

# PATRIOT

439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing | Westover ARB, Mass. | Volume 40 No. 3

March 2013 | Patriot Wing -- Leaders in Excellence

## Nemo makes a splash at Westover



photo by SrA. Kelly Galloway

This funded, Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the **PATRIOT** are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force. The content is edited, prepared and provided by the 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office, Westover Air Reserve Base. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

439aw.pa@us.af.mil  
(413) 557-2020  
Patriot on the web:  
[www.westover.afrc.af.mil](http://www.westover.afrc.af.mil)



Also visit us at  
[facebook.com/westover.patriot](https://facebook.com/westover.patriot)

**439<sup>TH</sup> AIRLIFT WING COMMANDER**  
Col. Steven Vautrain

**CHIEF OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**  
Lt. Col. James Bishop

**WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER**  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Andre Bowser

**NCOIC/EDITOR**  
MSgt. Andrew Biscoe

**LAYOUT/GRAPHICS**  
W.C. Pope

**STAFF**  
TSgt. Brian Boynton  
TSgt. Timothy Huffman  
TSgt. Stephen Winn  
SSgt. George Cloutier  
SrA. Alexander Brown  
SrA. Kelly Galloway  
SrA. Charles Hutchinson IV

## UTA SNAPSHOT

>> Wingman Day, Saturday, time, location, what it's about in a NUTSHELL

News briefs	pg. 3
Blizzard cancels UTA	pg. 4
Nemo TDY	pg. 6-7
Troop Talk	pg. 8
Pope's Puns	pg. 9
Patriot Praises	pg. 11
De-ice	pg. 12

ON THE COVER: The sun rises Feb. 10 at Westover as the wake of a massive snowstorm, which dumped 20 inches of snow on the base and forced the cancellation of the February A UTA. Turn to story and photos on page 4, 6 and 7. (photo by SrA. Kelly Galloway)



**SENATOR TOUR >>** Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), listens as Col. Steven Vautrain, 439th Airlift Wing commander, explains the isochronal inspection process while inside a C-5 during her tour at the base Feb. 17. (photo by MSgt. Andrew Biscoe)



**M**y hope is by the time you read this commentary, our legislators have come to an agreement to avoid sequestration and the Air Force has decided that we can keep all 16 of our aircraft, but hope is not a plan. We live in difficult financial times and the recent generous defense budgets are coming to an end. The Department of Defense and the Air Force must find ways to save money in order to maintain a ready, capable military force. Patriot Wing members must accept these facts; I'm sure that we will adapt and continue to be the best wing in AFRC.

Sequestration -- the across the board cut of \$500 billion from the defense budget over 10 years -- was supposed to take effect in January, but an agreement between Congress and the administration delayed it until March. An agreement doesn't seem likely as I write this in mid-February, but even if an agreement is reached, the result will probably still include cuts to the defense budget. The Air Force Reserve and the Patriot Wing will bear a portion of these cuts. We will have to make do with less funding and find more cost-effective ways

of accomplishing our mission. Team Westover has done this before. We'll do it again if necessary.

On Feb. 3, 2012, the Air Force announced a proposal to cut eight aircraft from the 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing's C-5 fleet in 2016. One year later this proposal remains a proposal. Congress has intervened and mandated that a Mobility Requirements and Capabilities Study be completed before the total number of C-5s can be reduced below 79. We have not been advised of the due date for

this study, but it most likely will be completed this summer. We will then know the fate of our eight aircraft. The results of the study and the drawdown plan, if needed, will be announced when available. No matter what happens, the Patriot Wing will remain operational.

We live in uncertain times, but there is one thing of which



**“We are and we will continue to be committed to fulfilling our global mobility mission.”**

I'm certain, the Patriot Wing is the best wing in the Air Force Reserve and we will weather this storm as we have weathered previous storms. Our priorities are to continue flying C-5 missions in support of the nation, maintain the C-5 fleet with the best Regionalized Isochronal Inspection team in the Air Force, continue to support our deployed personnel,

prepare for the upcoming Comprehensive Unit Inspection, and maintain a ready, trained, professional force to support national security.

Future budgetary decisions will have an impact on the Westover family, but we will remain a viable part of the Air Force, an essential East-Coast mobility hub, and an indispensable part of the Western Massachusetts community. We are and we will continue to be committed to fulfilling our global mobility mission, regardless of the outcome of this budget and restructuring proposal. We will continue to be the Patriot Wing, and we will continue to be “Leaders in Excellence.”

