



PATRIOT

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UTA SNAPSHOT

> **SATURDAY:** The Westover 75th Anniversary Ball begins at 6 p.m. in the Base Hangar.

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ALCFs team up | **pg. 6**

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ON THE COVER >> Col. Al Lupenski, the 14th Patriot Wing commander, took over the top leadership post Sept. 7. Photos and stories on pages 4-5. (photos by 439th AW Public Affairs staff)

EDITORIAL Do it right every time

I would like to thank all the members of the Patriot Wing for the warmest welcome.

The change of command was incredible and my family and friends were overwhelmed. It was awesome to look out over the formation of incredible Airmen and see that C-5 with the beautiful blue sky in the background. As I said on Sunday, I believe that family comes first. It's because of our families that we are able to



serve. Our families mold who we are and they are an integral part of the ability for us to support our very important mission. Having Kathy, my family and my closest friends in attendance this weekend was very special. Kathy and I are looking forward to meeting each and every one of you.

You heard me say "Do the right thing and do it right every time." This wing has an incredible reputa-

tion and I want to thank everyone from the airman to the colonel for the dedication to the mission.

"Do the right thing" is simply integrity. "Do it right every time" speaks more to excellence. You are the experts. With shrinking

budgets and resources we need to encourage innovation in order to continue to maintain the level of excellence that has made the Patriot Wing the model to emulate. I will look to every one of you for your expertise and ideas on how to ensure we get the mission done and get it done "right every time."

The world is constantly changing. When you think things are slowing down, world events change that. We need to be ready. Readiness is what we do. You have probably heard the term "Mission First, People Always." I firmly believe this. Take care of the people and the mission will succeed.

Once again, I work for you. I am here to remove the barriers to success. I am here to listen to you, the experts, and make decisions based on input from you. Let me know where the problems are. I am honored to have the opportunity to be your new wing commander and humbled at the chance to serve with you.

by Col. Al Lupenski
439th AW Commander



BRIEFS

Chapel's paintball a success

Seventy reservists turned out for the base chapel's paintball event last month. For those that attended, there will be more events held on future UTAs including a possible Habitat for Humanity build. Call the chapel at 557-3031 for more information.

CFC kickoff

The Combined Federal Campaign has kicked off the 2014 season. This year's campaign goal is \$45,000. For more information, see your unit representative or visit cfc.org.

AFRC issues challenge to Westover

The Air Force Reserve Command headquarters recently issued the "U.S. Air Force fifty summits challenge" to the Patriot Wing. They are looking for units to put together a team to hike to the highest peak in Massachusetts and pose with the air force flag. Send photos to 439aw.pa@us.af.mil and they will be posted to facebook.com/westover.patriot. For more information, visit usaf50summits.com

SNCOLDC to be held in November

A Senior NCO Leadership Development Course will be held at Westover Nov. 8-9. Airmen interested in enrolling should contact TSgt. (MSgt.-sel.) Crystal Harry at 557-3441. Two more of these classes will be held next May and in August.

Civilian Commander's Call set

Col. Al Lupenski, 439th Airlift Wing commander, will hold a Civilian Commander's Call at the Westover Conference Center Oct. 23 at 3:30 p.m. This is held for air reserve technicians and all civilian employees in the Patriot Wing.

BAH recert due

Patriot Wing reservists are required to turn in their basic allowance for housing recertification (with dependent) Dec. 1. Air Force Form 594s are required. Examples are available in squadron orderly rooms. Pay for Airmen who do not fill out this paperwork will be affected. The wing finance staff will be forced to change those Airmen's BAH entitlements to single. For more information call FM at 557-2950 or 557-3880.

HANDSHAKES AND WELCOMES >> The Patriot Wing community lines up to congratulate Col. Al Lupenski and his wife, Kathy, following the change of command Sept. 7. (photo by MSgt. Andrew Biscoe)



Patriot Wing's new commander: 'Do the right thing, and do it right every time'

by SrA. Monica Ricci

"I know there are questions out there about who I am and what I expect," said Col. Albert Lupenski, the 439th Airlift Wing's newest commander. "I have only one expectation: Do the right thing, and do it right every time."

