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facebook.com/ westover.patriot 439TH AIRLIFT WING COMMANDER Col. Steven Vautrain

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UTA SNAPSHOT

>> Base chapel to hold rock band morale concert and burger burn for reservists, Saturday, 3-8 p.m.; Bldg. 1100, Walker Avenue

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EDITORIAL | The eagle-turkey continuum

"It should be so clear.

Either we are succeeding

and life is good or...

not so much."

Did you happen to read CMSgt. latest physical fitness test, our Thorpe's editorial in the June issue of the Patriot comparing thoroughbreds and pack mules?

If not, take a look. It's true.

If we take the time to care for our people and allow them to learn from their mistakes, they will develop into their full potential. Pack mules can and do develop into thoroughbreds.

Allow me to offer a second reference to the animal kingdom. Have you ever heard that old saying, "It's hard to soar with eagles when you work with turkeys?" Ever notice how no one ever thinks of himself

as the turkey... or do they? Odd isn't it? It should be so clear. Either we are succeeding and life is good or... not so

much. Sometimes our inner person can get pretty twisted up.

While in the animal kingdom no eagle has ever confused itself for a turkey, we human beings can get a bit confused. We confuse our identity with the status of our relationships, the result of our

last performance evaluation, our possessions, or even our financial status. None of these are a true indicator of our value or status along the eagle-turkey continuum. The great author and scholar C. S. Lewis once wrote,"There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal... It is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub and exploit immortal horrors or everlasting splendors."

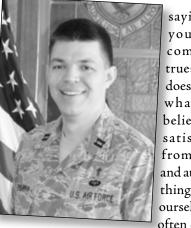
We all have value! The question is...

How do I know how I am doing?

As a chaplain, I see, coach, and celebrate with people through all kinds of things. Here are

four key areas to consider when you do your next self-assessment:

- 1) Assumptions Deep down, what do you actually believe about life? Seek that out and guard it. Out of this flow all the issues of life.
- 2) Assertions What are your words



saying? What do you assert and communicate as true? Sometimes it doesn't line up with what you really believe. Peace and satisfaction stem from genuineness and authenticity. The things we say about ourselves and life too often come true.

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- 3) Actions What do you actually do? What kind of seeds are you sowing? Do you need to get some weeds out of the garden of your life?
- 4) Attitudes How you do things matters too! Are you bitter, angry, full of resentment, and contentious? Replace that with understanding, kindness, and compassionate correction.

So, check yourself. How are you doing? Remember ... we are not merely what we do. What we do is profoundly shaped by who we are.

by Chaplain (Capt.) Matthew Zimmerman, 439th Airlift Wing

BRIEFS

Family Day

Westover's joint-service Family Day will be held from II a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 7, on the Base Ellipse.

Events will include the Top Three Volleyball Tournament, food, popcorn, refreshments, and a car show. Military members and their families from all services on base are welcome to join in the first-ever joint-service Family Day.

Activities for children include bounce houses, hay rides, a dunk tank, and face painting. For more information, call CMSgt. David Carbin at 557-3699. | in Bldg. 1850, at 557-3193.

Former base police chief dies

Harold Voelker, a former Westover police chief, died July 4. Voelker was chief of the base from 1975 to 1988. He also served in the Air Force from 1953 to 1973, including a tour in Vietnam from 1966 to 1967. He retired from civil service in 2000.

Health insurance, benefits for gay couples

Health insurance and other benefits can now be extended to family members of federal employees who have legally married a spouse of the same sex.

This results from the Supreme Court's June ruling that the Defense of Marriage Act is unconstitutional. Federal employees have until Aug. 26 to make immediate changes to add family members to policies; however, any other changes can be made at open season later this year.

This ruling also enables members to make changes to other programs like life, dental, vision and long term care insurance, retirement and flexible spending accounts.

For more information, call the civilian personnel office, located

No Patriot

Due to the furlough, the September Patriot will not be published. However, a larger October edition is planned and will be published shortly before that month's A UTA.

Cell phone policy

Security forces officials remind motorists that the new on-base cell phone policy carries the same penalty as seatbelt usage.

Motorists cited using a cell phone while operating a motor vehicle will lose their driving privileges for 30 days and their licenses will be suspended.

