



PATRIOT

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UTA SNAPSHOT

> Employer Day sign-ups are still being taken at the public affairs office; email 439aw.pa@us.af.mil

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ON THE COVER >> Westover hosted Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James and Lt. Gen. James Jackson, Air Force Reserve Commander, May 2.

EDITORIAL | It's been the opportunity of a lifetime

It's difficult to summarize in a single sentence all the opportunities that the Air Force and Air Force Reserve have given me over my 30-year career. I've watched this wing grow to become the best in AFRC, bar none. The accolades that this group has won are truly amazing. They are a testament to the hard work across all units.

When the Secretary of the Air Force visited the Patriot Wing recently, part of our mission brief showed about 25 awards that the wing has been recognized for in just the last four years alone, and all the military operations and humanitarian missions in which Westover has participated.

Her comment, simply stated, summed up the wing: "You get it done at Westover!"

I've been lucky to have had great mentors here who took the time to guide me on how to be a better leader. Sometimes directly, but at most times, by watching and learning from some of the most incredible officers, NCOs and junior enlisted Airmen in the Air Force. I had the pleasure over my time here to watch some of our current squadron commanders, chiefs and senior NCOs professionally develop from when they started as young lieutenants and junior Airmen to become the Leaders of Excellence at the 439th. I tried to pass along those valuable lessons and mentorship that others provided me in my career. I encourage all of you to do the same.

As I look back, my most important ingredient for success was the support from my family. I couldn't have spent all the time training, supporting the mission and deploying, like many of you have done, without my family sacrificing my time with them. Thank you.

While the memories I have from my time here could fill books, the most important was a mission I flew from Iraq to Dover AFB, Del. It had a lasting impression on me of the totality of the risks many willingly take when they join the military. Our precious cargo that day in the C-5 contained three flag-draped coffins of our fallen brothers in arms. I will never forget my emotions of both sadness and patriotism

that flowed that day as myself and my crew carried the coffins down the ramp to the awaiting honor guard.

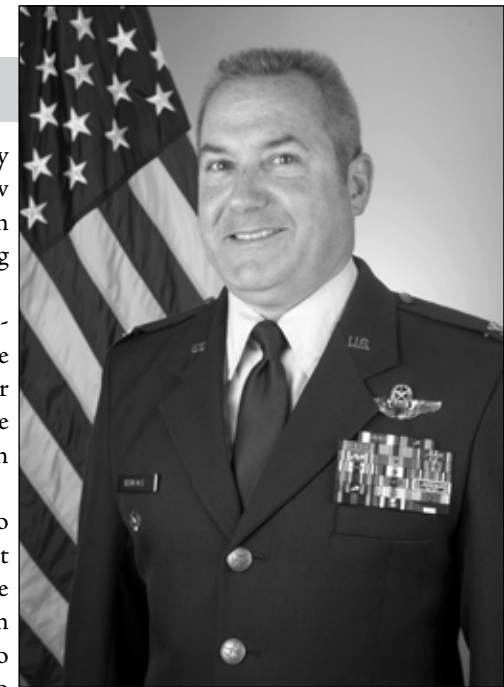
Never forget the ultimate sacrifice that some pay in the defense of our nation. Always take the time to thank a veteran for his or her service.

I had the pleasure to welcome the newest wing members over the past UTA. As I stood in front of members who had left active duty to join us and members who are brand new to the military, I could not help but recall the day, a little over 22 years ago, that I sat in those very chairs as the newest member of Westover. Little did I know then what the future in the 439th held for me. From day one, my new family in the 337th Airlift Squadron made my transition from active duty a welcomed one. I knew from that day that I had made the right decision to join the Patriot Wing. The comment I left that group with on my last UTA culminated the immense pride that I have garnered serving along with all members, past and present:

"You all have made the best decision in your careers when you decided to join the 439th Airlift Wing."

I know it's true, because it's the best decision I ever made in my career. Thank you.

by Col. Jeffrey Hancock
439th AW Vice Commander



ISO BRIEF >> SMSGT. Patrick Connor, 439th Maintenance Squadron, provides a briefing on the isochronal inspection dock to Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James May 2. Also pictured is Lt. Gen. James Jackson, commander of Air Force Reserve Command. To see the story on the visit, go to the Westover web page at www.westover.afrc.af.mil. (photo by SSgt. Kelly Goonan)

BRIEFS

WNN in the club

The Westover New Network is now beamed in directly to the Westover Club televisions. WNN programs are produced by the public affairs office and feature news, information and views into Westover's historic past.

