



PATRIOT

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UTA SNAPSHOT

>> Commanders and first sergeants will serve Patriot Wing Airmen a Thanksgiving meal at Bldg. 5550 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the November A UTA.

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These C-5A Galaxy airlifters await their final flights to the boneyard at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., in September. These and many other transient aircraft are typical visitors at the base's flight line and long runways. For more photos turn to pages 6-7.



MOBILITY LINEUP >> Reservists line up to board a Patriot Wing C-5 during the Oct. 14 mobilization exercise. More than 400 reservists and civilian employees participated in the exercise, which also included in-processing, inventory of equipment, and briefings. The intent of the exercise was to provide pre-deployment experience for future exercises to newer Airmen. (photo by SrA. Alexander Brown)

As we strive to build leaders here at Westover, we must remember to stay out of the sandbox. No, I don't mean deployment; I mean the sandbox of not passing on our acquired knowledge.

There are supervisors who believe that knowledge is power, and they fail to share that knowledge to develop our future leaders. They believe if they keep this acquired knowledge, they are irreplaceable. They want you to stay out of their sandbox, and they want to keep all the "toys" (knowledge) to themselves. This supervisor is a poor leader with low self-esteem. They micromanage, and must know everything, because if they don't, their feeble thinking allows them to believe they can't be replaced. News flash -- everyone is replaceable.

No one is bigger than the mission. If you are a supervisor, you need to ask yourself, if something happens to me,

who will take my place?

If you don't have two to three people who you're mentoring right now to take your position, you're not leading, like you should. If we have not prepared our people to fill leadership roles, we have failed.

We need to impart our knowledge and skillsets onto future generations. If we don't, there will be a vacuum that will take years to fill, leaving our

"If we have not prepared our people to fill leadership roles, we have failed. We need to impart our knowledge and skillsets onto future generations."

people at a serious disadvantage.

We live in a very dynamic time, and when we send our people on deployments, they need to have the knowledge and leadership skills to succeed in any environment. That is why it is called a UTA -- Unit



TRAINING Assembly. We train to prepare for deployments. If mistakes are made, they need to be made in training, not in real-world situations. It degrades the mission if our people are not prepared for the challenges that are presented to them.

As supervisors and leaders we need to prepare the next generation for future successes. Stay out of the sandbox and grow a garden of success.

by CCMSgt. Michael Thorpe
439th Airlift Wing Command Chief

BRIEFS |

Case lot sale

A case lot sale will be held Nov. 3-4 in Hangar 5 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Manufacturers coupons, cash debit and credit are accepted.

CFC update

The base Combined Federal Campaign drive had gone over \$12,000 by Oct. 19. The campaign continues until Dec. 15, with a goal of \$45,000. For more information, call Kimberlee Ayuyu at 557-2904 or visit westernmacfc.org.

ASTS notches command awards

Air Force Reserce Command officials selected the reservists of the 439th Aeroomedical Staging Squadron as the AFRC Outstanding Areomedical Staging Squadron for 2011.

In addition, AFRC honored one ASTS Airman in particular, SrA. Thomas Lennon, as the command's Outstanding Reserve Airman assigned to a ground medical unit.

Retreat ceremony set for Nov. 3

Airmen are welcome to participate in a Patriot Wing retreat ceremony honoring the nation's veterans at 3 p.m. Nov. 3 at the Base Ellipse.

Base snowline provides updates

Updated base information during inclement weather is available on the snowline by calling 557-3444.

PA to halt tours

Due to winter weather conditions on the flight line, public affairs will suspend its tours for the public at the end of December. Tours will resume April 1. For more information, call 557-2020, or email 439aw.pa@us.af.mil.

Absentee ballots

Reservists should visit local community voting office web sites or visit FVAP.gov to secure an absentee ballot. The process of filling out information and the ballot takes just minutes.



EXCELLENCE >>> A maintenance crew guides a C-5 Galaxy into the isochronal inspection dock. Westover's ISO dock was among the reasons for its selection as the 2013 Commander-in-Chief's Annual Award for Installation Excellence. (photos by SrA. Kelly Galloway)

Westover earns AFRC's nomination for installation excellence

by 2nd Lt. Andre Bowser

In a letter dated Oct. 11, Vice Commander of AFRC Maj. Gen. Craig Gourley wrote: "With great pleasure, I announce Westover Air Reserve Base as Air Force Reserve Command's nominee for the 2013 Commander-in-Chief's Annual Award for Installation Excellence. The outstanding performance of Westover Air Reserve Base as a premier installation has immeasurably contributed to the mission of the Air Force Reserve Command, and this nomination is well deserved. Congratulations to the fine Airmen of Westover Air Reserve Base on a job well done! Best wishes to your Wing as Westover Air Reserve Base

competes at the Air Force level!"