Furloughs hurt employees, economy, mission

by Lt. Col. James Bishop

Congressionally-mandated furloughs of more than 700 civilians locally and some 680,000 Department of Defense civilians worldwide began July 8 and are scheduled to continue through September.

Civilians here are required to take II days of unpaid leave between July 8 and Sept. 30, resulting in a 20 percent pay reduction during that period.

The furloughs were announced in mid-May. They are part of DOD-wide budget cuts due to the sequester.

"We've been preparing for this -- and though the number is less than the 22 originally planned, 11 days is 11 days too many," said Col. Steven Vautrain, 439th Airlift Wing commander. "I know furlough will impose a financial burden on all of us. We are a strong and resilient wing, and we'll get through this as we continue to perform our mission to the best of our abilities."

The 700 civilians on base include about 450 dual-status Air Force air reserve technicians. Civilians and ARTs serve in nearly all base functions, from pilots to mechanics and firefighters. They also in operations, maintenance, aerial port, personnel, finance, public affairs, civil engineering, communications, security forces, medical, airlift control, aeromedical evacuation, and aeromedical staging.

Even before the furlough, bases and communities saw the effects of sequestration: the Air Force implemented a hiring freeze, cut facility maintenance and repair, and canceled key public engagements, including all air shows, flyovers and most travel, according to Pentagon officials. The Air Force halted flying training for three months, until Congress approved a \$1.8 billion reprogramming request, according to a July 15 Air Force News Story. "And now we are implementing furloughs, which will harm both morale and productivity and mission accomplishment," Pentagon officials said in a written statement.

Locally, furlough effects began to be felt immediately. The following is a partial list of effects at Westover ARB.

Personal Economy

The 11 unpaid furlough days will cost Westover DOD civilians and technicians an estimated average salary loss of \$3,780

Services affected base-wide

- -- Furlough days: July 8, 19, 22; Aug. 2, 5, 16, 19, 29, 30; Sept. 13, 16
- -- Services affected and/or curtailed: Finance, Airmen and Family Readiness Center, military personnel flight (military IDs), fitness center, Westover Club, control tower, fire department, James Street Gate, Visitors Center, weather programs. operations, and maintenance.

per person, based on Fiscal Year 2012 Economic Impact figures of 11 lost days and one lost accrued leave day.

Local Economy

The base's economic impact in fiscal year 2012 was \$238 million. The 20 percent loss of salary over nearly three months, along with the belt-tightening before and after, will result in an estimated 5 percent - \$12 million - loss of cash-flow to the local economy.

Mission

- -- Minimal manning on furlough days will affect all areas of Westover's mission: flying, maintenance, and all support.
- -- The airfield weekend operation hours will be reduced, and the aircraft control tower's hours will be reduced by 6 ½ hours per day, affecting flying operations at Westover and at the adjoining civilian airport, Westover Metropolitan Airport.
- -- Numerous weather programs will be curtailed; staff weather programs will lag.
- The furlough significantly reduces the maintenance group's ability to repair aircraft. During the first week of furlough, the aircraft maintenance squadron saw:
- Three delays in aircraft recovery.
- Two home station checks (periodic maintenance checks) unable to be worked.
- Non-compliance of one aircraft during depot maintenance acceptance.
- Delayed maintenance on all aircraft.
- -- In the maintenance squadron, the 20 percent decrease in work time means an aircraft in regularly-scheduled maintenance takes an estimated 4-5 days longer to go through Isochronal Inspection.
- -- If an aircraft breaks on a core furlough day, other key programs will fall behind due to 20 percent loss in available work time. Those programs include evaluations, decorations, orders processing, civilian

time cards, government purchase card, government travel card, and many others.

"The end result," said Col. Kerry Kohler, 439th Maintenance Group commander, "is that C-5s are delayed getting back into the fight and mandatory programs are being degraded."

