



PATRIOT

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439TH AIRLIFT WING COMMANDER
Brig. Gen. Steven Vautrain

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NCOIC MSgt. Andrew Biscoe	
Assistant NCOIC MSgt. Timm Huffman	

UTA SNAPSHOT

> SUNDAY: Wing change of command participants need to be in place at the Base Hangar at 9:15 a.m.

News briefs	pg. 3
New commander	pg. 4
Summertime fun	pg. 5
Media flight	pg. 8
Reservist charts kindness	pg. 9
Employer Day	pg. 10
Christmas in July	pg. 12

ON THE COVER >> Brig. Gen. Steven Vautrain, 439th Airlift Wing commander, gets the traditional hosedown following his final flight, Aug. 21. (photos by MSgt. Andrew Biscoe and SSgt. Kelly Goonan)

EDITORIAL Wing commander bids farewell to Patriot Wing

Men and women of the Patriot Wing, the time has come for Katie and I to move on to the next adventure in our lives.

The last three years at Westover have been the highlight of my 31-year career. I have never worked with such a professional, hard-working, group of people. You have held together as a team through hurricanes, snowstorms, deployments, furloughs, a government shutdown, and numerous other challenges. You have been awarded many honors for your performance.

You are leaders in excellence, and I will always remember you.

My tenure as commander began with the earthquake and hurricane in August 2011 and the destructive snowstorm in October 2011. I learned quickly that I had an experienced, battle-hardened team, ready to take on whatever challenges were thrown your way. The intervening Family Day in September 2011 showed me the fun side of the wing. In a short time I had seen both the professional and the personal sides of the Patriot Wing.

Over the next three years, you performed the first-ever deployment of a C-5 Expeditionary Airlift Squadron to Diego Garcia, met short-notice deployment taskings, and won numerous awards. You excel at accomplishing the mission and winning awards, but there is more to the excellence of this wing than awards and mission accomplishment. You've organized numerous community support programs and offered aid and comfort to people in New York and New Jersey



following Hurricane Sandy. You hosted World War II veterans at a first-class airshow with an attendance of over 200,000. You have done this all with dedication, professionalism and compassion.

The greatness of the Patriot Wing has attracted many distinguished visitors over the last three years. In 2012 we were visited by Sen. Scott Brown. In 2013, Sen. Elizabeth Warren visited. And there were more that year: Congressman Richard Neal, 19 Massachusetts state legislators, the Chief of the Air Force Reserve, the Command Chief of AFRC, and the Acting Secretary of the Air Force.

In 2014 we were visited by the Vice Commander of AFRC and the Secretary of the Air Force. These visits were prompted by your contributions to the defense of our great nation and the desire to learn more about how you are so successful. Each of these distinguished visitors was impressed with the professionalism and dedication displayed by

the Airmen and civilians of the Patriot Wing. All of them left Westover with a greater appreciation for what you do and had nothing but great things to say about the entire wing.

When I first arrived at Westover I was impressed by the feeling of teamwork that permeates the wing. I am leaving three years later even more impressed than when I arrived. You have excelled at accomplishing a difficult mission during difficult times.

I wish you well in the future. You are the best wing in the Air Force. It has been an honor to be your commander.

by Brig. Gen. Steven Vautrain
439th AW Commander

BRIEFS

WNN now off-base

The Westover News Network, also known as Channel 50, broadcasts in the Westover Club, billeting, and the fitness center. It's also featured in cable programming in some of Westover's neighboring communities to include:

Chicopee Access Channel 19: Thurs. 7:30 p.m., Sat. 6 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. and 9:30 p.m.; Hadley Access Channel 5 and 19: first and third Mondays of the month at 7:30 p.m. with a re-airing on Tues. at 12:30 p.m.

For more information on WNN coverage and to pass along story ideas, call public affairs at 557-2020 or email, 439aw.pa@us.af.mil

Photographer, CGOC support ball

A private photographer will take full-length photos (at nominal fees) at the 75th Anniversary Military Ball in the Base Hangar Oct. 4.

Tickets are still available; please contact your unit's first sergeant for more information.

