



# Youth Outreach #10



# PATRIOT

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Lt. Col. James Bishop

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## UTA SNAPSHOT

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ON THE COVER -- Westover hosted the Youth Outreach program for the 10th year in a row, with participation from four local high schools. Each year local Junior ROTC cadets are treated to a visit to base to see what we do here. They also get to compete in team activities and a tour of a C-5.

**WESTOVER BLOOMS >>** Like clockwork, you can always tell its the first week in May when the Crabapple trees along Monument Ave. and the Ellipse bloom in their vibrant pinks and reds. They only last a week, so timing is everything if you want to see them before the blossoms grow into Crabapples. (photo by W.C.Pope)





## EDITORIAL Westover deployers deserve our support

Greeting Patriots,

I would like to highlight my appreciation to all of our volunteers deploying this summer. Out of 4,500 Air Force Reservists on active duty, we will have 257 Patriot Wing Citizen Airmen performing a wide range of duties from sustaining and defending our overseas bases, Explosive Ordnance Disposal, aerial port operations to conducting hazardous air advisor missions assisting the Iraqi Air Force to become more self-sufficient in their fight against ISIS. It is with great satisfaction to see all of the hard work and sacrifice pay off through your efforts to defend our nation against those who wish to do harm to the American people.

These Citizen Airmen deserve our applause and support. One of the ways available to accomplish this is through the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program. These events are held before and after deployments. If you are a deployer, I highly recommend you attend with your family or significant other. These events are highly informational in letting your family know what resources are available and how to access them while you are gone. They cover health care, education benefits, financial and family services and workshops, as well as offer an opportunity to get the family together for an

event at one of our excellent regional hosting centers. What a great way to network with others either returning or departing.

Another important program, and one in which we are always looking for more assistance and volunteers with is the squadron Key Spouse Program. Along with the first sergeant, Key Spouses offer additional deployment resources and valuable assistance along with the first sergeant in meeting the needs of our military families. The connect family members with the community and other helping agencies through peer-to-peer Wingman support or just as an informal sounding board. If you have a spouse interested in contributing time and experience or giving back through this commanders program, contact Shana King in our Airman & Family Readiness Center at 557-3024 for more information. Supporting our families during separations increases their resiliency, which in turn increases our readiness and aids in retention. Family support back home keeps our deployed Citizen Airman "on track" with their mission when they know that there are tools available back home to help with minor family challenges that could otherwise be an unwelcome distraction.

Thanks to all of you and what you do to make Westover Excellent!



**Col. Jay Jensen**  
**439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing commander**

## BRIEFS

### Former Wing Command Chief set to retire

CMSgt. Michael Thorpe, Command Chief of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Airlift Wing is scheduled to have a retirement ceremony here June 25 at 3 p.m. in the wing conference center, dinner to follow at the Westover Club at 5:30 p.m.

### Summer Softball Teams

Sign-ups are ongoing, currently only three teams have been identified, looking for more teams to make it more competitive.

### New to Outdoor Rec

New 20 foot campers are now available for rental. Lawn care equipment is also available at low cost!

### AFRC Winners!

Lt. Col. Don Gomes won the EO officer of the year award, and MSgt. Jonatan Ritter won the Aeromedical Evacuation Outstanding Air Reserve Technician NCO of the year award.

### Air Shows are coming in hot!

The Rhode Island Air Show will be held in Kingstown on June 11-12. The Barnes Air National Guard Base Air Show is slated for September 9-10 2017, and Westover's Air Show will be held in late summer 2018.

### Family Day 2016 set for August A UTA

Westover's 2016 Family Day is coming. The event will be held on August 6<sup>th</sup>. There will be games, food, a dunk tank and much more!

### No more USAFR?

Per General James Jackson, your signature box should no longer read USAFR, it must now say USAF.

### New at the Fitness Center

Twelve Knocker Balls were purchased for use by the Westover Community. Jump in and roll around.

### Top 3 Reminder

The goals of the Top 3 are to, provide advice to commanders and Top 3 members in problem solving, establish a channel of communication to voice concerns, encourage comradery, and also become actively involved in community affairs.



# 10TH YEAR FOR YOUTH OUTREACH PROGRAM

Westover hosted the Youth Outreach Program Apr. 27, for its tenth year. Ninety Junior ROTC cadets participated, ranging in age from 13 to 18, from four local high schools.

According to Lt. Col. Don Gomes, coordinator for the program, the kids in last years program wanted more competitive games and so this year that's what the volunteers gave them.

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Chris Harding, 439<sup>th</sup> Force Support Squadron one of the programs many volunteers said, "We teach the kids Air Force values, focusing on teamwork and leadership. We let them see what Westover is all about and hope they have fun and learn something."

During the six hours of activities and team work competitions, they engaged in everything from, carrying an egg on a spoon, filling a water bucket one cup at a time, carrying litters, doing a tic-tac-toe run, and competing in a frisbee toss.

One of the final treats of the day was a tour of a C-5 Galaxy. The day ended with a group photo on the flightline.