Case lot sale

The Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass., commissary is holding a case lot sale at Westover, June 6-8 in Hangar 3, each day from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Wing honors second quarter winners

The wing quarterly winners for the second quarter are: Airman, SrA. Cindy Nguyen, 439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron; NCO, TSgt. Anthony Tassinari, 439th Civil Engineering Squadron; SNCO, SMSgt. Peter Bradley, CES; CGO, Capt Mark Visconti, 337th Airlift Squadron; Civilian, Adam Weber, 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Civilian Supervisor, Steven Mann, 439th Operations Support Squadron.

AF&RC announces spouse essay winner

The Airmen and Family Readiness Center staff held a "my spouse is a hero essay contest" with poems and essays submitted in early May. This year's winner is MSgt. Danita Thibeault, 439th Operations Group received a \$50 gift card for their spouse.

Col. Hancock, Chief Colucci retirement

The Patriot wing will honor two long-time Westover reservists, Col. Jeffrey Hancock, 439th Airlift Wing vice commander, and CMSgt. Anthony Colucci, 337th AS flight engineer, with retirement ceremonies at the Westover Conference Center, at 3 p.m. June 7.

Free guitar lessons

The USO has partnered with SMSgt. Gary Smith (337th AS and an experienced musician), to offer free guitar lessons. They will be held every Monday from 5:30-6:30 p.m. beginning May 12 for six weeks.

The first 20 people to attend the class and complete all six lessons will also receive a free guitar.

Day care is back

Day care service for children of reservists is again available. Call the Airmen and Family Readiness Center at 557-3024 for more information.

C-5s, Airmen to be cut from Patriot Wing

by MSgt. Andrew Biscoe

More than a dozen media gathered April 28 as Brig. Gen. Steven Vautrain, 439th Airlift Wing commander, held a news conference announcing force cuts at Westover.

Standing outside base operations in front of a pair of C-5s, the wing commander said that half of the 439th Airlift Wing's C-5 fleet – and more than 300 jobs here – would be cut as a result of Pentagon budget cuts and sequestration.

While the host unit 439th AW flies 16 C-5B models, eight C-5s will transfer from Westover to Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, beginning in March 2015. The C-5 fleet is scheduled to be upgraded to the re-engined M-models. In the plan, Westover will retain eight of the refurbished C-5Ms.

Personnel losses include 59 full-time enlisted and 275 drilling reservists. This number has not been finalized nor has a timeline been released yet.

Drilling reservists are those Airmen who perform unit training assemblies (UTAs) at the base monthly, while the full-time air reserve technicians (ARTs) are civil service employees during the week. ARTs also report for the monthly UTAs.

"These changes affect the core of our mission here – our dedicated men and women," Gen. Vautrain said. "These reductions will incur hardships on our people. We will take care of our people; we will

place as many as possible in other positions within the wing and programs will be available to assist those displaced by this change in force structure."

Gen. Vautrain reminded the media and the base population that the wing and base will remain viable within the Air Force.

"We'll have fewer aircraft and people," he said. "We will continue to fulfill our global mobility mis-

sion before, during and after these changes. We'll continue to be Leaders in Excellence."

ARTs should consult with the military personnel flight and civilian personnel offices on base, while drilling reservists should work through the MPF.

Faced with austere budgets, the Air Force is refocusing and reducing the size of its forces to comply with the president's new defense strategy and the Budget Control Act's requirements to cut \$487 billion from the defense budget over the next eight years.

The full complement of the eight C-5M Super Galaxy airlifters is scheduled to be in place at Westover by June 2018.



POPE'S PUNS |

by W.C.Pope



NEWS

Westover Volunteers Honored



Brig. Gen. Steven Vautrain, 439th Airlift Wing commander, honors Westover volunteers April 25 at the Westover Club. Pictured with the general are from left, his wife, Katie Vautrain (Volunteer Excellence Award); Therese Sarnelli (Key Spouse of the Year); and Rocky Snow, (Volunteer of the Year). (photos by W.C. Pope)

CSAF DESCRIBES AIR FORCE'S 'PRECARIOUS' POSITION

by Claudette Roulo
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- After 23 years of high-tempo operations, the Air Force is in a precarious position, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III told the Senate Armed Services Committee May 6.