- Though able to fly so far, the aeromedical evacuation squadron's support ability has been degraded. "The impact of the furlough is the great stress it's put our ART staff in providing the support for our unit members, processing orders, coordinating issues with other base and AFRC functions, etc.," said 439th AES senior ART, Lt. Col. David Zamorski. He also noted that support to several dozen deploying members of his squadron will be delayed due to the furlough.
- -- The base fire department will be staffed at 50 percent, reducing their ability to respond to fires on the massive C-5 and their ability to respond to mutual aid requests.
- -- Although Westover is one of two aircraft live fire training areas in the state, it will have to curtail all outside fire department training, so civilian firefighters will no longer be able to obtain their Federal Aviation Administration certification here.
- -- Because of the hiring freeze and furlough, Westover's ability to begin contract maintenance and repair projects is diminished. "Normally, at this time of year, many government contracting personnel will work up to 50 or 60 hours a week to complete government contracts and purchases before the close of the fiscal year on Sept. 30. Now they're limited to 32 hours per week," said base civil engineer Wayne Williams. This nearly 50 percent cut will negatively impact the local economy by reducing overall construction spending.
- -- At the force support squadron's military personnel flight, civilians and ARTs see a backlog of medals, performance reports and many other mandatory items that could impact Airman's careers due to slower processing times.
- -- Customer support at FSS is closed on furlough days, which means they can't issue ID cards (except in an emergency). This impacts those needing ID cards for TRICARE benefits, etc. for active duty, reservists, retirees and disabled veterans.

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ACTING SECAF TOURS ISO, HOLDS ALL CALL

by Lt. Col. James Bishop and MSgt. Andrew Biscoe

"That's a lot of iron on the ramp," Acting Secretary of the Air Force Eric Fanning said during his July 25 visit to Westover, seeing a row of 10 C-5s on the East Ramp.

During his three-hour visit, the acting secretary donned a hard hat and toured the nation's largest military aircraft, flew a C-5 simulator, and spoke to more than 450 people during an Airman's All Call.

At each stop on base, Fanning spoke with dozens of Airmen and civilians, gaining insight on how they support the airlift mission and listening to their concerns.

Fanning chose Westover ARB as one of two New England bases to visit and observe how furloughs and sequestration are affecting the Air Force, and to discuss current issues with the troops. The previous day he visited Pease



Air National Guard Base, N.H.

Speaking on sequestration to wing members, he said his primary goal is to "make decisions now that provide some stability in the future."

It costs two and a half to three times more to retrain a pilot whose currency has lapsed than it does to keep a pilot current, he added. During the Airman's All Call, he answered pointed questions on furlough. "We broke faith, in my view, with the people we furloughed," Fanning said.

"And we are feeling the impact. I'm very committed to get us out of them because it's the worst way to manage a work force."

Fanning, a Dartmouth College graduate, was confirmed as the 24th Undersecretary of the Air Force in April. Two months later he became acting secretary after Michael Donley departed. He oversees the Air Force's \$110

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New fuel hydrant system to pump up C-5s on flight line

by Lt. Col. James Bishop

Some 40 civic, business, and military

leaders gathered at a ceremony June 24 announcing a \$24.4 million contract to fund a new fuel hydrant system on base.

The ceremony took place on spot 8 of the sweltering ramp, in the shadow of a C-5 Galaxy, the largest aircraft in the U.S. military. Opening the ceremony, Congressman Richard Neal (D-Springfield) said, "Today is a good day for Westover, a good day for America's national defense, and a good day for the Western Massachusetts economy."

Col Steven Vautrain, 439th Airlift Wing commander, called the new system "environmentally sound" and an important upgrade to continue Westover's mission.

The current fuel hydrant, a Type III system, was commissioned in 1990, and

some parts date back to the original Type II system, commissioned in 1952, said Don Gale, Westover fuels manager.



FUELING THE FLEET >> Congressman Richard Neal (D-Springfield)
highlights the importance of the new fuel hydrant system during
his visit to Westover June 24. (photo by W.C. Pope)

The \$24 million upgrade will help
Westover perform its mission
much more effectively wit also

The project will construct a pressurized hydrant fuel system with 14 hydrant outlets and two 210,000 gallon above-

ground fuel storage tanks, according to Brett Bailey, chief of design for Base Civil Engineering.

He said the work will include modifying the existing pumphouse, and constructing new truck fill-stands, among other improvements. The new fuel storage capacity will be 420,000 gallons, and the current storage capacity is 584,000 gallons. "So we lose 164,000 gallons of hydrant storage capability," said Gale, "but we only have to maintain two above-ground storage tanks versus 12 underground tanks."

In an earlier written statement, Congressman Neal said, "This is a very significant investment into the infrastructure and long term viability of the base in Chicopee. The \$24 million upgrade will help Westover perform its mission much more effectively...it also

reinforces Westover's importance as a national strategic military asset."



NEWS

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FSS produces 500-600 ID cards monthly.