# Westover ALCF Team Leads exercise

**Photos and story**  
by Capt. Matthew Borowski  
439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Control Flight

Fourteen 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Control Flight members recently deployed to Naval Auxiliary Landing Field, San Clemente Island, Calif. for six days to lead a contingency response exercise as part of Patriot Hook 2016. They were joined by 10 aerial porters from March Air Reserve Base, Calif., among others to form the 439<sup>th</sup> Contingency Response Element. The members were tasked with leading air mobility operations at a remote, austere airfield on an island off the coast of California. Patriot Hook is an annual Air Force sponsored air mobility exercise and is a primary training opportunity for CRE members from the five ALCFs around the country.

The CRE team moved 161 passengers from the Air National Guard; Federal Bureau of Investigation; Border Patrol Search, Trauma, and Rescue team; Federal Emergency Management Agency; and the U.S. Coast Guard as well as over 252 tons of cargo to and from temporary bases located at Naval Air Station North Island, Calif. and Joint Forces Training Base Los Alamitos, Calif.

It was the CRE's mission to take operational control of Air Mobility Command and Air Force Reserve Command assets at the airfield, to establish command and control over all inbound and

outbound sorties, and provide situational and operational reporting to AFRC HQ and Tanker Airlift Control Center.

During the operation, the CRE successfully worked 18 C-130 Hercules and C-17 Globemaster sorties and spent a full day working operations in a simulated chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear environment, donning mission-oriented protective posture gear and responding to escalating alarm and force protection conditions. The team was led by 439<sup>th</sup> ALCF commander, Lt. Col. Gilbert Kesser and Capt. Matthew Borowski, 439<sup>th</sup> Operations Officer.

Similar CREs were set up by members of the 452<sup>nd</sup> ALCF from March ARB, Calif., the 433<sup>rd</sup> ALCF from Lackland AFB, Texas, and the 315<sup>th</sup> ALCF from Charleston AFB, SC. The three CREs communicated with each other and the aircraft using various radios, and voice and data satellites.

Airlift Control Flight members are expected to be able to respond within 72 hours of being notified to global contingencies where AMC assets are required or moved for port opening or airlift assistance. This exercise provided air worthiness for dozens of affiliates and ensured that all members of the ALCF remained current in their ability to do so.





# RESERVIST'S BOOK MAKES THE LIST, AUTHOR WILL SPEAK AT WESTOVER JUNE 4

by MSgt. Timm Huffman  
HQ RIO Public Affairs

BUCKLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Colorado -- The Air Force's top officer has selected a biography written by an Air Force Reservist for inclusion on the Chief of Staff Reading List 2016.

At All Costs by CMSgt. Matt Proietti tells the life and death story of Medal of Honor recipient CMSgt. Richard L. "Dick" Etchberger. It's Proietti's first book and has a narrative fit for Hollywood.

Etchberger was a ground radar superintendent during the Vietnam War and was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor in 2010, 42 years after he was killed in March 1968. He was shot while riding in a rescue helicopter following an overnight battle at a mountaintop in Laos, where he helped maintain a secret radar site that aided the U.S. bombing campaign in North Vietnam.

CMSgt. Proietti will speak at the Westover Club on Sunday, June 5, 11 a.m.

The CSAF Professional Reading Program was created in 1996 by General Ronald Fogleman to develop a common frame of reference among Air Force members -- officers, enlisted, and civilians -- to help every Airman become better, more effective advocates of air and space power. Each CSAF since then has enhanced and continued the Professional Reading Program. To view the CSAF Reading List 2016, visit: <http://static.dma.mil/usaf/csafreadinglist/>

Proietti, an Individual Mobilization Augmentee, began his journey to write *At All Costs* in 2008 while he was filling in as chief of the Air Force news team in Washington, D.C. The staff heard rumblings that Etchberger might be nominated for the Medal of Honor. He asked his team of junior writers if anyone was interested in researching and preparing an article on the Vietnam War hero. Knowing their supervisor was a history buff, they suggested he take it on himself.

As Proietti began learning more about Etchberger, he became intrigued with the life and career of the man who was credited with saving the lives of two fellow Airmen during the battle for Lima Site 85, one of dozens of dirt airstrips maintained by the CIA as part of its Air America network.

He traveled to Hamburg, Penn., Etchberger's hometown, and learned that the future Medal of Honor recipient led a life focused on helping others long before his actions that earned him the nation's highest honor for military valor.

"I got really excited about the story, and I knew one [article] just wouldn't be enough," he said.

From his initial research, Proietti crafted a three-part series on his own time after his Washington duty orders ended. He would have been done with the story at that point except Cory Etchberger, one of the late chief's three sons, reached out to him to ask if he was interested in working with him to write a book about his father. Cory said he contacted Proietti after reading his articles.

"Lots of people have written articles about Dad, but Matt is the only one who got every detail right," he said.



Despite his rookie status as an author, Proietti had plenty of writing chops to qualify him for the job. He is a 31-year veteran of the Public Affairs career field who has won the Department of Defense's coveted Thomas Jefferson Award for communications four times. He began writing in grade school, and when the Air Force gave him the opportunity to write professionally, he couldn't believe it.