Col. Lupenski's debut followed the Sept. 7 change of command, one of the military's most well-known traditions. To recognize the significance of this event, over 750 Westover Airmen lined up in mass formation in the Base Hangar as the top leadership post of the Patriot Wing changed hands.

Brig. Gen. Steven Vautrain bid farewell to the wing and in turn, handed his duties as commander to Col. Lupenski. Brig. Gen. John Flournoy, 4th Air Force commander, officiated the ceremony.

Gen. Flournoy lauded Gen. Vautrain's success with family and friends gathered in front of the stage backdropped by an enormous American flag.

"I suspect the reason people said Steve walks on water ... is because of Katie, his family and close friends who were just beneath the surface holding him up," he said.

Gen. Vautrain, in parting, told his former command that he was next going to the Pentagon to serve as the deputy



director of strategic planning for the Air Force. In his new position, he said he'd always look back at his time at Westover as the highlight of his career.

"It has been an honor to be your commander," he said.

And in a matter of a few minutes, another chapter of the Patriot Wing history began. The 14th commander stepped up to the microphone to address his Airmen for the first time.

Col. Lupenski said the Airmen at Westover are the experts he'll turn to for his success as the leader of the Patriot Wing. "I will break down every barrier that's in the way of executing the mission," he promised.

NEWS

WESTOVER'S NEW COMMANDER WOWS PATRIOT WING

by 1st Lt. Andre Bowser

On a sunny September drill weekend, the Airmen were formed in an expansive, neat troop mass that filled the Base Hangar - only representing a fraction of the strength of Westover Air Reserve Base. Family and friends of service members watched from rows of chairs as the outgoing commander reminded the Patriot Wing of who they were in his eyes.

"Who's the greatest wing in the Air Force?" Brig. Gen. Steven Vautrain shouted into the microphone before releasing command of the wing he served for about three years.

"The Patriot Wing!" reverberated back from the mass of Airmen. And with that, the general relinquished his command.

The 439th Airlift Wing's new commander, Col. Albert Lupenski, had one word to describe the moment when he stood before the Patriot Wing as its new leader: "Wow."

He surveyed the diverse audience all gathered to honor his lofty ascension, and then turned to the former commander. "Marines, Army, Air Force - this is a joint base, right?"

Col. Lupenski thanked the many Air Force leaders who came from far and wide to support him on his day, and he paused to thank one former service

member in particular: retired Brig. Gen. Richard "Ric" Severson. "Sir, you've been a mentor, a friend, and thank you for coming."

The new wing commander's family, including his wife and parents, were at the top of his list of those he thanked as he assumed command of his largest and most vibrant base to date.

He urged his new wing to follow suit and to always put family first - and then bring their A-game to work.

He then set his sights on his wingmen and issued a firm request: "Do the right thing and do it right every time! You're the experts and you know the mission... Where do I fit in? I'm not the expert.

I have a lot of experience, but I'm not the expert... Our success rests with all of us. I'm here to make decisions based on your expertise. So, tonight, go home and thank your families for letting us borrow you."



Air Force Reserve adapts to new Air Expeditionary Force construct

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. -- The Air Force's re-designed Air Expeditionary Force construct will modify how reservists mobilize for contingencies and support combatant commander.

The new AEF construct, scheduled to start in October, is intended to make deployments more predictable for reservists and improve opportunities for them to deploy with their units. Under the revised AEF construct, Air Force Reserve Command units will deploy larger numbers of Airmen from the same

unit under a 1:5 mobilization-to-dwell ratio for aviation/maintenance and agile-combat-support Airmen.

The revised construct establishes a 48-month mobilization battle rhythm where a reservist may deploy for up to six months and be home for up to 42 months. This will allow wings to more effectively posture forces to meet global mission requirements while allowing them to continue to train at home station. In the past, Airmen deployed as individuals or small elements in

a system of tempo bands, based on their Air Force specialty codes.

As a result, Airmen from bases throughout the Air Force came together downrange. "Our Airmen have performed superbly in their individual deployments under the current AEF structure for the last 11 years," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Welsh, who approved the new AEF construct in April 2013. "I visited a deployed squadron last year that was manned by 81 Airmen from 41 different bases. While

we've proven we can be successful with that approach, we believe the new AEF model is a more efficient way to get the job done. This new construct will facilitate better teamwork and unit performance during deployed operations."