The general was joined in his testimony by his fellow members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, including the Joint Chiefs chairman, Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, and the vice chairman, Navy Adm. James A. "Sandy" Winnefeld Jr.

Airmen have performed spectacularly well over a period that included numerous routine deployments and contingency responses, Welsh said.

"I believe they've earned every penny they've made," the general added. But per-capita costs for Airmen have grown more than 40 percent since 2000, he noted.

"Last year, our readiness levels reached an all-time low," Gen. Welsh said. "As we struggle to recover, we don't have enough units ready to respond immediately to a major contingency, and we're not always able to provide fully mission-ready units to meet our combatant commanders' routine rotational requirements."

The Air Force's modernization forecasts also are bleak, the general said. About 20 percent of its aircraft flying today were built in the 1950s and 1960s, he noted, and more than half of the rest are 25 years old or older. "And now, due to sequestration, we've cut about 50 percent of our currently planned modernization programs," Gen. Welsh said.

The fiscal situation has forced the Air Force into some very difficult decisions, the general said, particularly in the area of pay and compensation reform.

"No one takes this lightly," he said, "but we feel it's necessary to at least try and create some savings."

Without these tough calls, the Air Force "will be neither ready to fight today, nor viable against the threats of tomorrow," Gen. Welsh said.

Slowing the rate of pay increases, gradually reducing housing pay, reforming the TRICARE health care plan and reducing commissary subsidies will certainly hurt, the general said. But, he added, "what my secretary and I owe the nation, the joint team and our Airmen, more than anything else, are the training and tools necessary to fight and win and survive."

If Congress fails to pass the proposed compensation reforms, the Air Force will be forced to cut \$8.1 billion from readiness,

modernization and infrastructure accounts over the next five years, Gen. Welsh said.

"We'll take significant cuts to flying hours and weapons system sustainment accounts, reduce precision munitions buys, and lower funding for training ranges, digging our readiness hole even deeper," the general said.

"We'll likely have to cancel or delay several critical recapitalization programs," he continued. "Among those probably impacted would be the combat rescue helicopter and the TX trainer. Abandoning the TX program would mean that future pilots will then continue to train in the 50-year-old T-38. We'll also be forced to cut spending on infrastructure beyond the \$5 billion we've already recommended to cut over (the next five years)."

These cuts would come in addition to the recommendations the Air Force already made, Gen. Welsh emphasized, including decreasing its force strength by nearly 17,000 Airmen next year, divesting the entire A-10 Thunderbolt II and U-2 reconnaissance aircraft fleets and possibly divesting the KC-10 Extender fleet.

"None of these options are good ones, but we are simply out of good options," he said. "It's time for courageous leadership. We simply can't continue to defer every tough decision in the near term, at the expense of military readiness and capability over time."

Hogs *In* GALAXY territory

Transient A-10 aircraft from the Air Force Reserve Command's 442nd Fighter Wing, Whiteman AFB, Mo., make a stop at Westover for routine maintenance and fueling, in April. The A-10 Thunderbolt IIs (popularly nicknamed the Warthog), are the first Air Force aircraft specially designed for close air support of ground forces. The temporary stay of the A-10s once again displayed the enormous land mass of the base flight line, which has hosted a who's who of military aircraft for more than 70 years. Westover celebrates its 75th anniversary in 2015.



Westover “Port Dawg” runs Boston Marathon for Martin Richard charity

by MSgt. Timm Huffman

When the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing killed 8-year-old Martin Richard and injured his sister, mother and hundreds of others, people from across New England, and the country, stood at the ready to support in any way they could. Sadly, in such situations, most can only show solidarity by silently grieving.

However, one fleet-footed Westover Airman recently had a chance to help that family in a very tangible way.

Senior Airman J.R. Fallon heard a radio announcement in January that the Martin Richard Charitable Foundation, MR8 for short, was accepting applications for charity runners to participate in the 118th Boston Marathon.

SrA. Fallon was a week out from his departure for Basic Military Training when the bombing happened in 2013. He recalls being glued to the TV as the events following the tragedy unfolded. When he arrived at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, for his military training, he said other trainees kept asking him what he knew about it.