"Not a week goes by that I'm not thankful to the Air Force for giving me the opportunity to write," said Proietti.

Two years after Proietti's research began, President Obama approved the Medal of Honor for Etchberger, presenting it to his sons during a White House ceremony Sept. 21, 2010. (Ceremony: [https://youtu.be/HrQCVCWT\\_HQ](https://youtu.be/HrQCVCWT_HQ))

Proietti spent the next several years doing research, spending hours at the Lyndon B. Johnson presidential library in Austin, Texas, and interviewing and writing letters with Etchberger's former supervisors and the men whose lives he saved, including retired TSgt. John G. Daniel of La Junta, Colorado.

"He should have a 55-gallon drum full of medals. I wouldn't be alive without him," said Daniel.

In the hours preceding his death, Etchberger defended the Lima Site 85 radar camp against an attack from North Vietnamese special forces. Etchberger used a handheld radio to call for a rescue and air strikes. According to Daniel, they basically had to call air strikes in on themselves, figuring they were dead men anyway.

Etchberger, Daniel and Capt. Stan Sliz survived the night by returning small arms fire and exchanging grenades with the enemy.

When the light of day finally brought a CIA rescue chopper, Etchberger repeatedly exposed himself to heavy fire while helping Daniel and Sliz, both of whom had suffered serious injuries, onto an Air America rescue helicopter. Daniel lost consciousness as soon as he was aboard.

After ensuring his men were safely loaded, Etchberger joined them. As the helicopter peeled away, an enemy round pierced the floor and hit Etchberger. By the time the helo landed, Etchberger was dead.

Daniel, who was unconscious until the next day, was confused by the news of Etchberger's death.

"It didn't make sense to me. He was the only one who wasn't injured (that night). I thought, 'what the hell?'" said Daniel. "He told me, 'I'll be right up. I'll see you in a minute.'"

With the first edition of the book in print, Proietti is now working on a screen adaptation and will have a draft version of a script completed this spring. He also hopes to write more books in the future, including works of fiction.



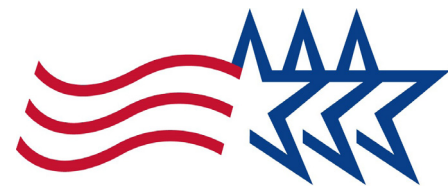
# New Urgent Care Pilot Program for Prime Beneficiaries

To increase access to care, the Department of Defense is launching an Urgent Care Pilot Program for TRICARE Prime beneficiaries. This program allows Prime enrollees two visits to a network or TRICARE authorized provider without a referral or prior authorization.

The Urgent Care Pilot Program, scheduled to begin spring May 23, 2016, covers:

- Active Duty Family Members enrolled in TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Prime Remote.

- Retirees and their family members who are enrolled in Prime within the 50 United States or the District of Columbia.



**T R I C A R E**® overseas but traveling stateside.

Active Duty Service Members enrolled in TRICARE Prime are not eligible for this program as their care is managed by their Service. This pilot also excludes Uniformed Services Family Health Plan enrollees. TRICARE Overseas Program enrollees can receive an unlimited number of urgent care visits, but only when they are traveling stateside and seeking care.

There are no Point of Service deductibles or cost shares for these two urgent care visits, but network copayments still apply.

Following a visit to an urgent care facility, you must notify your PCM of that care within 24 hours or the first business day after the urgent care visit. Authorization requirements have not changed for follow up care, specialty care or inpatient care.

When you are not sure of the type of care you need, or you require care outside of standard business hours, call the Nurse Advice Line (NAL). If the NAL recommends an urgent care visit, and a referral is submitted, that visit will not count against the two visits allowed under the Urgent Care Pilot. However, if you call the NAL and get a referral to a military hospital or clinic and you go elsewhere for care, that visit will count against your two preauthorized visits.

If you need more information, please visit the Urgent Care Pilot Program web page on the TRICARE website.

- Air Force Public Affairs



## Springfield Vet Center



Did You Know...

The Springfield Vet Center has free and confidential mental health services for combat vets, their families, and service members who have experienced military sexual trauma. This is separate from the Leeds VA or the Springfield VA clinic.

Resources include individual and group counseling, family and couples counseling, substance use treatment, sexual trauma counseling, and non-traditional therapeutic services including yoga, qigong, equine therapy, etc. All war-zone vets are eligible for the zero-cost services. The Vet

Center is available for walk-ins at 95A Ashley Ave., Springfield, or call (413) 737-5167.

The Vet Center's mission is to "welcome home war veterans by providing quality readjustment services in a comfortable, confidential, and safe environment."

"Nearly all the people who work here are veterans," said Dr. Kelly Coxe, psychologist at the Vet Center. "It's a nice atmosphere. I love working here!"