Westover's Company Grade Officers Council recently raised \$700 to sponsor 14 Airmen to attend the ball. All Airmen from the rank of airman basic to senior airman who attend will have their names automatically entered in the raffle. If their name is drawn the night of the ball, they will be awarded \$50 to cover the cost of his or her ticket.

Command CMSgt. David Carbin strongly encourages all Airmen to buy their tickets to the ball before Sept. 7 for their chance to win. "This is just one incentive for Airmen to attend the ball," the command chief said. "But I hope that everyone will show pride and come out for this historic night."

Change of command set for UTA

The 439th Airlift Wing will hold its change of command at 10 a.m. Sept. 7 in the Base Hangar. Col. Albert Lupenski will take command of the Patriot Wing from Brig. Gen. Steven Vautrain. The wing reservist formation begins at 9:15 a.m.

Quarterly winners

The wing quarterly winners for the third quarter are: Airman – SrA. Sarah Buelow, 439th Logistics Readiness Squadron; NCO – SSgt. John Simbajon, 439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron; SNCO – SMSgt. Paul Veresko, 439th Airlift Control Flight; CGO – Capt. Vanna Nhem, 42nd Aerial Port Squadron; Civilian – Brandon Warren, 439th Maintenance Squadron; Civilian Supervisor – Patrick Connor, 439th MXS.



AES HELPING HANDS >> TSgt. Sarah Starkey and MSgt. Nicole Morales "treat" SrA. Beau Brown during an in-flight aeromedical training exercise, Aug. 11, aboard a C-17 Globemaster III. All three Airmen are reservists with the 439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, which performs periodic exercises like these aboard other military aircraft including KC-135s and C-130s. See additional photos on page 7. (photo by AIC Monica Ricci)

Wing to welcome 14th commander on UTA

by A1C Monica Ricci

The Patriot Wing's top leadership position will change hands at the Base Hangar Sept. 7.

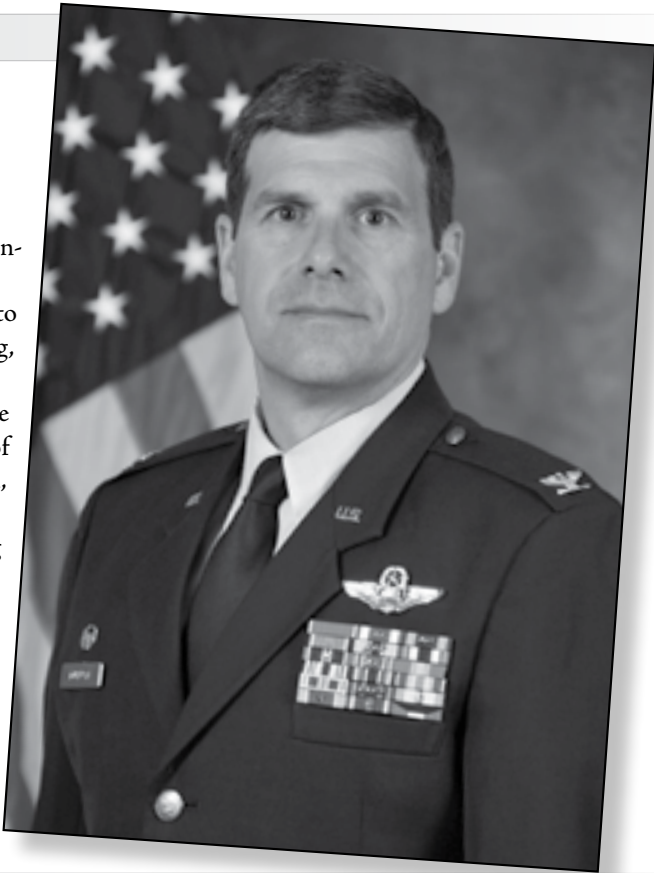
Col. Albert Lupenski will succeed Brig. Gen. Steven Vautrain, who came to Westover in August 2011. Before he takes command of the 439th Airlift Wing, Col. Lupenski commanded the 932nd AW at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

The colonel has served in both the Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve. In his 32 years of service, he has more than 4,000 flight hours, part of which are from his 14 years as a pilot in rescue units out of New York, Florida, and Alaska.