The Boston resident already had three marathons under his belt, including a trail marathon in New York with 5,560 feet of climbing, and thought joining team MR8 would be a great way to give back to a cause to which he felt so emotionally attached. The Boston Marathon, which has strict qualifying standards for athletes, makes an exception for about 3,000 participants running for charities. After filling out the 11-page MR8 team application, he waited.

He didn't have to wait long. The Westover aerial porter, who grew up attending the marathon with his mom, was invited to do a phone interview. Shortly after that, he received an e-mail from Martin Richard's father asking him to join the team. He was one of 50, selected from 500 applicants.

“Mr. Richard told me later that he could tell right away when he was reading the applications who really cared and who just wanted to get into the marathon on a charity bib number,” said SrA. Fallon, who would later meet the family at team functions.

As part of Team MR8, he was personally financially obligated for \$7,500, which would go to help improve education and athletics in communities. He would also have to train hard in order to be ready for the Boston Marathon, which was less than 12

weeks away at the time. Most marathon training plans call for a minimum of 16 weeks of training.

Despite those challenges, the young Airman joined the team.

Training for a marathon is no easy task. SrA. Fallon's schedule and the particularly harsh winter didn't make it any easier. With two weeks of annual tour scheduled in the middle of his already-truncated training cycle, the 58th Aerial Port Airman had to work hard to find the time - and new running routes - while at Westover. He said the lengthy cold snap didn't help either.

Because of these circumstances, SrA. Fallon said he focused on logging enough miles to be marathon-ready, rather than at the pace he was running. Included in that mileage was an 18-mile run around the base, through the towns of Chicopee, Granby, Ludlow and South Hadley.

Despite the training barriers, the Boston University graduate student did have some high points, including a happenstance meeting with another MR8 team member during a training run in Beverly.

“Danny Marshall was the first person I met from the team. He ran past and noticed my MR8 hat and turned around and caught up to me. We stopped and talked about our training and the upcoming race.”

Unlike his training, his fundraising effort was full of high points. He started by asking friends and family for donations, which brought in about \$3,500. He then formed a core fundraising team, which included his girlfriend, cousin and two close friends, to organize a fundraiser at a local restaurant. Between the 50/50 and raffle, he raised \$3,000. A connection he made during the dinner made an additional \$500 donation the next day.

Because he reached his funding goal by early March, the “Port Dawg” decided to up his target to \$10,000. In total, he raised \$9,310!

“Had I been afraid of the financial constraints, I never would have had this experience,” he said. “I made a decision with my heart and it worked out.”

He said another highlight of the whole process was meeting all of the people who genuinely and deeply cared about the cause and the Richard family.



photos by MarathonFoto



WESTOVER STRONG



During the May Westover Strong event held in the Westover Club on the A UTA, Airmen learned about how to finance their education from TSgt. Samantha Cooper, 439th Force Support Squadron, and CMSgt. David Carbin, 439th AW command chief. The next event, in which base education and training Airmen will explain the Community College of the Air Force, is scheduled for June 8 at 11:30 a.m. at the club. (photos by SrA. Alexander Brown)



-- MARATHON continued from previous page

The day of the big race dawned beautiful and clear – a premonition of what would be an amazing and emotional day in Boston. SrA. Fallon was awake long before the sun, however, and slipped into his race kit: an Air Force ball cap, his PT shorts, neon-green socks, yellow long sleeve and his MR8 singlet.

“When I pulled on that jersey, I was automatically filled with this sense of pride knowing I'd be representing the Richard family,” he said. “It was the same feeling I get when putting on my Air Force uniform.”

The Westover runner found himself at the race start, known as Athlete's Village, in Hopkinton at 5 a.m. Because there are so many runners (36,000 in total) and the streets are so narrow, marathoners are seeded into four waves, with the first runners starting at 10 a.m. SrA. Fallon was placed in wave four, with an 11:25 start time.

He passed the time waiting with his teammates, including Danny, who he had met mid-run, weeks earlier.

“It was surreal being there that day,” he said. “It felt like my first marathon, even though it was my fourth.”

When the gun went off, the energy of the race was so high that SrA. Fallon, who said running a marathon is usually a solo event, was completely absorbed and ran with his teammates for the first eight miles. At mile four, a woman he was running with said Meb Keflezighi, an American elite runner who spoke at the team dinner prior to the race, had won the race outright, something that hadn't happened since 1983!