**by Col. Steven Vautrain**  
439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing commander

## BRIEFS |

### Colonel to Pentagon

Col. John Healy, former 439<sup>th</sup> AW vice commander, left Westover in early February to take a position as a senior strategic analyst at the Pentagon. Col. Healy was assigned to Westover since 2002. He was also the deployed commander for the 2011 ORI.

### PA officer wins award

Lt. Col. James Bishop, chief of public affairs at Westover, recently earned the Air Force Reserve Command's Outstanding Communication Field Grade Officer Award. Turn to page 10 to read about an additional command award earned by the PA office.

### Enlisted workshop set for June

The Patriot Wing's Junior Enlisted Workshop is scheduled for June 3-4 at the Westover Conference Center. Lt. Gen. James Jackson, chief of the Air Force Reserve, will be among the guest speakers.

Wing members interested in signing up for the workshop should contact their first sergeants.

### Wingman Day opens A UTA

Wingman Day will take place March 9 at individual work centers at 7:30 a.m. (following sign-in on the A UTA). A half-day long, it will include health and wellness briefings and activities to embrace unit esprit de corps.

Among the objectives of Wingman Day are to reinforce the Air Force culture of Airmen taking care of Airmen, said Maj. Carrie Baker, Wingman Day project officer.

For more information, call Maj. Baker at 557-2623.

### Voting information

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts will hold a special primary election for U.S. Senate April 30 to fill the seat vacated by Sen. John Kerry. Residents can register to vote and request an absentee ballot by mail, fax, or electronically. Military personnel, their spouses and dependents, and U.S. government employees serving outside the territorial limits of the United States must submit a Federal Post Card Application to request an absentee ballot.

The special general election will be held June 25.

Questions regarding voting may be directed to Lt. Col. Kelly Hosey, at 557-2993 or SMSgt. Shane Robitaille, 557-3028.

# Massive snowstorm blankets New England

by MSgt. Andrew Biscoe

A Nor'easter lasting more than 12 hours forced the base to cancel its February A UTA as nearly two feet of snow blanketed the area.

Westover weather forecaster Doug Fortin said 20 inches of snow had fallen as of the morning of Feb. 8. Areas in Massachusetts and Connecticut reported as much as three feet of snow from the storm, dubbed Nemo.

For the first time in 35 years, Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick ordered a statewide travel ban Feb. 8 -- the day the storm began. This was the first ban of its kind since the "Blizzard of '78," which brought traffic to a standstill on the region's major highways.

The forced cancellation of the entire UTA was a first in Westover's 39-year history as a reserve base. Ten years ago, heavy snow curtailed half of winter A UTA.

Two weather systems -- one from the west and one from the south -- each converged the night of Feb. 8, feeding the ferocity of the storm with its gusting winds and heavy, drifting snow.

Once the snow began to fall, most of the precipitation covered the base by early Saturday.

The base contractor, Phoenix Management, had its fleet of 28 snow removal vehicles roll into action early in the morning of Feb. 8, but crews had only cleared away what was just the beginning of the powerful storm.

"There was four inches of snow when we left Friday," said Dan VanDalsen, PMI real property manager. "We came in Saturday and 20 had come down."

Massive rollover snow plow crews began clearing the snow of the base's primary runway, which is more than two miles long and as wide as a football field. "In general, because we have a 'bare pavement' requirement, PMI begins as soon as the snow starts falling, and continues until the storm is over," VanDalsen

said. "During that effort, we'll use various methods and pieces of equipment, including deicing pellets or fluid, rollover plows and airfield brooms."

Because they may be needed at any time, snow removal crews prioritize the runways and flight line first. "This was a difficult storm to deal with due to the amount of drifting snow caused by high winds," VanDalsen said.

Crews worked on the runway clearing through the afternoon of Feb. 9, and the airfield reopened at 4 p.m.

Bradley International Airport, the area's largest airport located near Windsor Locks, Conn., did not reopen until Sunday.

Keeping the snow removal going isn't just for the flying mission. The base's 29 tenant units need rapid and massive amounts of snow removal as well.