The new commander has flown both rotary and fixed-wing aircraft, including the C-141C, the KC-135, and the C-17, with his most recent being the C-40C.

Col. Lupenski has an extensive background in education. He obtained a bachelor's in aeronautical science as well as a master's in Joint Campaign Planning and Strategy. Most recently, Col. Lupenski was a student in the Commander Air Forces Senior Staff Course, as well as the Director of Mobility Forces Course at the USAF Expeditionary Center, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.

Once command of the wing is handed over to Col. Lupenski, Brig. Gen. Vautrain will go to the nation's capital where he'll begin his new position at the Pentagon as deputy director of strategic planning for the Air Force.



ENLISTED PROMOTION SYSTEM TO GET MAKEOVER

by SSgt. Carlin Leslie
Air Force Public Affairs Agency

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Air Force officials announced a series of sweeping changes to the Enlisted Evaluation System and Weighted Airman Promotion System July 31.

The changes are intended to ensure the Air Force truly makes job performance the driving factor and will be implemented incrementally beginning in August 2014 and continuing through early 2016. Additional information and in-depth articles will be made available for each of the major program changes, prior to implementation, ensuring Airmen are knowledgeable of and ready for the changes.

"What gets measured gets done," said Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James. "We want to make sure performance is the most important thing in every aspect of an Airman's career, so the evaluation process is going to measure performance, and the promotion system is going to emphasize performance."

To do this, Airmen will see new EPRs and new processes for completing those reports. The Airman Comprehensive Assessment introduced in July built the foundation for

these changes by providing a tool and process to improve communication between supervisors and subordinates. Three new EPR forms, which closely parallel the ACA, will be introduced for chief master sergeants, senior NCOs and technical sergeants and below. The latter two EPR forms will also include a section for promotion recommendations.

The Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve will begin roll-out in May 2015 and will follow the same static cutoff dates as active-duty personnel but will implement changes over the next 30 months due to biennial reporting requirements. This will eliminate the need for "change of reporting official" evaluations which will be replaced by letters of evaluation.

"The purpose of the enlisted evaluation system is to accurately document duty performance so we can have honest performance-based discussions with our Airmen," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Welsh III. "Unfortunately, over time the system has become inflated and a great majority of Airmen have become a 'firewall five,' which makes it very difficult to differentiate our very best performers."

Chief master sergeant evaluations will now

be accomplished on a unique EPR form intended to capture overall performance and provide the opportunity to recommend chiefs for future roles. The new form will also serve as the senior rater's process to nominate chief master sergeants for the Air Force's Command Chief Screening Board, replacing the current nomination process. Initially, the Chief EPR will be a test form and used only for this year's Command Chief screening board to be held in September, with full implementation in 2015.

"This is the most comprehensive update to enlisted evaluations and promotions in nearly 45 years," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Cody. "Our enlisted leaders have worked closely with the Air Staff and (major command) commanders to design a system that truly recognizes and rewards Airmen based firmly on their performance."

Additional information and in-depth articles on each of the major changes will be released prior to each program's implementation. For local information on these changes, go to the Westover web site at westover.afrc.af.mil.

(Courtesy of Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs)

NEWS

Christmas in July brings in fun (and funds) for ball

by 1st Lt. Andre Bowser
and W.C.Pope

More than 100 reservists and their guests took part in this summer's Commander's Cup finale: "Christmas in July."

Commander's Cup, held since 2005, promotes fitness and morale on base. In the last couple of years, the "Christmas in July" event has become part of the Commander's Cup as a softball tournament finale. Wing organizations use the occasion to raise funds for base events and morale projects.

The funds raised this year will help offset the cost of the Westover 75th Anniversary Ball which will be held in October.

Christmas in July

was held on a warm Saturday UTA evening at the softball fields and pavilion near the Westover Bowling Center. The Honor Guard opened the festivities with the singing of the National Anthem. Brig. Gen.

