commands CES and has a full-time staff of two air reserve technicians supporting the unit and six EOD active/guard and reserve Airmen providing regional EOD support.

... now you know!



**MOBILE MAMMOTH** >> Maintenance workers will soon be shielded from frigid winters and summer heat as they use the inside of the new mobile tail enclosure, located on the south end of the isochronal inspection dock. The enclosure, which covers the 65-foot-high tail of the C-5, will be ready for operation by this spring. (photo by SrA. Kelly Galloway)

**TROOP TALK** | "What are you doing to defeat the 'winter blues'?"



"I snowboard! My favorite mountains on the East Coast are Mount Snow in Vermont, Cannon and WildCat in New Hampshire."

>> **SrA. Amanda Collins**  
**439<sup>th</sup> Aerospace Medicine Squadron**

"I go sledding with my 9-year-old brother and run in the new indoor track at the local gym."

>> **SrA. Joseph Bourget**  
**439<sup>th</sup> Communications Squadron**



"I'm an avid hockey fan but since there's been no season this year, I've been trying to work as much overtime with the fire department as I can -- keeping up with certifications as well as annual training the job requires."

>> **SrA. Colby Tyler**  
**439<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron**

# Local teen earns his wings during Pilot for A Day

By SrA. Alexander Brown

Tristan Morse, a 14-year-old boy from Springfield, Mass., was the fourth person honored as Westover's Pilot for A Day Jan. 5.

As Tristan walked to the Base Hangar stage during Commander's Call to receive an award from Col. Steven Vautrain, 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing commander, the young man's determination moved the entire Patriot Wing to a standing ovation.

Tristan has battled cerebral palsy since age 2. But he never let his condition slow him down. Unable to walk for many years, he pushed through hard and painful physical therapy to progress from using a walker to walking unassisted.

At age 7, the Shriners Hospital for Children in Boston introduced Tristan to sledge hockey. He fell in love with the sport and later became the youngest member of the Connecticut Wolf Pack.

He hopes some day to compete on the U.S. Para Olympics team.

When he turned 8 years old, immobilizing muscle lengthening surgery benched the outgoing youth. He didn't let this

dampen his spirits. After a summer of hard work, he was up walking again; and playing sledge hockey.

His strong character helped earn him a visit to Westover.

During Pilot for A Day, Tristan and his family got to experience much of what the base mission is. He and his family viewed the base from the control tower, toured the maintenance squadron, controlled robots at explosive ordinance disposal, aimed down M-16 sights at security forces, and learned about fighting fires at the fire department.

Tristan's steadfast spirit was with him throughout his day at Westover. He never asked for help while climbing stairs, refused to use his crutches and participated in every activity. He asked everyone he met questions and smiled throughout his Pilot for A Day tour.

"I liked it all," Tristan said, as he donned an Air Force pilot's jacket and nervously awaited his on-stage debut at Commander's Call. "This was the most interesting thing I've done."



**TOWERING VIEW** >> Tristan Morse, center, the Patriot Wing's Pilot for A Day, gets a tour of the Westover Tower and a view of aircraft traffic in the area on one of the monitors. (photo by SrA. Alexander Brown)

## POPE'S PUNS

by W.C.Pope



# There she is: Miss Rhode Island United States

By MSgt. Andrew Biscoe

"I had to low crawl for 100 feet. It was during a three-day combat training scenario called the 'beast,'" recalled SrA. Cara Lustig, lowering her shoulders to demonstrate. "Dirt was in my teeth, in my hair, it was everywhere. A TI crouched over me and shouted, 'Get your face in the sand!' I said to myself, 'What am I doing here?'"

The formative experience that pits thousands of basic trainees each year against those physical challenges stayed with SrA. Lustig. "The military teaches you values that you need to instill in yourself," she said. "Discipline from the military has been a driving factor in my life. My inner strength came out that day at Lackland. It's helped me ever since."

The senior airman spoke about her life as a reservist, a graduate student, working full-time as military enrollment advisor for the University of Phoenix (Boston campus), and, most recently -- Miss Rhode Island United States for 2013.

SrA. Lustig competed in the Massachusetts state pageant in November, and though she didn't advance, found out through a phone call that her military experience, resume, and natural beauty helped her don another New England state's crown -- just a few days shy of Christmas.

It began with her phone call to the Miss Rhode Island United States pageant -- simply asking questions about it. "The director said the candidate from Rhode Island had

moved. Based on my experience he thought I was a perfect fit for the title," SrA. Lustig said. "I was blown away. Being in the Miss Massachusetts pageant gave me a lot of experience. I'm so blessed. Everything fell into place," said the Narragansett, R.I., native. As she readies for the Miss United States pageant, she credits the Air Force with helping her attain her goals. Within the first few days of her enlistment in fall of 2010, she realized she



photo illustration by W.C.Pope

had enough stamina and determination to get through one of the most demanding aspects of basic training.

SrA. Lustig's goals in the Air Force include gold bars. In 2012, she was selected to earn her commission as a medical officer in the 439<sup>th</sup> Aerospace Medicine Squadron.

She balances the demands of the military, pageant, graduate school, and civilian work using time management skills and sheer determination -- and the enduring influence of her father. "My father was a very, very hard-working man," SrA. Lustig said. "He raised my younger brother and me by himself."

Behind the exterior glossiness of a beauty pageant, there's an unglamorous side too, she said. "There's a lot of hard work to get there -- rigorous exercise, and dieting. It's 20 women trying to get to one spot."

As for the master's degree in business administration (focusing on health care management), SrA. Lustig manages her time with the reserve's 439<sup>th</sup> Communications Squadron and the full-time job while taking two classes: one online, the other one on campus.