Despite the UTA cancellation, the base -- besieged with blowing and drifting snow -- was kept open by PMI crews and many other mission-essential workers.

PMI crews had to divert some of their work on the airport Saturday to assist one of the tenant units with their UTA. The Army National Guard's parking areas had so much snow that soldiers had to park in an adjacent lot until crews could clear enough of the snow. In addition, FEMA moved 20 trailers carrying emergency generators onto the base's North Ramp Feb. 10.

Snow removals of this magnitude usually cost between \$125-150,000, said Wayne Williams, base civil engineer. Those costs include clearing roads and parking lots, and labor and materials.



**NORTH RAMPS UP >>** FEMA trucks and equipment along with the Army Corps of Engineers take up a strategic position on the North Ramp during the storm. (photo by SrA. Kelly Galloway)



## FEMA, Army Corps, at Westover for storm recovery

by Lt. Col. James Bishop

The day after "Nemo" blanketed the Northeast with up to 40 inches of snow and left hundreds of thousands without power, trailers loaded with generators -- some weighing up to 10,000 pounds -- staged along the North Ramp here, ready to be delivered anywhere in New England.

Federal Emergency Management Agency and Army Corps of Engineers drivers brought fuel and 20 generators from warehouses in Maryland, said Bryan Toman, Incident Site Support Team Lead for FEMA.

The generators are capable of powering a hospital, plant or other large building, he said.

A seven-person FEMA team and a 32-member team from the Army Corps of Engineers arrived at Westover Sunday, preparing the generators for delivery by fueling, then putting a test electrical load

on them, said Westover Chief of Emergency Management Robert Perreault.

This is the fourth time in three years Westover has staged FEMA trucks as an Incident Support Base for emergencies such as this. In September 2010, in preparation for Hurricane Earl, the base debuted as a staging point for FEMA Region I, which encompasses all of New England. In 2011, FEMA teams and trucks staged at Westover for nearly two months, overseeing recovery operations in the aftermath of Hurricane Irene, and last year FEMA and the Army Corps remained on base into November in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy.

Last year, after Sandy battered the East Coast, U.S. Rep. Richard Neal (D-Springfield) visited Westover to assess federal recovery operations. "It is a reminder for people who live here how important Westover is as a staging area," Neal told reporters after his visit.

## Airmen and Family Readiness wins award -- again

Command officials announced the Westover Airman and Family Readiness Center staff won the 2012 Department of Defense Reserve Family Readiness Award in late January.

"This award belongs to the Key Spouse Program just as much as it does to us here at the center," said Shanna King of the center. "I'm so PROUD of all of the reservists, volunteers, and Key Spouses!"

This is the third such award for the staff in five years. The center also won the readiness award in 2008 and 2010.

"This is further evidence of the wonderful job the entire center staff and Key Spouse volunteers are doing in order to take care of our Airmen, sister service members, and their families," said Lt. Col. Kelly Hosey, 439<sup>th</sup> Force Support Squadron operations officer.

## Command nominates wing commander, wife for award

by MSgt. Andrew Biscoe



The Air Force Reserve Command announced Jan. 28 the nomination of Westover's wing commander and his spouse for the 2013 General and Mrs. Jerome F. O'Malley Award, in recognition of their service and dedication to the military.

Command officials notified Col. Steven Vautrain, and his wife, Katie, that this annual award recognizes the wing commander and spouse team whose contributions to the nation, Air Force, and local

community best exemplify the highest ideals and positive leadership of a military couple in a key Air Force position.

The award citation spotlights the leadership accomplishments of the wing commander and Mrs. Vautrain from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2012:

"The Vautrains' leadership positively impacted the base and local community through a myriad of outreach programs: Key Spouse, Yellow Ribbon, Bosslift, and Teen Leadership Summit. They spearheaded spouse appreciation flights, were guest speak-

ers at various events, and raised funds for disabled veterans."

The award also cited the "national recognition" to Mrs. Vautrain from Massachusetts Lt. Gov. Timothy Murray for her founding of the Holyoke Soldiers' Home Alzheimer's Association partnership program.

Col. Vautrain has commanded the 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing since August 2011.

"It is an honor to be selected for this award," he said. "Katie and I strive to do what we can to support our personnel at Westover, the local community, and our veterans. It's important, especially in today's economy, that we watch out for each other and do what we can to help our neighbors while ensuring that Westover continues to be a vital part of national security. This is truly an award for the entire Westover family."