Col. Steven Vautrain, 439th Airlift Wing commander, said the nomination is a reward in itself. He expressed credit to the Citizen Airmen who worked hard to elevate the Patriot Wing's stature.

"Thank you for proving once again

that we are Leaders In Excellence!" The American Forces Press Service reported: "Installations competing for the excellence award are evaluated on energy and environmental management, quality of life, unit morale, safety and health, communica-

tions, public relations, mission support, competitive activities, real property stewardship and asset management."

Ultimately, five installations go on to receive the national award. The 2012 winners were:

- U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield, Hinesville, Ga.;
- Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif.;
- Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Fla.;

- Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Tucson, Ariz.;

- The Defense Logistics Agency's Defense Distribution Depot, San Joaquin, Calif.

The CINC Award for Installation Excellence "recognizes the outstanding and innovative efforts of the people who operate and maintain U.S. military installations," according to the award's official website, which outlines that the five recipients of this highly competitive presidential award are selected for their exemplary support of Department of Defense missions. "Excellent installations enable better mission performance and enhance the quality of life for military men and women and their families."

"Congratulations to the fine Airmen of Westover Air Reserve Base on a job well done!"
-- Maj. Gen. Craig Gourley,
AFRC vice commander

THINKING ABOUT VOLUNTEERING? VRS2 IS THE PLACE TO START

by SrA. Danielle Purnell
Air Force Reserve Command

Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard members looking to volunteer for a temporary duty assignment or deployment now have a single, online resource where they can go to find available opportunities.

The second generation of the Volunteer Reserve System, or VRS2, is available through the Air Reserve Component Net application found on the Air Force portal. After logging onto the portal, go to the Air Force Reserve Command page and click on the ARCNet application. From the top of this page, click on "Opportunities" and then select VRS2 from the list.

"If you want to volunteer, VRS2 is the place to start," said Lt. Col. Mike Stauffer, chief of the Mobilization Branch in the Force Generation Center at Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

Members of the reserve components can use VRS2 to identify volunteer opportunities most suited to their qualifications and grade, Stauffer said. It also allows them greater visibility on the

permissions and vetting process, he said.

"VRS2 is going to change the world," said Col. Julio Lopez, chief of the Forces Division in the FGC. The new system gives reserve component members access to vacancies that were once only visible from their base's logistics readiness squadron.

There are more than 3,800 volunteer opportunities available globally to fill both air expeditionary force and non-AEF vacancies. Furthermore, when an Airman applies for a position, his or her application doesn't just disappear into cyberspace.

Members of the FGC point out that VRS2 is still a work in progress as they continue to incorporate new enhancements.

Stauffer said one enhancement that is already planned will allow members to tell the VRS2 system what types of TDYs or deployments they are seeking. When a matching opportunity becomes available, the system will automatically email a link to the vacancy.

"The goal was to create a more sophisticated, user-friendly product that would change the world," Lopez said. "The Reserve volunteer future is bright."

Team McChord completes 500th Operation Deep Freeze mission

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, Wash. -- Airmen from the 62nd and 446th Airlift Wings, deployed from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., as part of the 304th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, completed a milestone event when they flew the 500th C-17 Globemaster III Special Assignment Airlift Mission into Antarctica in support of Operation Deep Freeze, Oct. 14.

ODF is a joint service operation in support of the U.S. Antarctic Program and provides airlift support for the National Science Foundation's scientific research by transporting NSF cargo and personnel to McMurdo Station, Antarctica. C-17 crews from McChord Field use Christchurch International Airport in Christchurch, New Zealand, as a base of operations.

The C-17, flying under the call sign "ICE 11," touched down on Pegasus White Ice runway Sunday, carrying NSF personnel and cargo to the icy research outpost. Upon conclusion of that mission, C-17 aircraft from McChord Field had transported a total of more than 40,000 passengers and nearly 45 million pounds of cargo to Antarctica in support of ODF since 1999.