**PILOT PROGRAM >>** 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Jonathan Jordan and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Ryan Manning, members of the 337<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron are two of Westover's newest officers. The lieutenants, who recently graduated from Officer Training School, are three-weeks into their initial 3-month-long C-5 Galaxy qualification course. This course provides them with the hands-on training necessary to fly the massive aircraft. "It's awe-inspiring, really," said Jordan. "This aircraft is the best of them all. Its mission is global. It flies in war and peace, and it goes where it needs to help," he said. (photo by TSgt. Amelia Leonard)



# 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Command Chart



**439<sup>th</sup>  
Airlift Wing**

"Leaders in Excellence"

May 2016

**439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing  
Commander**  
Col. Jay Jensen



**Vice Wing Commander**  
Col. Richard Tubbs



**Command Chief**  
CCMSgt. Shana Cullum

The  
**Patriot**  
Wing

**Westover**  
Air Reserve Base

**439<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Group**  
Lt. Col. Daniel Moore



**439<sup>th</sup> Operations Group**  
Col. Frank Bradfield



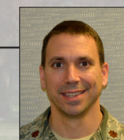
**439<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Group**  
Col. Karen Magnus



**439<sup>th</sup> Operations Support Squadron**  
Lt. Col. Matthew Llodra  
MSgt. Manuel Chavez



**337<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron**  
Lt. Col. Mark Brule  
MSgt. Alexander Reno



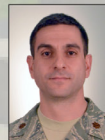
**439<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron**  
Lt. Col. Nathan Meleo  
CMSgt. Frederick Hetu



**439<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron**  
Lt. Col. Jordan Murphy  
SMSgt. Albert Raymond



**439<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron**  
Lt. Col. Wesley Thiel  
SMSgt. Daniel Howard



**439<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron**  
Lt. Col. Robert Russo  
SMSgt. Matthew Mynczywor



**439<sup>th</sup> Force Support Squadron**  
Lt. Col. Rodney Furr  
MSgt. David Owen



**439<sup>th</sup> Logistics Readiness Squadron**  
Maj. Trenton Holden  
MSgt. Shannon Donnelly



**42<sup>nd</sup> Aerial Port Squadron**  
Lt. Col. Qais Ajalat  
SMSgt. Rayanne Emerson



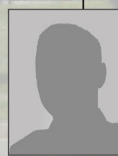
**58<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron**  
Lt. Col. John Dugan  
SMSgt. Eric Harris



**439<sup>th</sup> Communications Squadron**  
Maj. Venice Goodwine  
Vacant



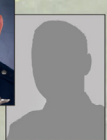
**439<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Staging Squadron**  
Lt. Col. Karen Gardner  
MSgt. Kimberly Kopp



**439<sup>th</sup> Aerospace Medicine Squadron**  
Col. Patrick Carpenter  
MSgt. Ellerie Rollins



**439<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron**  
Col. Joseph Matson  
MSgt. Kevin Zullo



**439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Control Flight**  
Lt. Col. Gilbert Kesser  
MSgt. Tim Cawthra





# Operation Arctic Care

by MC1 Matt Grill

Alaska boasts some of the world's most difficult terrain, remote and rugged. Moose, caribou, brown bears, black bears, wolves, and musk ox roam these millions of acres, where the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers slowly wind their way through the tundra and empty into the frigid waters of the Bering Sea.

Travel in the region is limited. During the coldest months of the year, rapidly changing weather conditions include freezing rain, ice and subzero temperatures as low as -25. Winds can get as high as 60 miles per hour.

Since 1995, Operation Arctic Care has tested the ability of Navy, Marine Corps, Army, Air Force and Army National Guard members – both active duty and Reserve – to deploy and operate as one team in a harsh environment. For Navy Reserve medical and dental personnel who participated in this joint medical readiness exercise, a mission in “America's last frontier,” is anything but the routine.

The exercise gives the military participants increased readiness and training in working in a joint environment under harsh conditions. It is also a medical outreach, offering no-cost healthcare and veterinary support to underserved native communities across Alaska. Villages do have health clinics, but getting an appointment with a doctor, dentist or other specialist often requires flying to the nearest large city or even as far as Anchorage. A ticket, plus lodging, is expensive for those living at or below poverty level. Veterinary services are practically nonexistent.

Each year, Arctic Care rotates to a different area of the state; Bristol Bay, Kodiak, Bethel, Nome and the interior locations are among the cities and regions that have benefited from it.

This year, the Air Force Reserve took the lead in planning and conducting Arctic Care, which is sponsored by the Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program under the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs.

“Twenty five Navy medical officers and corpsman participated in the operation, bringing their equipment and expertise to the city of Kotzebue and 11 villages within 100 miles of Kotzebue,” said Cmdr. Curtis Brown, Navy Reserve Forces IRT Program Manager. “Kotzebue, with a population of about 3,000, is the largest community above the North American Arctic Circle and located 26 miles above the Arctic circle. The other villages varied in sizes from 200 to approximately 2,000 people.”