Steven Vautrain, 439th Airlift Wing commander, encouraged the crowd with a few words from the middle of the field

before the first ball was thrown by SrA. Joseph Roberts, the coordinator of this year's event. Christmas music played in the background while the softball tournament also played. Participants enjoyed hot dogs and hamburgers supplied by the Westover Consolidated Club. According to SrA. Roberts, four teams played in the tournament -- one from each of the groups in the 439th AW. This was the second year in a row the 439th Mission Support Group won the cup.

After the tournament, money was raised at the dunk tank,



sponsored by the Chiefs Council. Patriot Wing members paid to throw softballs at a target to soak Brig. Gen. Vautrain.

Participants also got a chance to spend their hard-earned money on dunking other top leadership, like Command Chief Master Sgt. David Carbin, who seemed to like the cold water. Organizers raised \$250 at this event. The Pie-in-the-face contest, sponsored by the Company Grade Officer's

Council, raised more than \$600.

The 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron raised the most -- pulling in \$180. TSgt. Christopher Eldridge was the first to get a pie-in-the-face followed by 2nd Lt. Steven Marchegiani, CMSgt. Gary Hebert and finally, MSgt. Daniel Howard.

During the event, \$3,000 worth of raffle prizes were given out, donated by the Base Exchange, Bowling Center, Pioneer Valley USO, Base Barber Shop and others. Among the prizes were gift cards and a smart TV.

Brig. Gen. Vautrain's wife, Katie, was treated to face painting. Along with raising funds for the upcoming October ball, there seemed to be something for everyone at Westover's "Christmas in July," where even Santa made a visit.





Reservists with the 439th Civil Engineering Squadron construct new facilities and electricity at the Dogpatch training area in June.



Clockwise: Airmen from the 439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron train with a Dover Air Force Base, Del.-based C-17 Globemaster III; Employer Day featured a tour of the flight line and a C-5 local flight; fuel hydrant work continues on the flight line.



Summer Roundup



a continuing series exploring Westover

DID YOU KNOW

...why local media got to fly on a C-5?

by MSgt. Andrew Biscoe

Seven members of the local media recently joined a 337th Airlift Squadron crew for an air refueling mission that took place over northern New England.

Many people saw the late July coverage on TV, on the web, and on Facebook. Some might be wondering why and how the media got aboard the flight.

The media flew aboard the Patriot Wing C-5 to cover the mission. Although these air refuelings typically occur weekly to provide training for both Westover and Air National Guard tanker crews, the media visit was all but routine -- coordinated many weeks in advance through the Air Force Reserve's chain of command.

A media flight is among the pillars of local media relations, the latter being one of three core areas of Air Force public affairs operations (the two others are internal information and community relations).

The media's coverage of the two-hour July 24 mission brought the worldwide strategic airlift capability of the 439th to not only thousands of televisions, but to computer screens across the globe too. The TV broadcasts became links on Westover's base Facebook page, which in itself reaches more than 9,000 people.



AIR REFUELING >> ABC 40's Brendan Monahan, far left, and videographer Jeff Kurowski watch as Maj. Philip Chestnut, 337th Airlift Squadron pilot, maneuvers the C-5 behind a KC-135 tanker during the July 24 media flight and local air refueling mission. (photo by MSgt. Andrew Biscoe)

The three TV stations and newspaper bring in hundreds of thousands more people into what Westover's mission is - the media flight put "names and faces" with the men and women who fly and maintain the aircraft that people in western Massachusetts see flying overhead from the base.

Aircrew members provided the media a thorough pre-flight briefing in the Base Hangar.

A TV reporter and producer said he had no idea of the airmanship that's involved with lining up

the C-5 with a Maine ANG KC-135R tanker that flew in front of the giant airlifter.

"Being aboard the C-5 media flight was an incredibly eye-opening experience," said Brendan Monahan, with ABC40 in Springfield. "Being in that cockpit, seeing the refueling plane so close to our C-5, was literally jaw-dropping. I hope our story helped residents in the area appreciate the important job that goes on every day at Westover. The intelligence, dedication, and ability of our service members should make us all proud."