- -- On furlough days, the Airman and Family Readiness Center staff cannot provide emergency services for families of deployed Airmen and other emergency cases where people in crisis seek various forms of as-
- -- The James Street Gate and the Visitor Control Center at the Main Gate will be closed on all furlough days.
- -- The Pioneer Valley USO will be serving a free dinner each Monday evening to furloughed civilians and ARTs.
- -- The base fitness center is no longer open on non-UTA weekends.
- -- The base dining facility which serves breakfast, lunch and dinner to the base

populace of about 5,500 men and women - will close on furlough days.

-- And of course, it's too early to track the effect on morale and retention.

Even before sequestration, there was a readiness crisis in the Air Force, said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Welsh III. The severe cutbacks required by the sequester will further downgrade force readiness beyond the current fiscal year if a budget agreement is not reached.

"We can't just all of a sudden accelerate training and catch up," he said. "It costs up to 2 1/2 times as much to retrain a squadron as it does to keep it trained."

Legal restrictions exist for furloughed employees. During furlough, employees are prohibited from performing work or

acting as an unpaid volunteer. This includes coming to work, telework, attending training, using their Air Force issued laptops, or checking email or Blackberries while on furlough. Working during furlough time off violates Federal law and may result in disciplinary action against supervisors and employees.

"We rely on our civilian Airmen to keep the Air Force in the fight," said Acting Secretary of the Air Force Eric Fanning. "Their absence is felt across the board and it impacts our ability to accomplish the mission. Gen. Welsh and I are committed to working with the Secretary of Defense to find a way to bring this disruptive furlough to an end if at all possible."

TROOP TALK | What is your most inspiring movie?



"'Full Metal Jacket.' The movie teaches you about military disci-

>> SrA. Edger Reynoso 439th Security Forces Squadron

"Remember The Titans." I love sports and the movie is the reason I started playing football.'

>> Amn. Kenneth Line 439th Maintenance Squadron



'Armageddon.' Because the group of men had to sacrifice and overcome their differences for the better of mankind."

>> Stacy Bernash, **environmental** health technician



Michelle Weiser 439th Aeromedical

Evacuation Squadron

"Blackhawk Down." The movie highlights lessons on leadership under adverse conditions.'

>> Bill Lodge **AAFES** facility manager

Full Metal Jacket." The movie takes me back to all my boot camp memories, it's a chance for me to reminisce."

>> Bill Ayers warehouse specialist PATRIOT | PAGE 9

After six years, an Airman earns home in America

by SrA. Charles Hutchinson

privilege. Some people are born here, others work hard for that

"I am originally from Cameroon, but I'm from the United States now," said SrA. Tchazou.

Born in September 1980 in Douala, Cameroon, SrA. Tchazou is a finance specialist with the 439th Airlift Wing. He fled Cameroon in 2007 due to political instability.

He became a United States citizen July 4.

"It was in Sturbridge, Mass., and it was a change in my life," said SrA. Tchazou while talking about his swearing in as a U.S. citizen. "It's a blessing and also a big privilege to be a United States citizen. I think that maybe some people born here don't know how lucky and blessed they are."

"After you are sworn in and they call your name and give you that certificate, the feeling is something that words cannot describe," said SrA. Tchazou.

letting any go.

"So far what I have accomplished in this country I'm sure if I was in Cameroon I would never do," he said.

SrA. Tchazou came to America with a bachelor's degree in finance from Douala University. Since coming here he has con-SrA. Jean Marc Tchazou knows being a U.S. citizen is a tinued his education and recently graduated from Fitchburg State with a master's degree in accounting.

He also owns a brand-new car from working hard.

"These are things that are tough to obtain in Cameroon," he said. "The system doesn't allow you to really show your potential."

> Cameroon is located in west central Africa, between Nigeria and Chad. The west coast is located on the Gulf of Guinea. The capital of Cameroon is Yaoundé, and the country is home to more than 20 million people.

> While co-workers find his work ethic absolutely astounding, SrA. Tchazou does allow himself time to relax.

"After I got my citizenship I threw myself a really big party!" he said, in his soft-spoken French accent. "You have to really celebrate it. I came here just six years ago and I already have my citizenship."

SrA. Tchazou said to gain citizenship, "You have to work hard and put trust in the system. You have to stay out of trouble and do what is right. That's what makes America special."