She's already earned an associate's degree in information management from the Community College of the Air Force, and a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Rhode Island.

"I want to be the best person I can be," SrA. Lustig said. "Education provides a purpose in my life. It resonates with positives."

In July, she will compete in the Miss United States pageant in Washington, D.C. SrA. Lustig will hold the title of Miss Rhode Island United States throughout the year.

"It seems that I'm busy every minute of every day," she said. "I'm focused on this, at this stage of my life. Through it all, from the low point of my first day of basic to the high point of my career -- earning a commission -- I know I couldn't fail. You drive yourself to be better."

PROMOTIONS |

FACES OF WESTOVER

**Chief Master Sgt.**  
Michael Barna



**Master Sergeant**  
Victor Markey  
Michael Pietrantonio  
Alexander Reno



**Technical Sergeant**  
Jessica Andersen  
Matthew Belville  
Michael Larrea  
Tara Nolan  
Orlando Severino  
Joseph Sullivan  
Paul Thaxton



**Staff Sergeant**  
Jason Aiken  
Johnnie Brown  
Jeremiah Gombos  
Andrew Howat  
Brandon Paluses  
Kevin Rielly  
Michael Sacristan  
Ralph Simeone



**Senior Airman**  
Kristine Baker  
Corey Butler  
Cassandra Dugan  
Shane Jobin



**Airman First Class**  
David Christensen  
Stephan Dacosta  
Jason Failey  
Austin Gumprecht  
Brian Kearney  
Kyle Morgan  
Daniel Nunez  
Jin Yu  
Jorge Yubran



**Airman**  
Debra Bell  
Christopher Carter  
Campbell Krawitz  
Michael MacNeil  
Mykel Potter  
Marcin Rydzewski



**SSgt. Leeann Dudanowicz**

**SSgt. Leeann Dudanowicz**  
439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing -- support staff

SSgt. Dudanowicz graduated high school at 17, and went on to Tunxis Community College in Farmington, Conn. She had difficulty deciding what her next move was going to be.

"I hadn't decided what I wanted to do with regard to my education, not as far as continuing school, but what I wanted to do in terms of a career," she said. "I really joined the Air Force for a sense of direction."

Since joining in 2005, SSgt. Dudanowicz has accomplished a lot in just over seven years. She was activated for more than three months in support of both Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, and joined more than 400 other Airmen in 2011 to take part in the wing's Operational Readiness inspection.

SSgt. Dudanowicz fulfilled her initial six-year contract and decided to re-up for another two, with an aspiration to serve at least 20 years.

In 2011, she enrolled at Goodwin College in East Hartford, Conn., to get back to her college roots.

"My ultimate goal is to become a registered nurse and either work for Lifestar helicopter or as a nurse anesthetologist," she said. "I anticipate graduating within a year and a half. I'd love to become a nurse with the Air Force once I graduate."

-- SrA. Charles Hutchinson IV

**SERVICES CALENDER** |

Submitted by Mollie Anello, services marketing assistant

**CLUB BUFFET >>** The club staff is serving hot dinner buffet, Mondays-Thursdays from 5-8p.m., for \$10. the club is temporarily located in Bldg. 5550.

**BOWLING >>** After a long wait, the bowling center is expecting to reopen in March. Be on the lookout for information on leagues, birthday parties and instructional bowling!

**FITNESS >>** Brand new cardio equipment has arrived. Check it out at the fitness center on Patriot Avenue. For more information, call 557-3958.

**OUTDOOR RECREATION >>** The outdoor recreation staff has all winter needs -- ski rentals, snowboards, snow shoes, and more. Information: 557-2192.

westoverservices.com

**Hero 2 Hire, VA among online resources that help veterans find jobs**

**By SrA. Alexander Brown**

Even though America is in an apparent recovery from one of the worst recessions since the Great Depression, some veterans are still struggling to find jobs.

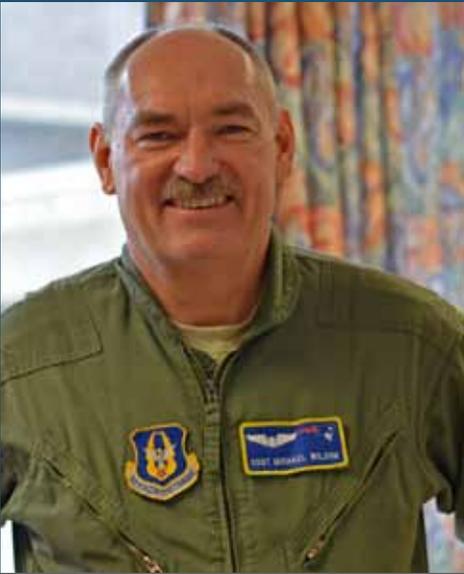
However, there is hope for those who know what resources to use. An excellent resource is H2H (Hero 2 Hire, <https://h2h.jobs>), an online resource with infor-

mation on which civilian jobs best match the military backgrounds of veterans. It also provides information on where to find jobs near veterans who qualify.

Another valuable resource is the Department of Veterans Affairs website ([www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)). It contains links to job searching resources. A few of the featured opportunities on the website include federal jobs, internships and health related jobs.

A local resource for job hunting is Westover's Airman and Family Readiness Center ([www.westoverafrc.org](http://www.westoverafrc.org)). The staff can assist in building connections and signing veterans up for the Military Spouse Corporate Career Network, which gives 550 different employers access to resumes.

For more information, call (413) 557-3024.



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**SNOW PLACE LIKE HOME >>>** The new year's first snowfall kept crews busy Jan. 3, with a New England blanket of snow following a relatively mild winter so far. (photo by SrA. Kelly Galloway)