While there are other subtle changes, the most noticeable changes for Airmen will be a stabilized battle rhythm and an opportunity to deploy with unit teammates. Air Force leadership has worked hard to secure the 1:2 deploy-to-dwell as the baseline active

component standard battle rhythm while continuing the 1:5 mobilization-to-dwell as the reserve component mobilization battle rhythm. While this is the goal, some high-demand specialties may deploy more frequently.

"The new AEF construct should provide more opportunities for Air Force reservists to deploy with members of their own units," said Brig. Gen. Derek Rydholm, AFRC director of plans, programs, requirements, and assessments. "It will increase morale and es-

prit de corps among our Reserve units and provide reservists a better idea of when and with whom they will deploy." For more information on AEF battle rhythm and individual base dwell times, contact your local unit deployment manager or base deployment manager.



Patriot Expression of Teamwork

by SrA. Alexander Brown

Flexible is defined as the ability to easily modify and respond to altered circumstances or conditions. That's exactly what the 47 Westover, Joint Base Charleston and March ARB Airmen exemplified during "Patriot Express," a periodic Air Force Reserve Command air mobility exercise that took place in the heat of the summer here, Aug. 13-18.

Nine different units -- including the 58th Aerial Port Squadron, 42nd APS, 439th Airlift Control Flight, 4th Air Force, 439th Airlift Wing, 315th ALCF, 439th Communications Squadron, 439th Mission Support Group, and 452nd ALCF made this exercise possible.

The goal of the exercise was to prepare and train Airmen for potential deployments, making them even more proficient at their jobs. The goal of the mission was to coordinate between all members in a mock deployed location between the aircraft, ground crew, and communication elements.

"A contingency response element is the front line of command and control, comprised of experienced airlift and operations personnel to manage coordinate and control air mobility assets," said Lt. Col. Gilbert Kesser, director of operations.

Even when having to juggle a multitude of different tasks, this group of Airmen successfully completed 33 landings and take-offs in 72 hours. Other tasks included landing and parking the aircraft, on and offloading equipment, creating loading plans, weighing cargo, creating manifests, participating in active shooter drills and much more.

The challenges began as soon as the crew landed. Either a voice or data connection to home base had to be made within 30 minutes of landing. Meanwhile, Airmen are offloading all their equipment and setting up the Hard-sided Expandable Lightweight Air Mo-

bility Shelter. This is the primary communication hub for air-to-ground transmissions.

"It's a group effort, everyone needs to understand and complete their roll but be willing help everyone else in theirs," TSgt. Lui Puga, who worked in communications.

A load planner must carefully create a plan to ensure the safety of the aircraft when transporting cargo.

"Plans constantly change and we all have to be flexible," said SrA. Lyndsay Snow, 42nd APS.

Training involved Airmen who had never previously participated in any real-world exercises. At any time, an Airman was doing something for the first time with a trainer behind him or her.

Out of the 47 Airmen who participated in the exercise, nine were in training status and still were able to on and offload more than 330 tons of cargo during "Patriot Express."

Esprit de corps was evident throughout the exercise.

-- EXPRESS continued on next page



-- EXPRESS continued from previous page



"All of the people here are great to work with," said Tech Sgt. Steven Frost, a load planner with the 42nd APS.

As the last aircraft took off at the end of the exercise the "Patriot Express" Airmen had successfully and safely processed and completed all the missions.

"This is the first time there have been no delays during one of these exercises," said Lt. Col Kesser.



photos by SrA. Alex Brown

TROOP TALK What are you looking forward to this fall season?



"I'm looking forward to wearing coats and sweaters, eating pumpkin pie and the start of basketball season!"

>>SrA. Jonathan Velez
439th Transportation Squadron

"The weather! In my opinion, it's the best season for weather because it's not too hot and it's not too cold."

>>SrA. Jean Tchazou
439th Force Support Squadron



photos by SSgt. Kelly Goonan

"Pumpkin flavored everything and I get to wear my hoodies again and I am also looking forward to the military ball."