The award's namesake honors a four-star general whose early career included four years spent at Westover. Gen. O'Malley was assigned as aide to the Strategic Air Command's 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force commander 1960 to 1964.

He later served as Air Force Vice Chief of Staff, from 1982 to 1983; Commander in Chief, Pacific Air Forces from 1983 to 1984; and as Commander, Tactical Air Command from 1984 to 1985.

The general and his wife Diane died in an airplane crash in Pennsylvania in April 1985. They were known for their community support activities and care for military families.





photo by SrA. Kelly Galloway

# Nemo to W



photo by TSgt. Brian Boynton



photo by Dan VanDalsen



photo by SrA. Kelly



photo by SrA. Kelly Galloway



photo by SrA. Kelly Galloway

background photo by SrA. Kelly Galloway



# TDY Westover



photo by Dan VanDalsen



photo by SrA. Kelly Galloway



photo by SrA. Kelly Galloway



Galloway



photo by Dan VanDalsen



photo by Dan VanDalsen



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

by Steven Mann

...that the 439<sup>th</sup> Airfield Operations Flight supports more than 36,000 operations annually. Three distinct sections and an over-head staff make up the flight. Airfield management operations, weather, and the air traffic control tower all work together to provide safe and expeditious service to the flying community.

Phoenix Management Inc. operates airfield management operations, which coordinates with aircrews, air traffic control, and various base agencies that provide for safe operation of aircraft in the airfield environment. Dispatchers routinely enter national/international flight plans, perform airfield inspections and issue flight safety notices to Airmen. The airfield manager plans and coordinates airfield construction projects with base civil engineers, flight safety, and contractors. They administer the airfield driving, wildlife management, and 337<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron communications security programs.

The weather office consists of four Department of Defense meteorological technicians who use real-time radar, satellite imagery, sensor readouts, meteorological model output, and visual observations to observe and forecast local and deployed conditions. They collaborate with Scott Air Force Base, Ill., weather forecasters to provide eyes-forward forecasting support for weather watches/warnings/advisories and terminal aerodrome forecasts specific to Westover. They also provide flight weather briefings in support of Westover's C-5 missions and transient

aircrews. A MISSIONWATCH is also provided to Westover crews in which weather conditions are monitored for changes and mission limiting criteria. In the winter, detailed snow and ice plan forecasts are provided to assist with the planning of resources and personnel for snow and ice removal. Weather personnel routinely interface with local flying and ground units to provide critical information essential to flight and ground safety.

Eight DoD controllers and three staff work in the control tower. They initiate and issue air traffic control clearances, instructions, and advisories to ensure the safe, orderly, and expeditious flow of air traffic operating under instrument and visual flight rules. The tower ensures separation of a mix of civil and military aircraft through radar and visual means. Westover Tower works with Bradley FAA Approach Control to provide service to a multitude of operations including C-5 tactical approaches, C-130 airdrops, and State Police missions while working routine arrivals and departures. In addition to the four runways, Westover provides regular ATC service to two off-base helipads at Mass Mutual and Bay State Hospital.

The airfield operations staff supports all three sections. The AO staff consist of an airfield operations manager, quality assurance, and an administrative specialist. Normal airfield operating hours are from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. but the flight is prepared to support 24-hour operations based on military need.

...now you know.

## **TROOP TALK** | "What are you doing to cut back on your budget?"

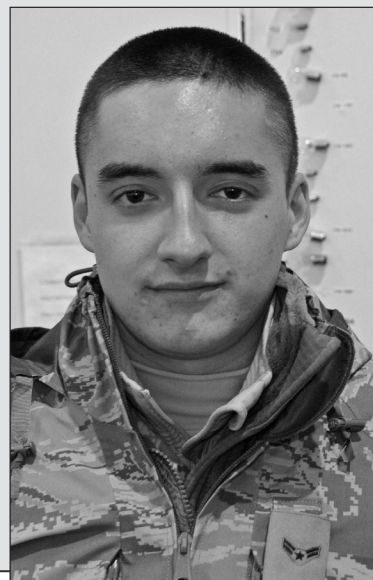


"My wife and I found a day care that lowered our current rates from \$105 for three days to \$55 for five days at the Westfield Boys and Girls Club."