TROOP TALK

What did you do for fun this summer?



"I went to Ecuador for research on a study of malnutrition in children for my thesis. I'm in graduate school at Yale."

>> SSgt. Jose Gutierrez,
439th Aerospace Medicine Squadron

"I've been planning a trip to go skydiving as well as zip lining with a group of Airmen also in security forces!"

>> SrA. Leanna Stewart,
439th Security Forces Squadron



photos by SSgt. Kelly Goonan

"I went to Mystic Aquarium in Connecticut and hung out on the beach a couple times!"

>> SrA. Emily Ladlee,
439th Force Support Squadron



Reservist covers cheer at Kabul orphanage

by Lt. Col. James Bishop

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN -- Three military vehicles rolled out of the International Security Assistance Forces compound this summer, packed with more than 800 pounds of clothing, toys, and school supplies for Afghan children.

And stuffed in the pockets of several ISAF troops, they carried lollipops for the children.

The humanitarian items will be shared by PARSA, an organization serving the disadvantaged in Afghanistan through a wide range of programs, and Shamsa Village, an orphanage housing 52 children in a residential setting.

This was my first visit outside the compound in three months. So I loved seeing everything: the chalk art along the ISAF's blast barriers depicting a dove holding an olive branch, the man selling watermelons from an ancient wooden cart, the herd of lamb being shepherd down a main thoroughfare in Western Kabul, the burqua-clad women. We went around a traffic circle which had a massive sculpture

of the open Koran in the middle. We passed people living in the remnants of a crumbling cement building that looked like it had been bombed. We also passed a lovely, gated Baghi Babur park, its green hills filled with trees.

I confess that I was apprehensive about going. The day before we left, insurgents attacked the Kabul airport from several directions, and the ensuing gun battle lasted four hours. There had been recent rocket attacks, vehicle-borne bombs, motorcycle suicide bombers and other attacks in Kabul. During our drive, after we left the relative safety of the Green Zone, traffic jammed to a halt and a motorcycle raced toward us, the driver glaring. But he passed by, and we weaved in and around traffic to the compound.

At the PARSA camp within a Red Crescent compound in Western Kabul, residents, teenage Afghan Scouts, and a dozen ISAF members formed a bucket brigade, transfer-

ring goods from two SUVs to a storage shed, laughing as they pitched bulging bags down the line -- a sack of stuffed animals, baby clothes, shoes, a box of notebooks, blankets -- under the hot Afghan sun.

"I loved being able to help the most innocent victims of the long war here," said Dr. Catherine Warner, Director of ISAF's Telecommunications Advisory Team, who



IN-COUNTRY KINDNESS >> Westover reservist Lt. Col. James Bishop interviews humanitarian group PARSA's project manager J. Reese Hume. Lt. Col. Bishop, along with 11 members of the International Security Assistance Forces, brought more than 800 pounds of donated clothing, toys, and school supplies to Afghan children at a residential compound July 18. (Photo by Navy Lt. Peter Buttigieg, ISAF HQ)

organized the delivery. "Living and working at ISAF, we are limited in how much we can personally help the Afghans, but if we make a difference to even a few children, it's worth the effort."

Soon a group of 10 young children appeared, shy at first, then excitedly gathering around Lt. Col. Bridget Reynolds, who passed out lollipops. Although it was during Ramadhan, children typically do not fast. One savvy child filled his right pocket with lollipops and came back for more.

"Show me your pocket," she said. He opened his empty left pocket, smiling.

"It felt fantastic to get out of ISAF, see the kids, and take [needed items] directly to the organizations that support them," Reynolds said. "We got to meet the organizers and see their dedication."

After helping to stack the donated goods, PARSA project manager J. Reese Hume said the gifts will be helpful for both his organiza-

tion and the orphanage they partner with, Shamsa Village. Hume, who is from the United States, has been living in Afghanistan for six years.

"I don't make nearly as much money as I could in the states," he said, "but I've never enjoyed a job as much."