During the 2-week exercise, Arctic Care teams saw more than 2,900 patients in the 11 villages and Kotzebue. During the project the joint teams of medical, dental, optometry and veterinary personnel providing dental care to more than 1,300 native Alaskans and medical care to include podiatry, school physicals, obstetrics and gynecological care, urgent care, surgical procedures, and education and training to more than 1,600 Alaskans. Optometry services, which included eyeglass fabrication, were provided to more than 1,400 people. Approximately 800 dogs and cats received various forms of veterinary services.

The education and training provided by the joint team included topics such as nutrition and healthy eating, hand washing and infection control, alcohol and drug abuse prevention, tobacco and smoking cessation, bullying and healthy relationships, self esteem and suicide prevention.

The military members appreciated knowing they were able to help in this way. The people who received the service provided by the Arctic Care team were thankful for the care they received during the two weeks. One patient was so impressed she sent a T-shirt and thank you note to team member Lt. Cmdr. JoAnn Lathon. The patient wrote to thank Lathon for taking time with her and to express her appreciation for great explanations in regards to her medical needs.

## Services blend as one team at training event

by Bo Joyner, AFRC/PA

KODIAK, Alaska -- You see a lot of different battle dress uniform camouflage patterns at an Innovative Readiness Training event. There's Air Force and Army green mixed with a healthy dose of Navy blue. And although you can't tell it from anyone's uniform, there are active-duty, reserve and National Guard members from all three services working seamlessly together to get the mission accomplished.

Currently, more than 100 service members are teaming up for Arctic Care 2016 in Kodiak, Alaska. Working with the Kodiak Area Native Association, the Airmen, Soldiers and Sailors are providing dental, optometry, medical and veterinary services in the villages of Ouzinkie, Port Lions, Larsen Bay, Old Harbor, Akniok and Karluk.

They're providing some much-needed medical care to people who have limited access to it, but they are also getting some valuable training working with people from their sister services.

“You do see a lot of different uniforms here, but every uniform has ‘U.S.’ on it, so we're really all on the same team,” said SrA. Jesse Craig, an ophthalmic technician assigned to the 910<sup>th</sup> Medical Squadron at Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Ohio. “We're here for the same cause, and everyone has come together as a team really well.”

Craig said he was a little nervous before he got here, and he tried to learn all of the different services' rank structures so he wouldn't miss any customs or courtesies. But he said he was pleasantly surprised at how well everyone has pulled together.

“The communication between everyone has been great. I've really enjoyed getting to know more about the other services,” he said.

Capt. Lisa Alimenti, a health care administrator assigned to the 940<sup>th</sup> Aerospace Medical Squadron at Beale Air Force Base in California, agreed.

“You really don't see different uniforms or different colors here,” she said. “What you see is people coming together to make things happen. It really is the total force at its best.”





# Big Winn for Alaska

by TSgt. Stephen Winn/AFRC Public Affairs

On April 11<sup>th</sup>, I made my way to Boston's Logan airport to begin my journey to the great Northwest – Kodiak, Alaska – to capture film and interviews for this year's Arctic Care Innovative Readiness Training. Three connecting flights, a four-hour time difference and 3,500 miles later, I landed on a small airstrip in the back half of a Boeing 737-400 combo aircraft.

"This is the luxury way to travel from Anchorage to Kodiak," said Bill, a passenger to my right, told me. The alternative was an hour on a bumpy 10-passenger propeller driven plane, or a fourteen-hour ferry.

Even under the fog and rain that is a constant at this time of year, the majesty of the area took my breath away. From Bald Eagles at every corner to the crystal clear water everywhere, to the misty mountain tops, there is beauty in every direction. Coast Guard Air Station Kodiak is the largest station in the Pacific and is the home to HH-60 Jayhawks and HH-65 dolphin helicopters, and HC-130 Hercules and a few High Endurance Cutters.

It didn't take long to run into some of our joint service folks around the base as I saw the unmistakable deep blue of the Navy uniform, which made me look harder and see all branches were represented except the Marines.

We got dinner in at Henry's great Alaskan restaurant, a local eatery and had to try a local special. (It was my first time in Kodiak why not live a little?) So I ordered the Yak burger and it did not disappoint. From there we went to check on our sister services quarters which were comprised of eight tents on the waterfront of Finney beach. There was a chow tent, a Training Operations Center tent, a services tent, some communications equipment and a few bunk tents. I was curious though this did not seem to accommodate the 100 plus troops I was told were here.

"They're out among the local villages. They've been there for the last two weeks," said Maj. Anna Hill, the AFRC IRT Chief. About 130 total force service members, including 35 Air Force Reservists, spent two weeks in April on Kodiak Island in Alaska providing free medical and veterinary care to people

and pets with limited access to these services as part of Arctic Care 2016.

Maj. Hill then laid out the local topography and our assignment for the next couple of days.

The community outreach was focused in Kodiak, where our people had a walk-in clinic set up in an abandoned grocery store. However, there were six other teams in remote villages accessible only by boat or plane.

Day one consisted of recording events at the "grocery store" walk-in clinic. Services offered for free to the local community included veterinary care, dental and vision checks, and



consultations with physicians. If any serious conditions were identified the Kodiak Area Native Association would try to coordinate services. I talked to a Senior Airmen ophthalmologist technician from Michigan a Hospital technician from Seattle, and a medical receptionist from Sacramento. The total force concept in place was evident in just how spread out the hometowns and home units were.