"We are extremely proud of this milestone; 500 missions is a significant accomplishment," said Col. Wyn Elder, 62nd AW commander. "Team McChord's support to the National Science Foundation is an important and rewarding mission."

Another milestone set with this mission is that all 500 ODF missions have been completed without mishap.

"To have safely flown 500 missions in this unique environ-



ment is a great operational accomplishment for the C-17 aircrews and maintenance teams of the 304th EAS," said Lt. Col. Brent Keenan, 304th EAS commander. "Knowing that during these missions we have directly contributed to the advancement of scientific research and provided a lifeline to the isolated continent is a great feeling."

"I cannot be more proud of Team McChord and what they do for this nation and the U.S. Air Force," said Col. Bruce Bowers, 446th AW commander. "Across the board, this total force works together not only during conflict but during peacetime."

(Courtesy 62nd AW Public Affairs Office)

Westover 'ramps up' for presidential aircraft, A-10s, C-5s



SPECIAL VISITOR >> A VC-25 presidential support aircraft spends the evening at Westover Sept. 26. The jet, called Air Force One when the president is aboard, departed the next day to pick up President Barack Obama, who attended the annual United Nations conference in New York City. Westover's transient alert and base operations staffs team with officials at Westover Metropolitan Airport to provide parking spaces for allied nations' aircraft as well. (photo by W.C. Pope)



BONEYARD-BOUND

Last A-model takes final flight to Davis-Monthan

by **MSgt. Andrew Biscoe**

Aircraft 68-0211 took to the skies from Westover Sept. 25 for its final flight – a transcontinental trip to the boneyard at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.

For MSgt. Art Needham, this marshaling was his last for this C-5 once assigned to the Patriot Wing for nearly 20 years.

MSgt. Needham was a crew chief for 211 for 19 years. Like so many aircraft with unofficial names of affection created by those that take care of them so meticulously – he

named this C-5 “Miss Piggy.”

The senior NCO eyed his former aircraft taxiing into position for takeoff on a crisp fall day.

“She served her country well,” he said under his breath.

The 44-year-old Galaxy – assigned to the 167th Airlift Wing at Martinsburg, W. Va., sat on Westover's North Ramp for nearly a year awaiting its final mission. This C-5A – along with three others -- became part of history in late September. The Air Force is retiring most of the older A-models in the inventory.

Transferred from Westover to the

167th in 2007, 211 circled the globe regularly as many C-5s do – racking up thousands of hours while hauling the tonnage only a C-5 can carry. The C-5A first arrived at Westover from Travis AFB, Calif., in 1988.

It was also the star attraction at the world's largest air show in July 2004. A 337th Airlift Squadron crew flew the C-5 to the week-long AirVenture 2004, held in Oshkosh, Wisc.

EDITOR'S NOTE: W.C. Pope, 439th AW Public Affairs, contributed to this story.



FLY-INN >> More than a dozen A-10 aircraft assigned to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., were parked on Westover's North Ramp Sept. 27. The jets were on their way to an overseas deployment. The North Ramp comprises a section of the huge flight line, originally built in 1940, then expanded in the 1950s as the Air Force presence grew with a huge fleet of B-52s and KC-135s, to today's C-5s. (photo by SrA. Kelly Galloway)



FINAL MARSHAL >> MSgt. Art Needham marshals C-5A 68-0211 out of its parking spot for its final flight, Sept. 25. The jet, once assigned to the Patriot Wing for nearly 20 years, flew to the boneyard at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.. (photo by W.C. Pope)



TAKEOFF >> Westover Airmen begin the Runway Road Race Oct. 13 for a fund-raiser held by the the Westover Company Grade Officers' Council. Evan Holmes (Navy) came in first place for the males and SrA. Stephanie Gaynor came in first place for the females out of 45 runners. All proceeds from the race went to the Combined Federal Campaign. (photo by SSgt. George Cloutier)

TROOP TALK | What's your favorite thing about Thanksgiving?



"The turkey dinner, watching football and spending time with my family."
-- A1C Adam Saleh,
439th Civil Engineering Squadron

"Seeing how much the toddlers in my family have grown since last year, reconnecting with family, and all the pumpkin-flavored beverages that come out during autumn."