What is the most fulfilling part to Hume? "Spending time with the kids," he said,

some of whom come from "a horrible background" including opium villages, households where the children are tortured, sold for their bodies, or sold as slave labor.

It felt good -- great -- to know that the children here, at least, were protected in the compound. They would learn to read and learn a trade. The smiles were genuine from both the children and the adults. One Afghan interpreter whose name I have to withhold for his own security came out on

his day off to help translate.

After filling the storage area with donated goods, some Afghan Scouts gave a demonstration in knot-tying.

The unloading complete, we passed out more candy, spoke with the Afghan Scouts, played with four Labrador Retriever puppies, and visited the Afghan Garden Kitchen. The cafe is staffed by Afghan hospitality-industry trainees, another aspect of PARSA's program, which seeks to help older orphans and impoverished adults transition into the work force.

After an hour, it was time to head back. As the ISAF members prepared to leave, they shook hands with the older children, receiving a smile and hearty "thank you" from each child.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Lt. Col. Bishop is deployed to Kabul, working in ISAF headquarters. Stateside, he's the chief of public affairs at Westover.

Civilian employers observe UTA training in July

by SrA. Charles Hutchinson

Employer Day at Westover coincided with several highlights July 12. Twenty-four employers of Patriot Wing reservists got genuine observations into military training. Shortly after the employers filed into the Base Hangar near the Commander's Call stage, a huge American flag back-dropped base senior leadership which welcomed the group. They included Brig. Gen. Steven Vautrain, 439th Airlift Wing commander, Col. Richard Tubbs, vice wing commander, and Command CMSgt. David Carbin.

Other wing units assisted PA: Explosive ordnance disposal technicians brought in a bomb-sniffing robot. They also had

wore a red-man suit. Two other members engaged the "enemy" and narrated to the employers at the same time. While displaying their combat skills, the Airmen eventually showed the proper technique on how to take down a hostile person. An employer volunteered to participate and took on the Airman with a padded coated baton.

Outside the Base Hangar, a Pittsburgh Air Reserve Station C-130 from the 911th Airlift Wing taxied in from landing as part of a medical training exercise



RED MAN EXPERIENCE >> A civilian employer participates in a demonstration by Westover's 439th Security Forces Squadron, during Employer Day held July 12 in the Base Hangar. (photo by MSgt. Andrew Biscoe)

a static display of a bomb-proof suit. Airmen from security forces demonstrated some of their hand-to-hand combat skills. One member portrayed the "enemy" - he

The employers watched the C-130 land, unload and treat casualties as well as take off, all while a Patriot Wing C-5 also took to the sky.

Richard Kos, mayor of neighboring Chocopee, was also among the Employer Day guests.

"The 2014 Patriot Wing Employer Appreciation Day was a huge success because of the hard work and dedication of personnel from throughout the wing," said Brig. Gen. Vautrain. "The mayor and the employers were very impressed during their visit to Westover. They left the base with a better appreciation of our mission and what our Citizen Airmen do for America."

PA and volunteers with the Massachusetts Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve coordinate Employer Day activities. Reservists who are interested in recognizing their civilian employers may nominate them for a Patriot Award. For more information, visit esgr.org.

by W.C.Pope



PROMOTIONS

Chief Master Sergeant
Glenn Flynn

Senior Master Sergeant
Daniel Howard
Julie Olearcek
Richard Titcomb

Master Sergeant
Mark Cohen
Brian Reopel
Lauren Scunziano
Paul Talbot

Technical Sergeant
Matthew Joanides
Amanda Longton
Raphael Marrero
Kellie Miller
Lauren Rouse

Staff Sergeant
Joshua Alvarez
Luz Baltodano
Natalia Duque
Spencer Gatley
James Martinez
James Miller
Nathan Staples
Ryan Silva
Kevin Torres
Walter Varey

Senior Airman
Dwayne Antonio
Danielle Barlette
Kayla Broadhurst
Aaron Davies
Ricardo Galvis
Donald Hatfield
Christina Klein
Elias Martins
Samuel Morin
Florence O'Dunfa
Cody Whalen

Airman 1st Class
Chelsea Berkebile
Craig Henderson
Anny Hernandez
James Melton
Kevin Nemo
Shannon Riley
Paige Sullivan

Airman
Maxime Castor
Amber Hanson
Sean Morley
Michael Ramos

Grind provides UTA meals

Airmen can get either breakfast or lunch on UTAs at the Grind, located in the fitness center. Airmen need to bring their military IDs just as is done at the Westover Club.

