

# PATRIOT



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## Westover commander pins on star

photo by TSgt. Brian Boynton



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**439<sup>TH</sup> AIRLIFT WING COMMANDER**  
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## UTA SNAPSHOT

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**ON THE COVER >>** SrA. Janet Izquierdo, representing the military bearing and pride of the Patriot Wing, waits in the Base Hangar to participate in the pin-on ceremony for Brig. Gen. Steven Vautrain, wing commander. More photos, pages 6-7.



**GENERAL'S WELCOME >>** Air Force Reserve Vice Commander Maj. Gen. Richard Haddad was given a tour of base, the isochronal dock, and a C-5M Super Galaxy Feb. 8. He's shaking hands with SMSgt. Patrick Connor, 439<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron. Maj. Gen. Haddad was the presiding officer for Brig. Gen. Steven Vautrain's pinning ceremony. Turn to pages 6-7 for more photos. (photo by SSgt. Kelly Goonan)

## EDITORIAL | Farewell to the Patriot Wing

by **CCMSgt. Michael Thorpe**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> Air Force Command Chief**

**I**t has been an incredible journey. It began on the December A UTA in 1988 when a young airman basic drove through the gates of Westover to begin a career that would provide him many life lessons -- two of the most important being a sense of duty and loyalty.

I have cultivated friendships that will last my lifetime. In 1988, my goal was to be promoted to master sergeant if I was lucky. I never even thought of becoming a chief, never mind your command chief. But I didn't accomplish this feat alone. I have had MANY great mentors who provided me the opportunities to excel. I cited I was a pack mule in a previous Patriot editorial. But I kept pushing forward. Those mentors provided me opportunities to excel and correct me as needed. The list is long and distinguished. I promised not to provide this list to you since it will be as long as the credits as in the end of the movie, "Gone with the Wind."

These people know who they are, and I still seek their counsel to this day. But I would like to thank Col. Swain for initially

hiring me, and Brig. Gen. Vautrain for allowing me to continue on as the command chief of this wing, the best job in the Air Force. I'd be remiss without thanking the Chiefs Council, because without their collaboration and guidance, we would not have reached the heights of excellence that we've achieved over the past few years. I also thank the First Sergeants Council, which spends countless hours ensuring our Citizen Airmen are prepared for the next challenge. And a thank you to the Company Grade Officers Council, Top Three and Rising Six Council for their exuberance and perspectives.

I could literally fill volumes on our successes as a wing, but there are two poignant moments during my tenure that truly reflect what I think the Patriot Wing stands for, and reflect what is still good and honorable in this world. We dedicated the 2012 Great New England Air Show to the Greatest Generation. As a student of history, I was awestruck with these true American heroes. Every Citizen Airmen went out of their way to ensure our distinguished guests were afforded the "red carpet" treatment. Not long after the air show, Brig. Gen. Vautrain received a letter

from a daughter of one of these men. The letter stated that her father enjoyed the air show immensely, and that he was grinning from ear-to-ear the entire day. When he arrived home that evening, he had dinner and went to sleep.

He passed away during the course of the night.

You made his last day on earth one of the happiest of his life. That's the impact you had on a man who fought tyranny at a young age, came home and raised a family. It wasn't until his golden years that we truly appreciated this generation's sacrifices. That's the impact you have on our military family, our veterans.

The second moment was right after Superstorm Sandy. A member of this wing sent out a plea, not for herself, but for her community. Her neighborhood literally needed infant formula, diapers, food, and blankets to survive. Without hesitation, you opened your hearts and wallets. Within 30 hours we had a truck full of volunteers and supplies heading to New York City. That's the impact you have on our communities and our nation.

These stories may not reach the media

-- continued on page 5

## BRIEFS |

### Employer Day

Westover's first joint service employer day is set for July 12.

The Public Affairs staff and Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve volunteers are teaming up to conduct this event, which recognizes civilian employers for their support of the military.

The activities give the employers a chance to see what Westover reservists jobs entail during a UTA.