With countless possibilities in America, SrA. Tchazou isn't This ambitious United States citizen ended his interview by saying, "It's not who you are, it's not how you look, or how you talk, but you are judged on what you can do. I have been given that chance. I'll continue to try."



SWEARING-IN >> SrA. Jean Marc Tchazou, 439th Airlift Wing finance specialist, swears in July 4 as an American citizen. SrA. Tchazou, originally from Cameroon came to America already with a bachelor's degree, and recently earned his master' degree in accounting. (photo by SMSgt. Jennifer Hearn)

ESGR ombudsman addresses employee relations topics

Q: Can an employer make someone use vacation time for their two weeks of annual training?

A: No. The key is how it is presented by the servicemember to their employer without sounding demanding. The Code of Federal Regulations, § 1002.153, says, If employment is interrupted by a period of service in the uniformed services, is the employee permitted upon request to use accrued vacation, annual or similar leave with pay during the service? Can the employer require the employee to use accrued leave during a period of service?

order to continue his or her civilian pay. However, the employee is not entitled to employee to use accrued vacation, annual, use sick leave that accrued with the civil- or similar leave during a period of service ian employer during a period of service in in the uniformed services. the uniformed services, unless the emsituated employees on comparable fur- tor. lough or leave of absence to use accrued

(a) If employment is interrupted by a paid sick leave. Sick leave is usually not period of service, the employee must be comparable to annual or vacation leave; permitted upon request to use any ac- it is generally intended to provide income crued vacation, annual, or similar leave when the employee or a family member with pay during the period of service, in is ill and the employee is unable to work.

(b) The employer may not require the

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following inployer allows employees to use sick leave formation was provided by Earl Bonett, for any reason, or allows other similarly Massachusetts ESGR Ombudsman Direc-

WESTOVER PATRIOTS



NEW EAGLES >> Retired Army Col. Andrew Perkins, father of Col Anthony Perkins, 439th Communications Squadron commander, congratulates his son during his promotion ceremony July 14 at the Westover Conference Center. Also pictured are Col. Steven Vautrain, 439th Airlift Wing commander, and the new colonel' son, Andre. (photo by TSgt. Brian Boynton)

-- SECAF continued from page 5

billion annual budget. Though a relative newcomer to the Air Force, he has served more than 20 years in national security at the Pentagon, Capitol Hill, the White House, and defense think-tanks. He also worked on the foreign and national assignment desks at CBS National News. Prior to his confirmation, he served as Deputy Undersecretary of the Navy.

"He was surprisingly direct," observed Scott Daigneault, 439th Airlift

Wing antiterrorism officer. "He gave us some honest background to the budget crunch." He acknowledged that pay

raises between the active duty

and civilian forces said it's not from lack of trying. The Air Force has requested a civilian pay raise every year, including this year.

Fanning also addressed sexual assault prevention: "It's clear from what I see that too many Airmen don't feel safe. This impacts our ability to take the mission for-

Chief of Staff Gen. Larry see that."

Spencer read every message posted on the Every Airman Counts blog, and he encouraged every

NEW COMMANDER >> Lt. Col. David Heroux, left, con

gratulates Lt. Col. John McSpadden July 14 following

the 439th Airlift Control Flight change of command. Also

pictured is Col. Michael Miller, 439th Operations Group commander, Lt. Col. McSpadden replaced Lt. Col

Patrick King. (photo by SrA. Alexander Brown)

He ended the All Call by saying, "Thank you for getting up

At the end of

Airman Aaron Gai

Airman to participate.

every day and focusing on the mission."

his tour, as he stepped off a blue Air Force bus to fly to his next stop, Fanning watched a KC-10 climb into the air after doing a

ward." He said he and Vice touch-and-go and exclaimed, "I love to

FACES OF WESTOVER

PROMOTIONS

Senior Master Sergeant

Anthony Giardini Carevann Patterson

Master Sergeant

Jason Youna Danita Thibeault Andrew Melton Robin Hammond Robert Cirillo John Nadolski

Technical Sergeant

Randall Bell Michael Peros Matthew Giglio

Staff Sergeant

Janna Garan Allen Freitas Brent Read Mark St. Vincent Adam Labelle Corina Scagliola

Senior Airman

Michael Burney Jake Drakakis Anthony Gentile Joseph Musiak Nakishe Flippen Jared Flores Leonardo Lima Ashlev Williams Kyle Gauthier Michael Negron Dawna Paull

Airman First Class

Rebeca Hamoy

Mvkel Potter Nicholas Karos Tyler Keves Michael MacNeil Mark Moreau Jenna Turner Gaetano Caico

A1C Joe Beasley 439th Maintenance Squadron

AIC Joe Beasley is a communication navigation specialist with the 439th Maintenance Squadron. Born and raised in Warwick, R.I., AIC Beasley enlisted nearly two years ago.