FACES OF WESTOVER

A1C Andrew Stoner
439th Maintenance Squadron



A1C Andrew Stoner, an aircraft electrical and environmental specialist with the 439th Maintenance Squadron, spends his civilian life working as an electrical designer for General Dynamics Electric Boat, a company that builds submarines for the Navy.

A1C Stoner joined the Air Force Reserve less than a year ago and hopes to return to school for a degree in business administration.

"I get to do a lot of things that most people will never do," the Airman said. "Like being out on a Navy nuclear submarine to see how designs I worked on are reflected in real life, or have the opportunity to work on maintaining a C-5."

A hard work ethic and attention to detail are things that have been instilled in A1C Stoner since early adulthood. He started working at GDEB two weeks after his high school graduation. Since then, A1C Stoner has had the opportunity to work on countless Navy submarines, including the latest destroyer, the Zumwalt-class destroyer, of which there are only three being built.

"There was a lot of cutting-edge technology, although it wasn't the most attractive ship," Stoner said jokingly.

"But it was very cool to work on something of that caliber for two years."

A1C Stoner said his civilian job also prepared him for his future endeavors in the Air Force by providing him with a solid mechanical foundation.

"I already knew a lot of the electrical side of my job in the Air Force," A1C Stoner said. "So I liked learning about the environmental side because it was a new challenge, it was more like physics."

Whenever he has free time, he's still working. He keeps his mechanically-intrigued mind busy by building his own motorcycle with several hand-crafted parts.

"I get a sense of gratification completing a project with my own two hands," he said. "With my motorcycle, its different from my other jobs. I get to customize it to suit my own style."

Luckily for him, after two years' worth of elbow grease and patience, his motorcycle will be ready to ride this month.

--A1C Monica Ricci

RETIREMENTS

Senior Master Sergeant
Robert Ivey

Master Sergeant
Ray Martin Jr.

Technical Sergeant
Gerald Martel
William Palaia

SERVICES CALENDER

westoverservices.com
by Mollie Anello, services marketing assistant

CLUB >> They're back, don't miss this show!! Blackwater LIVE! Check out this great band from the Berkshires, Sept. 6 from 8-11 p.m., lounge opens at 3 p.m. Also, come check out DJ Kuls on Sept. 20 from 7-11p.m. in the lounge.

BOWLING CENTER >> Join a Bowling League today! The Bowling Center is looking for Bowlers for their Mens, Mixed and Senior Bowling Leagues! Come sign up or contact the center for more information, 557-3990.

FITNESS CENTER >> Fitness Center's 5th Annual Readiness Relay Race will take place at 4:30 p.m. Sept. 25. Get your teams together -- 4-5 members, any branch of services, male and female mix teams -- it's all about having fun! T-shirts will be awarded to the winning team. Contact the center for more information 557-3958.

OUTDOOR RECREATION >> Rent your fall clean-up equipment today! Lawn vacuum, power rake, brush cutter and more! Visit the website for a list of items and reduced prices. 557-2192.



Published monthly for Patriots like A1C Danielle Barlette, 58th Aerial Port Squadron, and more than 5,500 people assigned to Westover Air Reserve Base.

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FIRST CLASS
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TAKE ONE >> Brig. Gen. Steven Vautrain's first attempt at a final C-5 flight did not work out as planned Aug. 19. The aircraft developed a mechanical problem while doing practice approaches at Bangor International Airport, Maine, and had to return to Westover early. Further complications on final approach resulted in the crew declaring an emergency and having to shut down and egress on the runway. The Westover Fire Department responded, declared the aircraft safe, and it was towed off the runway. Gen. Vautrain successfully completed his final flight two days later on Aug. 21. (photo by SSgt. Kelly Goonan)