**>> SrA. Daniel Lucia**  
**439<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron**

"I stopped eating out as much and I am cooking at home."

**>> SSgt. Shawn Chouinard**  
**439<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron**



"I started buying store brand items."

**>> Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Joseph St. Peter**  
**439<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron**

photos by TSgt. Brian Boynton



# College benefits abound for reservists

by SrA. Kelly Galloway

Going back to school can be difficult without the added stress of trying to find the best-suited benefit to meet your educational needs. The military offers several programs to support your education goals.

So which one is the best to use for your specific circumstance?

The wing education and training office staff explains two popular benefits, Air Force Reserve Tuition Assistance and the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

**Q: Who can get the Post-9/11 GI Bill?**

Those who have served 90 days of active duty on or after Sept 11, 2001. Ratings vary from 40 to 100 percent based on how much cumulative active duty time a member has. This generally does not include your initial active duty for training time.

**Q: Who is eligible for Air Force Reserve Tuition Assistance?**

Any participating member of the Air Force Reserve in good standing is eligible. This is regardless of their enlistment length or commission status.

**Q: What can I use tuition assistance for?**

Air Force Reserve Tuition Assistance can be used for your first associate's, bachelor's, and master's degree and reimburses tuition up to \$250 per credit hour and \$4,500 per fiscal year regardless of enrollment status. You may use TA for your Community College of the Air Force degree no matter how many degrees you currently have. However, the school you're attending must have a memorandum of understanding on file with the Department of Defense in order for you to receive reimbursement. Check the listing at [dodmou.com/InstitutionList.aspx](http://dodmou.com/InstitutionList.aspx).

**Q: I'm a traditional reservist with no active-duty time, what portion of the Post-9/11 GI Bill would I qualify for?**

You wouldn't qualify for the Post-9/11 GI Bill. But you might qualify for the Selective Reserve GI Bill if you have a six-year enlistment in the Reserve.

**Q: I heard that some states offer veterans a tuition waiver. Do New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts colleges offer them? How can I find out which colleges offer**

**these waivers?**

Yes, those states offer a tuition waiver for veterans that can be used at that state's public colleges and universities. The waiver eligibility varies by state, so contact your city or state veterans services office or a veteran's representative at your school for more information. Private colleges and universities may also offer their own discounts. You can use the state tuition waiver or private school tuition discount in conjunction with any military education benefit.

**Q: Can I use tuition assistance AND the Post-9/11 GI Bill at the same time?**

You cannot use two federal benefits at the same time for the same courses. If you are taking a full-time course load under a GI Bill and would like to take additional courses, you can then use tuition assistance. Keep in mind, the additional courses can in no way influence your GI Bill benefit. You can also switch back and forth from a GI Bill and TA from semester to semester. This is common among students who take advantage of winter break sessions and summer courses.

**Q: When using the Post-9/11, how does the money get paid to the school?**

Your college/university bursar bills the VA directly. If you are below a 100 percent rating, your school will bill you the difference. You will need to be in contact with your school's VA representative throughout your academic career to certify courses and attendance.

**Q: When using TA, how does the money get paid to the school?**

Air Force Reserve TA is an agreement between the service member and the Air Force Reserve. The Air Force reimburses the member directly after completion of a course. It is up to the service member to pay all costs to the school up front.

**Q: Can I use either the Post-9/11 or TA and pursue online classes only?**

Either benefit, TA or Post-9/11, can be used for distance learning programs.

**Q: How do I apply for the Post-9/11 GI Bill and how long does the process take to receive the necessary forms for my school?**

The Post-9/11 application process is done

100 percent online through the VA website, [ebenefits.va.gov](http://ebenefits.va.gov). This process takes about three months for approval so you should apply at least one semester before expected enrollment.

**Q: How do I apply for TA?**

After completing a short briefing from wing training, you will be able to apply for TA on the Air Force Virtual Education Center linked from the Air Force portal.

**Q: If I'm going to use the Post-9/11 bill, how much money will I receive for books and housing allowance?**

If you rate at 100 percent, the book stipend is \$1000 per academic year. The housing allowance is based on the zip code of the college or university being attended. This housing allowance is equal to an E-5 with dependent's rate regardless of a service member's rank. If all of your classes are online, Post-9/11 will only pay half the national average for the monthly housing allowance portion of the benefit. This amounts to \$684 monthly at the 100 percent rate. If you rate less than 100 percent, benefits paid correspond with the percentage tier.