--SrA. Nicholas Schilling, 439th AW
finance office



"Watching football and eating as many pieces of pecan pie as I can!"
-- SrA. Patrick Harris, 439th AW chaplain's office



Cara's Runway -- Airman preps for state pageant

by SrA.
Kelly Galloway

On any given day, SrA. Cara Lustig could be found at the gym, attending one of her six college courses, volunteering her afternoon reading to first grade students, working full-time in Boston or drilling at Westover as a knowledge operations specialist.

And that's before the Miss Massachusetts USA beauty pageant she's competing in Nov. 16. SrA. Lustig will compete against about 60 candidates, which will be held in Lowell, and only one will be sent on to the National Miss USA pageant in Las Vegas.

A reservist with the 439th Communications Squadron at Westover, SrA. Lustig also works full-time as the Military Enrollment Advisor at the University of Phoenix at the Greater Boston Campus, and is completing her MBA.

"I want to help out in any way that I can," SrA. Lustig said about her job as the Enrollment Advisor for military veterans. "I feel that I can give back to someone who has already given so much to me. I'm able to assist them with career decisions, something that is going to affect them for the rest of their lives. It's a big deal."

Growing up in the small town of Quonset, R.I., SrA. Lustig had a drive to excel and move from her home state.

"I was at my brother's basic training graduation in Lackland when I had this epiphany," she said. "I've always wanted to move away from Rhode Island -- I wanted something bigger, something better, like my brother was doing. So I enlisted

in 2010 and chose communications as my AFSC because I wanted the skills I would be trained on to be easily transferable to my civilian life."

With a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Rhode Island, an information management associate's degree from the Community College of the Air Force, a current MBA candidate at the University of Phoenix and a commissioned officer candidate -- it's easy to understand why SrA. Lustig is going to excel in her civilian career and with the Air Force Reserve.

After researching the Miss Massachusetts USA pageant, SrA. Lustig wanted young girls to have someone to look up to -- a positive role model -- so she decided to pursue it.

"I've found that since entering this pageant my self-confidence has boosted and I've been able to begin networking," she said. "Knowing that I will be someone people look up to gives me that extra drive



BEAUTY AND BEARING >> SrA. Cara Lustig will compete in the Miss Massachusetts USA beauty pageant Nov. 16. A reservist with the 439th Communications Squadron, she's also completing her MBA and works full-time for the University of Phoenix at the Greater Boston campus. (photo illustration by W.C. Pope)

to always improve myself."

At the Miss Massachusetts competition, judges will conduct an initial interview with all 60 contestants and choose 15 to compete. They will be judged in swim and evening wear as well as interview questions and answers. Physical fitness, self-confidence and overall beauty will determine which con-

testant will be chosen to be the ambassador to represent Massachusetts. Ultimately only one will be crowned as "Miss Massachusetts USA."

Winners immediately become role models, according to the Miss Massachusetts USA website, assuring a year of personal growth and maturing that money cannot buy.



MOVING UP >> Col. Mark Wilson acknowledges applause during his promotion ceremony Oct. 13. Col. Wilson, former 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander until last summer, will head to Air Mobility Command headquarters, Scott Air Force Base, Ill., as chief of the maintenance division (as an individual mobilization augmentee). (photo by SrA. Kelly Galloway)

OSI opens smartphone anonymous tip line

QUANTICO, Va. (AFNS) -- The Air Force Office of Special Investigations has opened its first anonymous tip line that allows submissions from the Internet, via SMS (texting) or using a smartphone application.

The application was created in order to capitalize on cyberspace and engage the Air Force community more effectively, officials said.

"This tool will allow anyone to provide OSI with completely anonymous tips on everything from illegal drugs, theft and terrorist activities to potential insider threats," said Special Agent Daron Hartvigsen, OSI Cyber Investigations and Operations.

"Even better, the online and app versions allow individuals to send in photos."

The application also allows for agents to request more information from the concerned tipster without jeopardizing the tipster's anonymity. All three avenues allow the tipster to check on the results of their tips.

The direct link to the anonymous Internet tip line is <https://www.tipsubmit.com/WebTips.aspx?AgencyID=1111>.

Individuals can find the app in both the Android and Apple store as TipSubmit Mobile. They can also send in tips by texting 'AFOSI' and their tip to 274637 (CRIMES).

To download a trifold with detailed instructions on the program, click here: <http://www.osi.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-121001-036.pdf>.