Those interested in their civilian employers attending, should email 439aw.pa@us.af.mil

### Chiefs Council plans memorial park

The Chiefs Council is planning to build a memorial park in the island by the front gate. The Air Force logo will be centered on the pad with one granite bench at each corner of a 40-foot round pad.

CMSgt. Anthony Delduco, 439<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineering Squadron, is the project committee chairman. Paving stones will be available for engraving at a donation of \$50 per brick and \$100 for bricks inside the emblem.

People interested in donating to purchase a brick should contact a unit chief for more information.

### Logistics readiness, fire chief awards

The 439<sup>th</sup> Logistics Readiness Squadron has hoisted another milestone: For the second year in a row they won two out of three AFRC-level unit awards: The Daedalian Major General Warren R. Carter Logistics Effectiveness Award and the AFRC Base Logistics Activity of the Year Award. In addition, Westover's Fire Chief, Charles VanGorden, earned AFRC's Best Fire Chief Award in early February -- for the second time.

### Chief change

The 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Command Chief's Change of Responsibility Ceremony will take place March 8 at 3:30 p.m. at the Base Hangar.

CCMSgt. Michael Thorpe will formally pass the wing's top enlisted billet responsibilities to CMSgt. David Carbin.

### Enlisted workshop

This year's career enlisted workshop, "Building Bridges," is scheduled for June 9-10. Reservists interested in attending should contact their unit first sergeants.



# Patriot Wing commander pins on first star

by 1st Lt. Andre Bowser

When the 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing commander was ceremonially promoted to brigadier general Feb. 8, he was surrounded by fellow flag officers at what could best be described as a star-studded affair.

But Brig. Gen. Steven Vautrain equated the crowd gathered to honor him as his family, old and dear friends, and then he turned the spotlight on the nearly legion of members who serve on his base.

"It's about we the people... It's not just about me," Brig. Gen. Vautrain said in the Base Hangar on a stage with an Olympic-sized flag behind it. "I would not be here today without the work that you do -- and that goes for Airmen, other servicemembers and civilians, alike."

Maj. Gen. Richard Haddad, the vice commander of the Air Force Reserve Command, who officiated the promotion ceremony, summated the feat of entering the ranks of flag officers to joining a family that you'd really always been a part of. "Getting to this level in the United States Air Force is a team effort," he said, pointing to the numerous flag officers in attendance, who had directed Brig. Gen. Vautrain's career and seen in him star qualities. "It's all about relationships: there are also representatives from other branches of service here and they are part of that relationship, as well; team Westover, with its many great Airmen -- and it's not just the people in



uniform, it's the civilians, too."

In the audience, several members of Brig. Gen. Vautrain's family watched as his one-star flag was unfurled; he thanked his various mentors from among the flag ranks, and then seemingly saving the best for last, he nodded to his family. "Patty -- a big sup-

porter of my military career -- you've always been a supportive and loving sister," Brig. Gen. Vautrain said before turning his full attention to his wife. "Katie... you are my anchor... we are a team and I could not have done this without you."

Brig. Gen. Vautrain's sister, Patricia Donovan, said after the promotion ceremony that she believed her gregarious brother was inspired to join the military by their father, who was a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Coast Guard. But she said instead of taking to the water, he aspired to the air.

"I could tell that it was something he wanted to do when he was growing up: He really wanted to fly planes," Donovan said of her brother, who is a T-37, T-38, C-130, MC-130, C-17 and C-5-rated command pilot. "I'm just so proud of him."

## Report: more reservists, no AFRC headquarters

WASHINGTON -- The National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force issued its report to the president and Congress Jan. 31.

The report calls for moving more Air Force manpower into the reserve components but "disestablishing" Air Force Reserve Command and its three numbered air forces.

"Many of the commission's recommendations are valid," said Lt. Gen. James F. Jackson, chief of the Air Force Reserve and commander of Air Force Reserve Command. "However, AFRC provides me the ability to execute my key statutory obligation to manage Air Force Reserve resources. Without AFRC's structure, the Regular Air Force would have to recreate and duplicate what we use today."