**Q: How can you allow your spouse or children to use your education benefits?**

You may transfer Post-9/11 education benefits to your spouse and/or children under the age of 23. For this you must complete six years of service and agree to a four-year commitment after the date of transfer. To transfer unused months, visit [dmcd.osd.mil/milconnect](http://dmcd.osd.mil/milconnect) and the training office to complete your four-year service statement of understanding.

**Q: When should I transfer my education benefits to my family?**

You should transfer benefits to eligible family members as soon as possible. Some exemptions exist for service commitment for those eligible for retirement. However, all of these exceptions expire Aug. 1.

Westover Wing Education and Training highly encourages everyone considering college to stop by and re-evaluate their benefits. They can be reached at (413) 557-3440.

## Soldiers field-test command post

by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Andre Bowser

With millions of dollars worth of tents and state-of-the-art electronics, who said camping out can't be high-tech?

The hulking, sand-colored cluster of tents across from the Armed Forces Reserve Center on Eagle Drive was part of an Army exercise conducted by the 302<sup>nd</sup> Maneuver Enhancement Brigade throughout February, and it's all about futuristic warfare.

"We're field-testing a new Army battle command system called the Command Post of the Future," said Sgt. Maj. William Powers, exercise coordinator. "We have the tents up right now, and next will come all the electronics and personnel."

Sgt. Maj. Powers said the exercise includes constructing the tents, which are a network of environmentally-controlled spaces comprised of medium-sized tents connected to a massive central enclosure; next comes testing the unit's ability to equip the command post with electronics ranging from computers to projectors and telecommunications devices; finally, soldiers will conduct a command-post exercise.

Westover, a key joint-service base, hosts 29 tenant units -- including the 302<sup>nd</sup>. The February exercise ends before March, after a visit and inspection by the unit's commander, Brig. Gen. James Williams.

Sgt. Maj. Powers said the tents and trailers cost approximately \$2 million, and the cost of the electronics easily eclipses that amount.

Spc. Aquille Pierre, a mechanic, said the large generators and tents are part of what's called a Trailer Mounted Support System, which allows his unit to erect a large command post anywhere in the world in a matter of hours, if need be.

For now, the brown tents looked out of place on the snow-blanketed field. "We're shoveling outside to clear a path for the troops to come," Spc. Pierre said.

## POPE'S PUNS |

by W.C. Pope



## C-5s cut to eight?

The Air Force Reserve Command announced force structure changes Jan. 24 authorized by the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 2013.

The changes include a proposed transfer of eight C-5M aircraft from Westover ARB to Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland in 2016, contingent upon a Congressionally-mandated Mobility Requirements and Capabilities Study.

"Although this announcement could mean changes for Westover, it also underscores the essential role we play in national defense," said Col Steven Vautrain, 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Commander.

"Under this announcement, the 439<sup>th</sup> remains operational and vital to military strategic airlift. We will notify the public when a final decision is made concerning the future number of aircraft and personnel at Westover."

Reserve Command officials announced nationwide changes, including 6 new intelligence and cyber-operations units, and aircraft and structure changes in another nine units.

## PA staff earns AFRC award

by MSgt. Andrew Biscoe

Air Force Reserve Command announced in February that the 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Public Affairs took top place in the Maj. Henry H. "Hap" Arnold Award for Public Affairs Communication Effectiveness.

Westover PA won for its communications plan and execution before and during the 2012 Great New England Air Show.

"Seven months before the show, we kicked off a three-pronged air show execution plan that involved sending multiple press releases in the seven months before the air show, meeting with base and city planners, using the website and launching Westover's first-ever social media blitz," said Lt. Col. James Bishop, Chief of Public Affairs.

As a result, Westover had more than 190 positive stories on local and national TV, radio, web, and print leading up to and during the air show, with an estimated audience above 2 million readers and viewers, he said.

All this resulted in what Galaxy Community Council president Bud Shuback, who has been associated with Westover Air Show planning and execution for two decades, called "by far the best air show coverage in Westover's history."

"This is a team honor. Every member of PA worked hard to make this happen, so every member of PA will be listed on the award," Lt. Col. Bishop said.