The next day a cadre of about 15 senior leaders from all over the country arrived for a tour of the clinics where services were being offered. We tagged along and hopped on a single engine fixed wing at the local airport. Our Capt. Justin was incredible. He kept the plane low and steady so we could get plenty of great photos of the island and all its inlets.

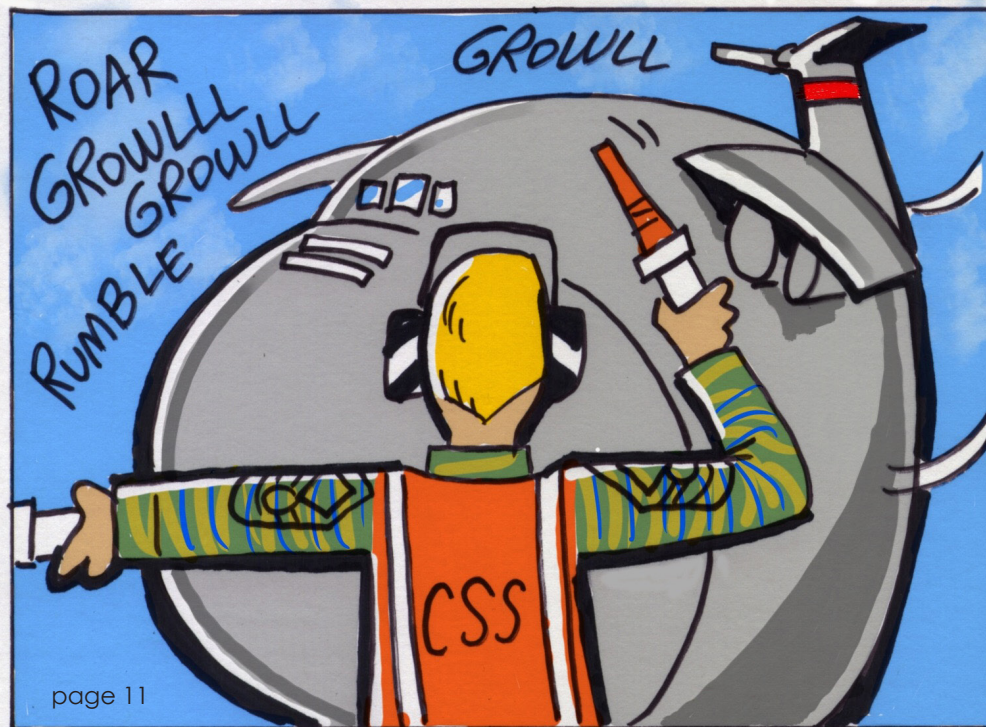
Our first stop was to a little village that had been renamed from Port Wakefield to Port Lions after a local Lions club had assisted them in rebuilding most of the island after a storm. Port Lions is a quaint little village full of friendly faces. There we were treated to a native dance by the village children and a bountiful lunch filled with salmon. After talking to the locals and playing fetch with one of the many island dogs we were taken to the local "Swimmin Hole" as it was so affectionately referred to by our driver. Just behind the clinic was this amazing waterfall complete with a rope swing. We then went back to the harbor and were dazzled yet again by the view of the bay and even caught a whale tail poking through the icy water not far from some local fisherman in their boats.

From there our pilot Justin took us to another outpost by the name of Ouzinkie, pronounced You-zein-key. The population there was under a hundred but just as happy to meet us and feed us yet again. Even though we were just stopping through the gratitude of what our soldiers were doing out there was evident in every smile and handshake.

Our stay there was cut short and then it was one last quick hop in Justin's Cadillac, my own title as I was impressed with how smooth all three flights were, to Kodiak, and from there, back to Boston.









## TROOP TALK

**"What is one thing you would like to accomplish here at Westover ARB that you have not done yet?"**

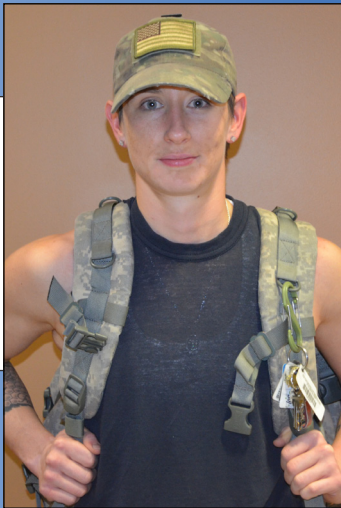


"To get a deployment with my shop, the Aircrew Flight Equipment."

**>>MSgt. Brice Alexander,  
439th Operations Support  
Squadron**

"To ensure a successful combat and water survival training at Tully Lake for the 337th."

**>>SSgt. Megan Kuszewski,  
439th Operations Support  
Squadron**



"I'm the program manager for the Development and Training program, so I would like to see other unit supervisors involved with the program."