The commission's report calls for creating integrated wings with active-duty

and reserve Airmen serving together at the squadron, group and wing levels.

"In practice, the Air Force Reserve is integrated with the active component today," Gen. Jackson said. "However, each component maintains separate administrative chain of command to comply with law and service policy. This ensures readiness and the effective force management of component personnel."

The commission, established by Congress in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013, studied how the Air Force structure should be modified to best fulfill current and anticipated mission requirements for the Air Force in a manner consistent with available resources.

Gen. Jackson said that Air Force leadership has been receptive to his concerns. "Both the secretary and the chief of

staff have asked for my thoughts on the commission's report," the general said. "I couldn't be more pleased with the support the Air Force Reserve receives from Air Force leadership."

The commission traveled to 19 different locations and interviewed reservists, guardsmen, and active-duty Airmen.

"Providing adequate operational support funding to increase volunteer opportunities for reservists, increasing associations between Reserve and active Air Force units, and reducing the number of Reserve duty statuses without reducing the overall compensation of reservists are all positive recommendations that require further analysis to ensure they can be implemented correctly," said Gen. Jackson, who testified before the commission on four separate occasions.

(AFRC News Service)

# Denton mission sends Westover C-5 on delivery to Nicaragua

by MSgt. Timm Huffman

The spacious cargo bays in Westover's C-5B Galaxies are normally used to ferry military cargo, but a recent mission had one massive airlifter headed in a different direction, loaded with humanitarian aid.

The Jan. 25-27 mission was part of the Denton Amendment Program, which allows for Department of Defense assets to deliver privately-donated humanitarian aid supplies to approved countries. On this trip, Team Westover delivered food for starving children in Managua, Nicaragua.

To be exact, 180,000 pounds of food, loaded onto 25 pallets, the crew believed.

The aircraft was three-quarters full," said Col. Jeffrey Hancock, the aircraft commander for the mission and

Westover's wing vice commander. "In a normal mission we might carry 110,000 to 125,000 pounds of cargo, so this was a heavy load by all accounts."

The aircraft left Westover and over-nighted at Joint Base Charleston, S.C., where it was loaded and the crew rested for the night. The next morning, the crew departed, en route for Managua. The four-and-a-half hour flight was uneventful and the crew touched down without incident on the runway at the Augusto C. Sandino

International Airport.

The airport, not designed to normally accommodate one of the world's largest cargo planes, offered some challenges. Col. Hancock said they had to squeeze the C-5, which has a 222-foot wingspan, down a small taxiway and into a ramp area



**TAIL END >>** The 65-foot-high C-5B tail towers over the Managua, Nicaragua airport during the January Denton mission. Crew members for this mission were Col. Jeffrey Hancock, Lt. Col. Matthew Llodra, Capt. Susan McSpadden and Barbara Michalek CMSgt. Anthony Colucci, SMSgt. Glenn Flynn, MSgts. Christopher Gaj, Heriberto Ortiz, and Julie Olearcek, TSgt. Gary Hudson, and SSgt. Scott Maher. (Courtesy photo)

with very little wing clearance. CMSgt. Anthony Colucci, a 337<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron loadmaster on the mission, had to get out and walk beside the plane to ensure the wing tip didn't clip anything along the perimeter.

Once the pilots had parked the C-5 the crew prepared to download the humanitarian cargo. Because it was a civilian airport, there wasn't aerial port support. This meant the crew, which included four loadmasters, had to rely on the limited

services provided by their host.

"That was the hard part. We see this one, rickety old forklift rattling towards the plane and we just looked at each other thinking "This is going to take forever!" said Col. Hancock. Despite questions of whether the forklift would even support the weight of one pallet, let alone 25, the loadmasters got the aircraft unloaded in about two hours.

"We made do, greased the skids, pushed a little harder and got the job done," said MSgt. Heriberto Ortiz, one of the other loadmasters.

The Westover loadmaster brought more than just his can-do attitude on his first humanitarian

mission, though. When a communication issue arose between the pilots and the airport flight manager, MSgt. Ortiz, who speaks Spanish, quickly diffused the situation by acting as a translator.