The 439<sup>th</sup> AW PA staff will represent AFRC at the Air Force Communication Excellence competition.



## PROMOTIONS |

**Senior Master Sgt.**Robert Serricchio  
Mark Willette**Master Sergeant**Charles Carlin  
Joshua Gelinas  
David Hallfelder  
David Hernandez  
John Wieland**Technical Sergeant**Winnifred Dion  
Sara Garde  
Robert Gibson  
Jason Jernigan  
Michelle Lareau  
Shawn Ogrady  
Jonathan Ritter  
Vincent Smith  
Bradley Von Haugg**Staff Sergeant**Gisell Albano  
Ryan Flynn  
Joanne Geruntino  
Kevin Giampa  
Matthew Joanides  
Daniel Musella  
Stephen Palso  
Andre Riobe  
Danielle Titus  
Stephen Williams  
Thomas Winter**Senior Airman**Dylan Collins  
Amanda Gordon  
Brenda McCarthy  
Jonathon Osman  
Elaine Rosazza  
Ryan Tiano**Airman First Class**Kevin Braniff  
Sarah Buelow  
Dion Collins  
Joshua Horne  
Jenna Santana**Airman**James Dawson  
Brittany Hanninen  
Nicholas Karos  
Jonathan Velez  
Ryan Wilkie

## FACES OF WESTOVER

**SrA. Eric Cables**439<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron**SrA. Eric Cables**

The Marines selected SrA. Eric Cables as the first Air Force member to participate in a three-week Marine Corps Corporals Course at Westover. The course covers a variety of leadership topics such as proper leadership traits, becoming a good mentor, public speaking and various hands-on training such as weapons handling and land navigation.

"I enjoyed learning about operations then putting what we learned into action in the field," Cables said.

The group participated in a culminating event which consisted of conducting combat foot patrol to three checkpoints, then to a final destination where they had to set up a defensive fighting position to defend from enemy combatants for a set period of time.

"Learning how to be a good leader; what to do, what not to do and what you should take into consideration, is invaluable information," SrA. Cables stated.

Working with the Marines and having the opportunity to learn the Marine Corps culture firsthand was an experience like none he'd ever known.

"I enjoyed every minute of it," SrA. Cables said.

"SrA. Cables' high level of physical fitness and outstanding duty performance made him the clear choice for the corporals course," MSgt. Steven Pelletier, 439<sup>th</sup> SFS, said. SrA. Cables was the 439<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Airman of the Year for Fiscal Year 2012.

-- SrA. Kelly Galloway

## RETIREMENTS |

**Master Sergeant**Jeffrey Cahill  
Eric McGlynn  
Chad Obrey**Technical Sergeant**Todd Wesoloskie  
Daniel Ferry

## SERVICES CALENDER |

Submitted by Mollie Anello, services marketing assistant

**CLUB BUFFET >>** The club staff is serving hot dinner buffet, Mon.-Thurs. from 5-8 p.m., for \$10. The club is temporarily located on the hill in Building 5550.

**CLUB>>** The Rising 6 presents Open Mic Night at Bldg. 5550! Sing, comedy, poetry, anything! March 9, 7-9 p.m. Please sign up ahead to ensure a slot. POC TSgt. Christopher Eldridge, cmeld85@gmail.com or SrA. Heather Wilson, hwilson1@worchester.edu

**BOWLING>>** Renovations on the bowling center are progressing, we are planning on a spring reopening!

**FITNESS>>** St. Patrick's Day Run, March 14, starts at 8:30 a.m., trophies for first-place male and female runners.

**OUTDOOR REC >>** March Madness at Outdoor Rec! Discounted prices on select items. Call for more information at 557-2192 or check the Spotlight newsletter!



Published monthly for Patriots like SrA. Scott Gallant, Chelmsford, Mass., and more than 3,400 people assigned to Westover Air Reserve Base.

439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing  
100 Lloyd St., Box 49  
Westover ARB  
Chicopee, Mass. 01022-1825

FIRST CLASS  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**



**DE-FREEZE >>** Airmen with the 439<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron de-ice a C-5 before a Jan. 27 takeoff. Crew chiefs are typically qualified in de-icing and operation of the equipment, but maintenance guidelines allow that any maintainer can train for these qualifications. (photo by SrA. Kelly Galloway)