"I wanted to pay for college," he said. "I am not in school now, but I want to go to school for electrical engineering. I'm trying to get into the University of Connecticut."

AIC Beasley has been at Westover for about five months.

"I went to basic training on March 29, 2012," said A1C Beasley. "And then I went to a long tech school."

In his civilian life, A₁C Beasley is a paintball technician and a paintball referee in North Kingston, R.I.

"Yes it's a real job!" he exclaimed.

Although future plans change every day, AIC Beasley seems quite sure of this: "I plan on staying in the Air Force for a while; I plan on going for the full ride. I just wanted a good job with free training," he said. "Who wouldn't want that?"

-- SrA. Charles Hutchinson IV

A1C Joe Beasley

RETIREMENTS

Lieutenant Colonel Martin Dorey **Chief Master Sergeant** Wayne Allen Senior Master Sergeant Daniel Giddinge Todd Ramsey David Reim

Master Sergeant Scott Armstrong Richard Barry Douglas Desmarais Julie Kycia Kenneth MacDougald Donna Miranda **Gregory Williams**

Technical Sergeant Ernest Clinkscales Thomas Griffin

SERVICES CALENDER

Submitted by Mollie Anello, services marketing assistant

CLUB >> Wing Wednesdays at the Club! 4-8 p.m., 6-, 12-, 24-, or 48-piece specials, choose from 8 different flavors! Buffalo, Atomic, BBQ, Spicy BBQ, Tequila lime, Teriyaki Asian Glaze, Garlic Parmesan and Honey Mustard.

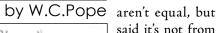
BOWLING >> Dollar Daze Monday Mania: \$1 Games, \$1 Shoe Rental, \$1 Slushies! Furlough Friday Fun, All You Can Bowl for \$6.99, Fridays 11 a.m.-1:30p.m. Shoes included.

FITNESS >> Sign up for Flag football Aug 12-30. Season starts in September. Dates and times to be announced.

OUTDOOR REC >> Stay cool and have summer fun at ODR! Let us help you with Canoes, Hobie Kayaks, and our newly added Stand Up Paddle Boards! For more information call 557-2192.

westoverservices.com



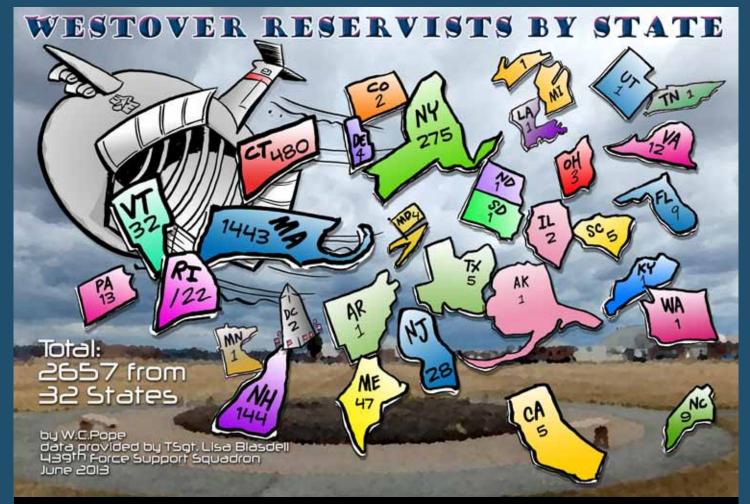




Published monthly for Patriots like TSgt. and more than 5,500 people assigned to Westover Air Reserve Base.

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FIRST CLASS US POSTAGE **PAID**



FROM ALL OVER >> While a majority of the Patriot Wing's reservists live in Westover's home state, Airmen from 31 others travel here from far corners of the country, including Califiornia and Florida. Westover's 2,500 acres make it the largest Air Force Reserve Command base in the country. (Graphic by W.C. Pope)