"It wasn't a big deal," said the loadmaster. "He thought we were trying to keep the flight plan from him and we simply didn't have it available yet. I explained the situation, and got the manager what he needed."

With the download complete, the crew "buttoned up" the plane, refueled and returned to the States. Mission complete.

"This was something we don't get to do very often, but it is very rewarding because it helps those in need," said Col. Hancock.

-- THORPE continued from page 3

spotlight, but they do provide insight to the caliber of people we have within this wing.

It has been an honor to serve with each of you. I still truly enjoy being part of the 1 percent of this nation that defends the other 99 percent. As Citizen Airmen, our nation owes a debt of gratitude to you and your families. I would be remiss without mentioning my family. My family, like yours, have spent countless days without me. Please remember how important they are to you. When our time comes to a close, remember we will only have our memories and our families when we retire. They have sacrificed as much as we have, and our children even more. Cherish them,

for you only have a finite amount of time before they build lives for themselves.

As my tenure came to a close here in late January and I moved on to 22<sup>nd</sup> Air Force to take on a new role, all of you need to know that the Patriot Wing will also have a special place in my heart. The life lessons I have learned over the past 25 years will serve me well. The most important decision I ever made in my life is to enlist in the Patriot Wing. I will treasure all the memories and all of the friends who have made the years travel by in a blink of an eye. The missions may change, but there is one constant, your loyalty and dedication.



# WESTOVER ALL-STARS

The Patriot Wing hosted dual high-profile events Feb. 8. Clockwise: The pin-on ceremony for Brig. Gen. Steven Vautrain, 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing commander, held in the Base Hangar, included Brig. Gen. Vautrain's wife, Katie, who joined the commander's family in embracing her husband for his achievement. Presiding officer for the ceremony was Maj. Gen. Richard "Beef" Haddad, Air Force Reserve Command vice commander. Before the ceremony, the visiting general was briefed on the wing mission, "flew" the C-5 simulator, and toured the isochronal inspection dock, control tower, and numerous other base facilities. Westover reservists also hosted a briefing and tour for 23 Yale University ROTC cadets. (photos by 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Public Affairs staff)





New command chief joins senior leadership

by MSgt. Andrew Biscoe

Arriving for his new job from the communications squadron, CMSgt. David Carbin is used to the concept of email – but perhaps not this many emails.

“I peered into my Blackberry this morning and answered some emails,” said now-Command CMSgt. Carbin, while at a security forces briefing for some ROTC cadets on the February A UTA. “Then I looked in it again, and there were 20!”

Having been appointed to the Patriot Wing’s top enlisted billet Feb. 1, the 32-year Air Force veteran quickly found about the demanding pace of his new job. Besides “meeting and greeting” future Air Force officers as he did Feb. 8, CMSgt. Carbin had to find his way to work centers, unit functions, a first sergeants’ meeting, and a chiefs council meeting.

The command chief master sergeant’s regimen consumes almost every minute of CMSgt. Carbin’s time on the already-packed UTA schedules. He’s taken over the position from CMSgt. Michael Thorpe, who departed in late January for his new job as command chief for 22<sup>nd</sup> Air Force at Dobbins Air Reserve Base,

Ga.

As the wing command chief, he’s the liaison between the wing commander and the enlisted force. His job is to advise Brig. Gen. Steven Vautrain, 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing commander, on matters of morale and welfare for the 2,500 Air Force reservists assigned to the base.

CMSgt. Carbin was born in Long Branch, N.J. and graduated from Neptune Senior High School in Neptune, N.J. He entered the active-duty Air Force in October 1981 and then joined the Air Force Reserve in June 1986 as an air reserve technician, directly following his active-duty assignment.

The command chief ensures enlisted members know the commander’s policies, and advises the commander regarding the morale, welfare and readiness of the base population. He evaluates the quality



of noncommissioned officer leadership, management, and supervisory training. He also monitors compliance with Air Force standards, serves on advisory councils, and maintains a close working relationship with the local community.