**>>SSgt. Glenda Nathaniel,  
439th Force Support  
Squadron**



## 172 flags line Memorial Dr. in May

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Chicopee Department of Veterans' Services provided more than 170 American Flags to be flown the length of Memorial Drive in Chicopee. Memorial Drive is a State Highway in Chicopee known as North South Highway (Route 33) extending from Chicopee Falls to South Hadley. A law passed March 25, 1957, named Memorial Drive in honor of those who served in the Armed Forces.

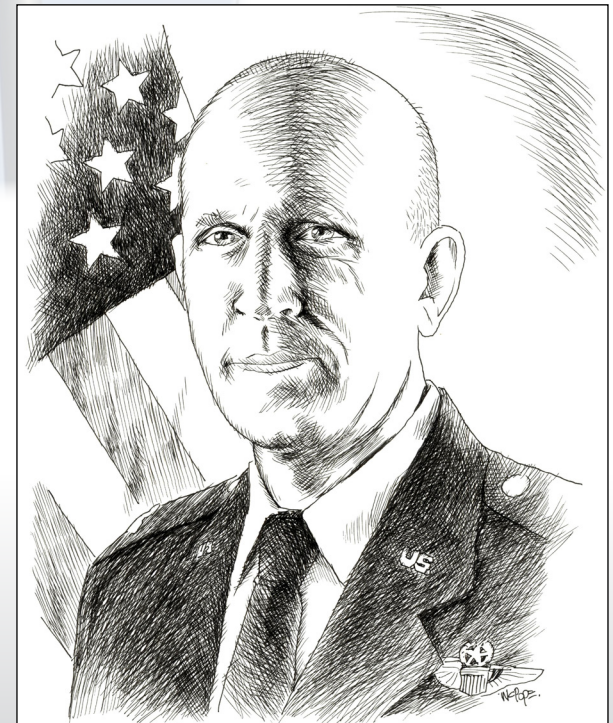
In 2002, the American Legion Post 438 began the tradition of placing the American Flag on light posts on Memorial Drive. According to previous American Legion Post Commander Steve Jimmo, "The idea came about to raise awareness and show support of Armed Forces members after September 11, 2001. The location was chosen to encompass the two main entrances to Westover Air Reserve Base, and the fact that the North South Highway was named Memorial Drive in honor of those who served."

Flags will be displayed May 1 - May 31<sup>st</sup> annually in recognition of Memorial Day.

Kimberly Babin, Chicopee's Veteran Services officer and a retired Westover MSgt., said, "With two rows of 170 flags now adorning the 3.8 mile state highway, it is a great way to promote Americanism and an opportunity to publicly commemorate the contributions of living and deceased veterans of Chicopee."



**HALL OF COMMANDERS >>** Keeping with a long standing Westover Tradition, a pen and ink illustration of the 14<sup>th</sup> Westover Wing Commander is finished and ready to be hung alongside former wing commanders going back to 1974. All of the illustrations have been done by Public Affairs staff member and Pope's Puns cartoonist, W.C.Pope. You can see the artwork in the hallway just outside of the Protocol Office. (Illustration by W.C.Pope)





## PROMOTIONS

**Senior Master Sgt.**  
Calvin Alexander  
Dominique Corbett  
Nicholas Dukes  
Gary Bacon Jr.  
Shawn Harris



**Master Sergeant**  
William Cote  
Jeffery Gilbert  
Joseph Mahoney  
Anthony Cascino



**Technical Sergeant**  
Christopher Croteau  
Jonathan Driskell  
Jennifer Grace  
Stephen Dowse



**Staff Sergeant**  
Eric Wills  
Ryan Wilkie  
Christopher Crosby  
Jody Harmon  
Christopher Titus  
Branden Hutchinson  
Miguel Santiago



**Senior Airman**  
Hunter Sarnelli  
Stephen Cobbinah  
Corey Kosinski  
Jared Pinnelle  
Ryan Levierge Sr.  
Charles Reyesfernandez  
Christopher Childs



**Airman First Class**  
Erik Collazo  
Logan Guay  
Theodore Enos II



**Airman**  
Timothy Gilbert  
Shamyra Cooke  
Toni Odetunde  
William Rivera  
Andrew Kittler



## Amn Michael Fortis

439<sup>th</sup> Logistics Readiness Squadron

Airman Basic Michael Fortis, a Bronx native, from the 439<sup>th</sup> Logistics Readiness Squadron, is serving at his first base as a supply troop. Airman Fortis' uncle was a Marine who lost the use of his legs after being shot in the spine as an innocent bystander in his neighborhood. His grandfather also served as a Naval aircraft mechanic for more than 20 years, so it wasn't a far leap that he would soon take on the military as a way of life after seeing the men he looked up to carry the torch. "It's always been a family thing; just a way of life for me," he said.