>>A1C Kayleigh Kish
439th Force Support Squadron



Grandfather, grandson share 337th lineage

by SrA. Charles Hutchinson IV

Maj. Travis Board grew up in an Air Force family. His grandfather flew 23 combat missions as an Army Air Corps pilot during World War II; his father served during the Vietnam War.

He heard his grandfather tell stories from his time in the military, including his experiences behind the controls of his B-17 Flying Fortress bomber.

A 337th Airlift Squadron C-5 pilot, Major Board recently learned that he and his grandfather also belong to the same unit. He and retired Lt. Col. Truman Hermansen share the 337th's 65-year Air Force lineage.

Maj. Board has flown the C-5 for more than a decade at Westover in support of Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"My grandfather was visiting from Florida when he noticed my squadron patch," said Maj. Board. "He said to me, 'I served in the 337th after the war.'"

The major decided it was time to research his grandfather's military past.

During Maj. Board's research, he discovered that his grandfather indeed joined the reserve after World War II. In June 1949, the Air Force activated the 337th Troop Carrier Squadron at Mitchell AFB, N.Y. Then-Capt. Hermansen flew the C-45, C-46, and C-47. Capt. Hermansen was the last interim squadron commander of the 337th from March to May of 1951



until being relieved by the squadron's first permanent commander. He remained in the 337th until 1953 when he returned to active duty and took an overseas assignment.

Coincidentally, he was once again assigned to the 337th TCS from January 1958 to October 1959. The squadron had moved to Bradley Field, Conn., under the 514th Troop Carrier Wing, assigned to the 14th Air Force. He retired in 1967.

The 337th later became part of what was then the 439th Tactical Airlift Wing following a consolidation of reserve units at Westover in 1974.

Maj. Board earned his commission in 1999. "I had my grandfather pin on my first pair of butter bars when I took the officer's oath," he said.

Lt. Col. Hermansen retired with over 26 years

of flying time. His fondest memories are of the days he commanded the Flying Fortress. Now 97, he remains active in his community in Florida. Meanwhile, Major Board carries on with his military generation.

"I always wanted to serve. I continue to enjoy my time with the 337th" he said. His grandfather



doesn't forget his generation that braved the skies over Europe against Germany.

"He still looks up at contrails in the sky and tears up, thinking about his buddies who did not return from the bomb runs," the major said.

WESTOVER PATRIOTS

GoRuck or Go Home

by SSgt. Kelly Goonan

The Air Force tapped Westover as one of the test bases for the “GoRuck event” held Aug. 28-29 and featured a base-wide 5K run and a “GoRuck Light Event.” The overall goal was to give Airmen an opportunity to participate in an adventure-type race while incorporating the Five C’s of Comprehensive Airmen Fitness (Caring, Committing, Connecting, Communicating and Celebrating). The cadre, “Mike,” was a former Special Operations Air Force Combat Controller.

“He gave us a genuine sense of realism to our day in the life of a special ops team member,” said MSgt. Dale Edwards, a participant and a 439th Airlift Wing command post technician. Twenty-seven participants began the event at the fitness center, with the 5K run. Early the following day, the “GoRuck Light Event” began with an hour of calisthenics and a variety of exercises done as a team. Each member carried 40 pounds in their ruck which was never to touch the ground unless the cadre specified to do so. The going got rough quickly. “Two participants dropped out within the first hour,” said Doug Karbouski, 439th Force Support Squadron.

The remaining ones jogged from the fitness center to Wade Lake, working as a team to push a Kawasaki motorcycle with Janice Wheeler at the wheel. “Ms. Wheeler used the brake at random intervals while two participants pushed the vehicle 20-feet until all members had pushed the vehicle at least once,” Karbouski said. During the remaining run to Wade Lake, participants ran with arms locked with each other while the cadre attempted to break the chain as well as tug on participants rucks. Once at the lake, they removed their rucks and told to face away from the lake and inter-lock arms. On the count down from five they would all fall back as a team proving their commitment to one another. Two-hundred butterfly kicks were next, stirring up the lake muck. As they journeyed back from the Dogpatch training area, they rotated 500 pounds of sandbags, giving each team member relief along the way. Again, they encountered water challenges as they used their ruck as a weight to lift overhead, drop down into the water, perform 25 push-ups. The cadre wanted them to be in unison. The first 25 were not done as a team, so they did 25 more. Finally, they ended with 200 more butterfly kicks in the water with rucks on their stomach. The participants endured a physically demanding five-hour team building event, covering an overall distance of nine miles. “We started out as a group of people doing extreme exercises,” said MSgt. Edwards. “As the event went, along we began to know each other’s names, strengths, and weaknesses. “By the time we were done, we came together as a team and realized that without each other we would not be able to accomplish any of the evolutions.” The GoRuck Light at Westover, sponsored by the Air Force, was the fourth DOD-contracted Air Force event held so far. At the end of the event each of the team members were presented a specialized patch that says BE STRONGER TOGETHER.