The command chief advises the First Sergeants, Rising Six and Top Three councils, providing mentoring and unified direction on enlisted issues. He establishes the relationship between the

senior enlisted staff, wing staff agencies, joint force tenant units, and subordinate activities; and facilitates information and policy dissemination on issues important to the commander.

“My focus will be to ensure we provide the tools and networks needed to develop our leaders of the future,” CMSgt. Carbin said. “I’m truly honored to be the command chief of the best wing in the Air Force!”

TROOP TALK | What kind of music motivates you??



“If I have to get hyped up or motivated for something: Salsa, Spanish or DubStep.”

>>SrA. Zhai-Yeng White  
439<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

“Depends on what I’m doing. If I am working out I listen to hard rock or metal. Country music does not motivate me and makes me want to go to sleep.”

>> A1C John Johnson  
58<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron



“If I’m at the gym I listen to hip-hop, rap or some country. If I am driving I like to listen to country music.”

>> SrA. Ryan Doran  
439<sup>th</sup> Communications Squadron



photos by TSgt. Brian Boynton

WINGMEN: AF firefighters are life-long friends

by 1st Lt. Andre Bowser

It’s rare that two life-long friends can say they’ve traveled all around the country and the world in the military - together.

But that’s the case with SrA. Jason Barnett and SrA. Andrew Nelson.

The two wingmen grew up together in the Nutmeg State, attended and graduated from Connecticut colleges the same year, worked together at the same insurance company in their civilian careers - and in 2010, they both joined the Air Force Reserve to escape their desk jobs.

“We always jokingly say that we were friends before we were born because our mothers and fathers are good friends, as well,” said SrA. Nelson, who along with his buddy serves as a military firefighter on base.

“For as long as I can I remember, I wanted to be a firefighter,” said SrA. Nelson, who added that after applying for several firefighting jobs in his home state and taking and passing tests, he had little luck in landing a civilian firefighting job. “I joined the Air Force Reserve to serve my country and to become a military firefighter because I believed it would get me closer to my goal of a career in firefighting.”

SrA. Barnett shared his friend’s passion and interest in pursuing a more exciting career than the insurance industry.

“After we joined and went off to boot camp, it was amazing how fast things happened,” said SrA. Barnett, who attended recruit training at Lackland Air Force Base before going to his firefighting technical school, the Louis F. Garland DoD Fire Academy, in 2011 at Goodfellow Air Force Base in Texas. “Our technical school was intense and once we graduated, we were fully certified firefighters.”

The pair returned to Westover’s 439<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineering Squadron and took advantage of the seasoning training program, which allowed them to work for several months at the base fire station

alongside military and federal civilian firefighters.

“I enjoyed the experience so much, it made me want to become a federal civilian firefighter here,” SrA. Nelson said.

The friends were both so dedicated to the challenge of landing full-time firefighting jobs, they decided their best shot would be by gaining experience outside of the training setting.

“We both volunteered to deploy because we wanted real-world experience,” SrA. Barnett said. They were quickly selected even though the pair had only been in the reserve for about two years. Because of the high demand for firefighting crews in deployed areas of responsibility, the friends set off on a six-month deployment at an undisclosed location in the Middle East with the 405<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron.

“We were on a tiny airbase and everyone knew or knew of each other,” SrA. Nelson said. “It was extremely hot with low humidity and an intense sun -- so staying hydrated was vital.”

SrA. Barnett said they stayed busy with their firefighting jobs, which included studying for certifications, training on equipment and maintaining a physical fitness regimen. “Fortunately, we had a world-class fitness center on the base,” he said.

After completing their tours, the life-long wingmen returned from their deployment in the fall of 2013 and never had to go back to their desk jobs: SrA. Nelson started a job at Barnes Air National Guard Base as a full-time civilian firefighter, and SrA. Barnett started a job at Bradley International Airport working as a firefighter for the Connecticut ANG.

The wingmen said they’ve set their sights on their next goal: “Joining Westover’s award-winning federal civilian firefighters,” along with continuing as reserve firefighters on the base.