(Courtesy of the Air Force Office of Special Investigations Public Affairs Office.)

Friends of Family Support, USO get \$5,000 donations

The Friends of Family Support and the Pioneer Valley United Service Organization each received \$5,000 donations in October. The donations came from the will of the late Dorothy Warnock, who worked at Westover for 15 years during the base's Strategic Air Command era. She worked in 8th Air Force headquarters. SAC left Westover in 1974 as part of a base realignment.

Both the USO and Friends of Family Support volunteers regularly assist Westover with air shows, deployments, and Family Day.

The AF&RC is located in Bldg. 1100 on Walker Avenue. The staff provides information and referral services for all branches of service on base. For more information, call 413-557-3024.

POPE'S PUNS |

by W.C.Pope



PROMOTIONS |

FACES OF WESTOVER

Chief Master Sergeant

Anthony Delduco

**Senior Master Sergeant**

Brad Ward

**Master Sergeant**

Paul Fortin

Kyle Burton

James McLaughlin

**Technical Sergeant**

Joseph Celata

Darryl Stetson

Thomas Fitzgerald

Kevin Keophakdy

Chad Soler

Robert Gustafson

**Staff Sergeant**

Ronald Cunningham

Roberto Figueroa

Victor Savluk

**Senior Airman**

Sean Berrios

Marc Brueshaber

Maryellen Santiago

Connor Hart

Richard Ring

Adam Saleh

Nathan Rosazza

Christopher Thom

Rudolph Thomas

**Airman 1st Class**

Nakishe Flippen

Jared Flores

Jeffrey Hensley

Donna Leonard

Kevin Rader

Rene Rodriguez

Ashley Williams

**Airman**

Zambrana Carattini

Angelo Cueva

Ronald Geronimo

Nicholas McNellis

Willie Pearson

Justin Reyes

Paul Reed

David Viertel

**TSgt. Jessica Nieves****TSgt. Jessica Nieves**439th Force Support Squadron

TSgt. Jessica Nieves has been stationed on the beaches of Guam and was then in the mountains of Montana to finish her active-duty tour. After four years of service, she decided not to re-enlist and moved back to the local area to pursue a bachelor's degree and focus more on her daughters.

"I had been out of the service for about a year when a recruiter called, asking if I wanted to re-enlist into the reserve," she said. "When the recruiter told me how the reserve could help me pay for school I decided to re-enlist in 2008."

Her busy schedule includes completing an associate's degree in science, working towards a bachelor's degree in nursing, taking care of three young daughters, and reporting to Westover for drill weekends as a force management specialist.

"What I really like about the reserve -- camaraderie," she said. "You really get to know the people that you're working with and so the job ultimately becomes more like home."

-- by SrA. Kelly Galloway

RETIREMENTS |

Lieutenant Colonel

Deborah Fuller

Chief Master Sergeant

Joseph Cullen

Master Sergeant

Michael Duma

Paul Gagnon

Anthony Gambardella

Jennifer Picard

Eric Plouffe

Captain

David Auretto

SERVICES CALENDER |

Submitted by Mollie Anello, services marketing assistant

CLUB >> Progress is being made at Bldg. 5550 to bring breakfast, lunch, dinner and bar operations to the public. Check out the services website for up to date information on the grand opening! For more information, call 593-5531, Ext. 103.

BOWLING CENTER >> Progress is being made! We have a projected reopening month of March 2013! Keep up to date on our facebook page and the services website.

OUTDOOR REC >> Need extra tables and chairs for your Thanksgiving dinner? Come to ODR! End your fall season with one of our many yard clean-up tools. For more information, call 557-2192.

FITNESS >> Flag football playoffs begin Nov. 5; see the standings in the Spotlight or on the services website. Intramural basketball sign-ups begin in November; coaches' meeting is scheduled for Dec. 5. Schedules are displayed at the fitness center. For more information call 557-3958.



Published monthly for Patriots like MSgt. Jose Rivers, Wilbraham, Mass., and the more than 3,400 reservists and civilians assigned to the 439th Airlift Wing.

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HOT FEET >> Chicopee and Westover firefighters train together at the smokehouse area on Patriot Avenue Oct. 3. The training is part of mutual aid agreements between the base fire department and surrounding communities. (photo by SrA. Kelly Galloway).