SrA. Fallon felt strong through the halfway mark, but as the race wore on, his body began to wear down. The day was warm, about 70 degrees, and the course is fully exposed to the sun. But with more than one million spectators lining the 26.2 mile course, he said getting a boost of energy was easy.

“I was in awe of what was going on. It was just unbelievable in terms of the number of people there. If I was feeling low, I'd put my hand out, go to the side line and feed off all the energy,” he said.

Wearing his Air Force and MR8 gear brought him even more attention than the average runner. He said that many times during the race, spectators would send words of encouragement and cheers his way because they recognized the Air Force or MR8 symbols.

After 4:47:31, SrA. Fallon crossed the finish line, exhausted and overwhelmed with emotion.

“Finishing the Boston Marathon that day was extremely emotional in all aspects,” he said. “It ranks right up there with graduating basic training in terms of one of my proudest accomplishments.”

Following the race, SrA. Fallon made use of the showers provided by MR8 and attended the team after party. He plans to stay involved with the charity by working to instill running and education in kids in Dorchester and raising funds through running future Boston Marathons.

“That day was, by far, the most incredible day of my entire life.”

Wing honors Westover’s 75th anniversary with military ball

by TSgt. Brian Boynton

In celebration of the Air Force’s birthday, Westover will host a 75th anniversary military ball, Oct. 4. This event is open to all branches of the military, Department of Defense civilians and friends of Westover (USO, GCC, etc.).

The ball will be held at the Base Hangar, with cocktail hour starting at 6 p.m. and dinner served at 7 p.m. Ticket prices are based on both military and civilian pay grade.

Hors d’oeuvres -- Assorted Fresh vegetables, cheeses and crackers; seafood stuffed mushroom caps; coconut chicken with Thai sauce; fried ravioli with marinara sauce; tempura shrimp with Thai sauce; beef teriyaki with pineapple; vegetable spring rolls; tomato bruschetta; cucumber rondelle with salmon mousse; chilled marinated shrimp with broccoli slaw.

Dinner -- Traditional Caesar Salad; choice of rolls and butter; asparagus with shallot butter and quinoa stir fry; choice of lyonnaise chicken, gorgonzola sirloin or grilled salmon with spinach portabella ragu.

Dessert -- Dark chocolate mousse with raspberry ganache
“The purpose of this ball is to teach military customs and courtesies, military history and build camaraderie among the wing,” said

CMSgt. Dave Carbin, 439th AW Command Chief. “Our goal is to build future leadership in the Air Force.”

The dress code for the evening is mess dress, or semi-formal uniform. The only difference from the standard issue “blues” uniform is enlisted members will wear a white dress shirt and no name tags. Dress for civilian attendees is, for women, floor length evening gown, and for males, black-tie formal.

To obtain tickets; fill out the application below, with a check made out to “Westover Chiefs Council” and R.S.V.P. it to your first sergeant by Sept. 7 or mail it to:

439th Chiefs Council
Westover ARB
570 Patriot Ave, Box 25
Chicopee, Mass. 01022

Ticket Cost:
AB through SrA. - \$50
SSgt./TSgt. - \$55
MSgt./SMSgt. - \$60
CMSgt. - \$70
2 Lt.-Maj. - \$50
Lt. Col. & above - \$70
WG-12/GS-9 and below - \$55
WS-9/GS-10 and above - \$65
Retirees (regardless of rank) - \$60

Make check out to “**Westover Chiefs Council**” and R.S.V.P. by Sept. 7 to your first sergeant or mail it to:
439th Chiefs Council, Westover ARB, 570 Patriot Ave, Box 25, Chicopee, Mass. 01022

Attendee(s): _____ and _____

Unit: _____ Rank: _____ Email for Confirmation: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Meal Selection(s): Lyonnaise Chicken: _____ Gorgonzola Sirloin: _____ Grilled Salmon: _____

Master Sergeant
David Aucoin
Rachel Garcia-Gosselin
Anthony Germano
Ronald Girard
Glenn Griffiths
Michael Jaczyk
Cheryl Osgood

Technical Sergeant
Brett Connor
Samantha Cooper
Robert Gustafson
Daniel Masood
John Smith

Staff Sergeant
Salinas Agustin
Edwin Hilerio
Bryan Laudano
Edward Stuck

Senior Airman
Kody Anischik
Paul Cook
Thomas Ferris
Joseph Fortin
Aaron Gaj
Ashley Gonzalez
Brandon Johnson
Michael Lacroix
Matthew Law
Beeko Levan
Nikki McWhirt
Marcin Rydzewski
Rosemine Slydor
Allison Walsh
Ryan Wilkie
Michelle Wright