EDITOR’S NOTE: If you know of an extraordinary wingman story, contact 1st Lt. Bowser and share your tale of friendship among Airmen. E-mail [andre.bowser@us.af.mil](mailto:andre.bowser@us.af.mil).



Patriot Wing Wingman Day set for March

The Patriot Wing will observe Wingman Day March 8 from 1-3 p.m. and on the B UTA (March 22 from 1-3 p.m.) Videos and a PowerPoint discussion will be followed by small group discus-

sions and team-building exercises.

Wingman Day is designed to empower Airmen and their families to sustain healthy, balanced lifestyles using the four pillars of Comprehensive Airmen Fitness.

Those interested in getting a head start on the event can check out their website at <http://afrc.wingmantool-kit.org/>



# Westover Strong: “Eating Healthy ON THE Go”

by TSgt. Brian Boynton

Westover Strong is sustaining itself -- going on three UTAs.

Patriot Wing Human Resources Development Council members held another successful presentation Feb. 9 at the Westover Consolidated Club. The Westover Strong campaign informs Airmen on how to maintain a healthy lifestyle while juggling life’s challenges of time, work, and budgeting.

“The two most common words we heard were ‘inspiring’ and ‘informative.’ We’re striving for the same reaction at every one of these events,” said Maj. Diane Burch, HRDC president.

The Feb. 9, “Eating Healthy on the Go” featured Senior Airman Diante Ellis and Patrick Harrington, 439<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Staging Squadron. They offered tips on eating healthy while maintaining a busy schedule, or when Airmen are short on time while deployed. They emphasized the use of technology

Helpful links provided by SrA. Ellis and Harrington:

- Calorie Calculator** - <https://www.active.com/fitness/calculators/calories.htm>
- Mayo Clinic’s Healthy Dining Finder** - <http://www.healthydiningfinder.com/>
- Mobile Access Ration Tracker and Energy Expenditure** - [http://www.lowellsun.com/business/ci\\_25057417/uml-students-develop-app-soldiers-track-nutrition](http://www.lowellsun.com/business/ci_25057417/uml-students-develop-app-soldiers-track-nutrition)
- The Healthy Eating Plate** - <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/nutritionsource/files/2013/04/HEPApr2013.jpg>
- Men’s Health Eat This, Not That** - <http://eatthis.menshealth.com/home>



to monitor caloric intake and caloric needs, as well as portion control and some helpful links.

They discussed an online applications for deployed Airmen: The Mobile Access Ration Tracker and Energy Expenditure, developed by a prior-deployed Marine who’s enrolled at the University of Massachusetts at Lowell. The app accounts for both an Airman’s gear and body weight. There’s also a calorie calculator app for stateside Airmen.

The Airmen also explained how to identify your body type and how much you should eat -- based on your activity level. They provided food prep, grocery shopping tips and explained how to properly read food labels.

SrA. Harrington made it clear that Airmen don’t need to give up that big bowl of weekly pasta. He emphasized how to make healthier choices in your diet and where to seek out information to make those choices.

*EDITOR’S NOTE: Westover Strong was scheduled to be held on the February B UTA, and continues March 8 at noon at the club. The topic will be Ready To Run: “Creating a Running Life-style.”*

by W.C.Pope



## PROMOTIONS

- Chief Master Sergeant**  
Kenneth Charest  
Craig Savoie  
Daniel Witt
- Senior Master Sergeant**  
David Henrickson  
Donald Morin
- Master Sergeant**  
Christopher Israel  
Lori St. Louis  
Matthew Thompson
- Technical Sergeant**  
David Bouley  
Rachelle Butts  
William Cote  
David Coulombe  
Joseph Dulong  
Joshua Gallien  
Scott Maher  
Anamaria Posada-montes
- Staff Sergeant**  
Tyler Coman  
Ryan Manning  
Jonathon Mattex
- Senior Airman**  
Matthew Fairbanks  
Chyna Hailey  
Bradley Harder  
Edgar Lopesneto  
Cody Lukasik  
Mark Moreau  
Emanuel Ocasio-Ramos  
Dillon O’Connor  
Michaela Sierra
- Airman First Class**  
Fernando Acosta  
Mokom Aweh  
Devon Billington  
Richard Brisebois  
Alexander Church  
Eric Delgado  
Zachary Hafner  
Sovannary Kay  
Leah Kingsley  
Christina Klein  
Hugues Nazaire  
Jessica Vega
- Airman**  
Chelsea Berkebile  
Alysha Bernard  
Robert Breault  
Ruben Litmanovich  
Casiem Maxwell  
Jeremy Sullivan  
Paige Sullivan