In his civilian life, Airman Fortis works as a volunteer firefighter, an Abercrombie & Fitch sales employee, paints cars, and also finds time to train in hopes of becoming a police officer out of Brewster, N.Y., where he now lives. He became a volunteer firefighter in 2008, his senior year in high school, but says that ever since he was a child, becoming a police officer is his ultimate dream. "I like helping people. I want to be the person that people say, 'I know that police officer, he's actually a decent one,'" he said. "I want to be a role model to my future children as well as my peers."

After being turned down several times by the Air Force, Army, and Navy, he gave it his last shot after five years and finally got accepted into the Air Force. Being a member of the U.S. Air Force, as well as the gay community, Airman Fortis hopes to become an inspiration to those who face any challenges. He doesn't want anyone to ever give up and wants others to know if he can do it, so can they.

## RETIREMENTS

**Major**  
Christopher Watkins

**Chief Master Sergeant**  
Michelle Dunfield

**Senior Master Sergeant**  
Patrick Thompson

**Master Sergeant**  
Lyle Armstrong  
Adam Burr  
Glenn Griffiths  
Andrzej Widor

**Technical Sergeant**  
Earl Gambino

**Senior Airman**  
Nicholas Clark

## SERVICES CALENDAR

westoverservices.com

**Club >>** Beach Bash 2016 - June 4th and 25th, come and enjoy beach games, food, and drink specials. Military Spouse Appreciation Social - sponsored by the USO in the Club Lounge, June 10th at 7 p.m. Enjoy free food and meet new people. Show off your talent! Singing, comedy? Be a Westover Star - sign up before June 26th. Competitions will be held on July 9th and 23rd. The top three finalists will move up, and one grand prize winner will be chosen on Aug. 6th and win \$500.

**Bowling Center >>** Games for Grades - In June, kids can bring in their report card and receive a free game of bowling. June 4th, Reservists will receive \$1.50 games and \$1.50 shoe rental. Bring the whole squadron and make it a team building event. Flag Day Bowl - June 14th. Wear red, white, and blue and receive discounted bowling along with food and drink specials.

**Fitness Center >>** Knockerball - Soccer in a ball, is scheduled for June 23rd, 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m., Six-Man Teams! Future games will be scheduled based on participation! There will be a deep sea fishing trip from Gloucester Mass. on June 25th. \$25 per person, non-refundable. Military members and their families are welcome. Children must be 10 or older. Sign up and pay at Outdoor Rec., Sign ups start June 1st.

**Outdoor Recreation >>** Six Flags has extended their promotion - Buy 4 season passes and get a FREE Parking Pass. Passes must be activated by June 5th. Season passes are \$57.99 each, and a day pass is \$40. Come in and see what Outdoor Rec has to rent.

Look for WNN on local  
community access channels





Published monthly for Patriots like 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Chris Harding, and more than 4,700 people assigned to Westover Air Reserve Base.

## EMPENNAGE

AF defers promotion, re-enlistment ineligibility policy tied to enlisted distance learning completion

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- The Air Force has deferred the effective date for promotion and re-enlistment eligibility associated with the Air Force policy to complete enlisted professional military education distance learning courses within 12 months of enrollment until Jan. 1.

The six-month deferment allows additional time to validate notification and acknowledgment procedures, as well as ensure test centers have the time and capacity to meet testing requirements.

These adjustments alleviate potential impacts to a significant number of Airmen who may fail to complete Course 14 and 15 for reasons beyond their control.

"EPME is a critical component of our professional enlisted force and our expectations have not changed," said CMSgt. of the Air Force James A. Cody. "Airmen are still required to complete EPME Distance Learning in a timely manner, yet we certainly understand we need to adjust to ensure all Airmen are able to complete the course on time. The policy deferment is necessary for us to assist Airmen through the transition to a blended learning program that delivers higher quality

education to our Airmen earlier in their careers."

Airmen who may go beyond 12 months in completing EPME DL must request a course extension through Air University, in accordance with enrollment instructions. Airmen will not be marked ineligible to reenlist and compete for promotion until the new policy effective date.

The blended learning and time-in-service model announced in December 2014 was implemented so Airmen would receive PME earlier and more frequent in their career. Throughout the three-year transition of EPME to a blended learning model, approximately 50,000 Airmen have enrolled in the distance learning portion.

The temporary deferment of policy dictating repercussions to promotion and re-enlistment upon failure to enroll, complete and pass military education within one year of enrollment will expire Jan. 1, 2017. Airmen who enrolled in EPME on or after Jan. 1, 2016, are not affected by this deferment.

Airmen enrolled in EPME DL will be contacted directly by the Air Force Personnel Center with more information about the changes. Formal guidance will also be communicated from the headquarters manpower, personnel and services directorate to major commands, for further dissemination.

For more information about Air Force personnel programs go to the myPers website. Individuals who do not have a myPers account can request one by following the instructions on the Air Force Retirees Services website.

**AFRC BLESSED >>** Over 270 Air Force Reserve Chaplain's and Chaplain Assistants were in attendance of the 2016 Air Force Reserve Chaplain Corps Conference held in Chicago, IL, April 2016. Over 20-hours of training was accomplished with guest speakers who specialize in Moral Injury and Soul Care. (photo by TSgt. Kelly Goonan)