Airman First Class
Gabrielle Cartagena
Sarah Herring
Jonathan Feeley
Alissa Jenney
Dyllan Jones-Leonard
Tyler Karanasios
Alfredo Rosario-Roman
Jordan Vert
Edward Vingoe
Matthew Whalen
Sang Yang

Airman
Travis Biega
Chase Bourdo
Joshua Green
Ebony Mayweather
Meghan Obrien
Benson Sseriwagi

SMSgt. Joe Fournier 337th Airlift Squadron

“In August 1986 I was faced with a choice,” said SMSgt. Joe Fournier. “Either go to college or join the military. I opted for the opportunity to travel and enlisted into the Air Force.”

Shortly after his active-duty commitment was up, serving as a crew chief on the C-5 Galaxy at Dover Air Force Base, Del., he was called back.

“I was heading home to Maine when they told me I’d been activated for Operation Desert Shield,” he said. “I remained active for Operation Desert Storm as well, deploying multiple times.”

Soon after the conclusion of Operation Desert Storm/Desert Shield, SMSgt. Fournier decided to continue his Air Force career in the reserve and submitted his resume at Westover. At the time, the C-5 Galaxy was just arriving here, so his background as a crew chief on the C-5 made him a stand-out. He was selected for the position. Since that time, SMSgt. Fournier has flown about 5,000 hours in the C-5, which has involved him in nearly every contingency and humanitarian aid mission since 1992.

From 2003 to 2007, he left the engineer section to work in the safety office where he garnered the nickname “Safety Joe.”

“Being in the safety office opened my eyes to the ‘bigger picture,’ he said. “We get so focused on our own careers that we forget there is much more involved in



making them a success.”
Having the opportunity to work on an aircraft he loves, being part of a base he enjoys and being surrounded by people who inspire him is irreplaceable, he said.

“A 20-plus year military career has given me a better understanding of how everybody fits into the puzzle,” he said. “We’re called Team Westover because we are exactly that -- a team.”

-- SSgt. Kelly Goonan

RETIREMENTS |

Lieutenant Colonel
Changkun Moon

Major
David Walsh

Senior Master Sergeant
Cheryl Medvetsky
Ronald Sliwa

Master Sergeant
Isaias Cruz
Dana Dupuis
Richard Grant
Leslie Hunter

Technical Sergeant
David Dansereau
Donald Risley

SERVICES CALENDER |

Submitted by Mollie Anello, services marketing assistant
westoverservices.com

BOWL >> Father's Day Bowl! Father's Day Weekend, June 13 to 14, 1-5 p.m. Bring Dad for Cosmic Bowling and he bowls for free.

CLUB >> The Berkshires band “Blackwater” will be performing June 7 and 21, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.; the lounge opens at 3 p.m.

OUTDOOR REC >> Outdoor Summer fun for family and friends! ODR has all your party needs; bounce houses for the children, grills, party tents, dunk tanks, tables, chairs and more. Call 557-2192 or stop by today!

FITNESS CENTER >> “Row to Staten Island”, June 1 through 30. The person that completes the journey in the quickest time, will receive a T-shirt! “Run for Fun” June 11, 8:30 a.m., 1st place male and female will get a trophy and T-shirt; “Sand Volleyball Tournament”, June 16-20, 3-on-3 players Team Trophy and T-shirts for the Champions!

It's the 101
critical days of
summer --
please be safe



Published monthly for Patriots like TSgt. Joseph Scott, 439th Maintenance Squadron, and more than 5,500 people assigned to Westover Air Reserve Base.

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Westover ARB
Chicopee, Mass. 01022-1825

FIRST CLASS
US POSTAGE
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ARBOR DAY GROWTH >> After the April 28 Arbor Day ceremony, Drew Milroy, natural and cultural resources manager, discusses the trees planted in front of the base civil engineering complex with Brig. Gen. Steven Vautrain, 439th Airlift Wing commander; Col. Kenneth Lute, mission support group commander; and Lt. Col. Kelly Hosey, MSG deputy commander. Base leadership dedicated the "Honorary Drew Milroy Arbor Day Tree" as Milroy's 34-year Air Force career came to a close in April. (photo by W.C.Pope)