## FACES OF WESTOVER



**A1C Jason English**  
439<sup>nd</sup> Maintenance Squadron

A1C Jason English, from Hillsborough, N.J., is an aircraft structural maintenance specialist with the 439<sup>th</sup> MXS. He’s fulfilling a life-long dream.

Prior to joining the Air Force about a year ago, A1C English worked in a medical laboratory for over 14 years.

A1C English’s best friend is a U.S. Marine who enlisted at around the same age as English. Seeing how his friend changed his life for the better after enlisting drove the Airman to finally make the change he had eagerly wanted to make.

He’s finishing up his seasoning orders and is working at becoming an air reserve technician. A1C English recently moved into base housing near James Street, loves the area and hopes to continue working at Westover full-time for years to come.

-- SrA. Charles Hutchinson

**RETIREMENTS |**

**Senior Master Sergeant**  
Brian Copperthite  
Daniel Lawlor

Kevin Kennedy  
Sarah Moriarty  
Joseph Nash  
Michael Penna  
David Rodriguez  
William Solomon  
Robert White

**Technical Sergeant**  
Andrew Cote  
Peter Fulton  
James Laroche  
Charles McNutt  
Donald Risley  
George Tewksbury

**SERVICES CALENDER |** Submitted by Mollie Anello, services marketing assistant

**CLUB >>** Come to the Club Lounge for a St Patrick’s Day Buffet -- March 17 from 5-7 p.m., enjoy all of your favorite St. Patrick’s Day food, \$5.95 for members \$11.95 for non-members.

**BOWLING >>** Friday and Saturday March 14-15 St Patty’s Day Bowl. Wear green and enjoy discounted bowling. Also green beverages and Snack Bar specials!

**OUTDOOR REC >>** has your Winter activity supplies. Snowshoes, skis, toboggans and ice fishing equipment, Tip-ups, Jigging Poles, Ice Shelter, Power Auger, and much more! Call for your rental today, 557-2192.

**FITNESS CENTER >>** St. Patrick’s Day 5K Run, 8 a.m. March 13. Starts in front of the fitness center to turn around at Training Avenue. First place Man and Woman Trophy will be awarded, Sign up Today! Basketball tournament will begin in March, call 557-3958 for more details.

westoverservices.com

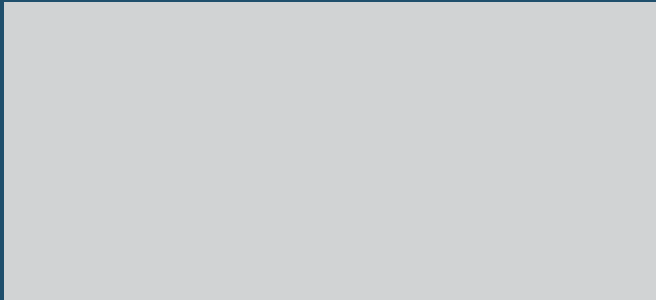




439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing  
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FIRST CLASS  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**

Published monthly for Patriots like SrA. Justin Skot, Indian Orchard, Mass., and more than 5,500 people assigned to Westover Air Reserve Base.



**EMERGENCY RESPONSE >>>** Rescue workers respond to a C-5B that diverted to Westover Feb. 8. The Patriot Wing Galaxy aircrew, enroute from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, to Dover Air Force Base, Del., reported a loss of cabin pressure while over the Atlantic Ocean. The aircrew opted to land at Westover versus two alternate emergency locations in New England, each of which had shorter runways. Westover's main runway is 11,597 feet long. (photo by SSgt. Kelly Goonan)