by W.C.Pope



PROMOTIONS

Master Sergeant David Gilles Jeremy Laplante Jonathan Menard Marc Omerzu

Technical Sergeant Christopher Crawford Michael Gagliano Jose Isales Julian Molina John Rosado-Rosario

Staff Sergeant Matthew Bowen Jason Dunn Samantha Gonzales-Vallejo Thomas Lennon Clifford Purdy Ryan Ratkowski

Senior Airman Fernando Acosta Mokom Aweh Debra Bell Kip DiVito Lorie Morgan Leah Kingsley Ashleigh Leete Christopher Pellegriti Leonardo Rachel Jessica Vega

Airman First Class Michael Bala Austin Ferrari Joshua Green Emily Hines Brandon O'Brien William Sexton Ryan Stager Arielle Towne

Airman Kevin Cordingly Michael Drangenis Zachary Egan Eric Laclair Josue Mendez Addam Murray Joseph Romito-Carey

A1C Kimberly Stetson 439th Airlift Control Flight

A1C Kimberly Stetson, 439th Airlift Control Flight command post journeyman, lives in Auburn, Maine. In her civilian life, she’s a human resource manager for a construction company – and a waitress. The Air Force’s tuition assistance program was among the incentives for this Airman to join. “I really wanted the education benefits,” she said. “Both of my parents were active-duty Air Force. I wanted something different for my life and something that would benefit me after I graduated college.” Only in the Air Force for seven months, A1C Stetson has already had a chance to participate in a temporary duty assignment to Colorado Springs, Colo. “It was my first exercise. Being brand-new to the unit it gave me a chance to see what the (439th) airlift control flight actually did. I learned that everyone works to get the job done. It was really cool getting to witness that.” A1C Stetson already has big plans for her military future. “The plan is to do 20 years. I really enjoy the Air Force and love the opportunities it gives me.”

-- SrA. Alexander Brown



FACES OF WESTOVER

RETIREMENTS

Lt. Colonel David Zamorski Major Marie Hudson

Senior Master Sgt. Lazaro DiJiminez Albert LeFave Andrew Merseth

Master Sergeant Paul Carey Charles Frey Micheal Linnehan

Technical Sergeant Theodore Dygon Ronald Gagnon Marie Hudson Richard Lopez Edmond Sicotte Patrick Rigol Darryl Stetson

SERVICES CALENDER

westoverservices.com by Mollie Anello, services marketing assistant

CLUB >> Paint Nites are scheduled for Oct. 14 and 24, 7 p.m. To purchase tickets go to Paintnite.com and search for Springfield to buy tickets. The club offers daily lunch buffets Tues. through Friday 11 to 1 p.m., or pick from the menu: burgers, chicken sandwiches, salads, wraps and more. BOWLING >> On Fridays and Saturdays in October, bowl a strike when there is a pumpkin on the head pin, and win a game. The Halloween Bowling SPOOK-tacular, Nov. 1, 6-10 p.m., with costume contest, \$1 games in costume, “scary-oke” and more! “Worldwide Bowling Bowl to Win Program” runs from Oct. 1-Dec. 31, 5-18 year-old participants may submit names and results at usafbowltowin.com. A ball and bag will be given away each week. The more games you bowl, the more chances you have to win! FITNESS CENTER >> Flag Football season continues, support your favorite team. Zumba classes are no longer offered; personal training is now available through appointment only, contact Janet Lopez at (413) 374-8320 or ms.janet.lopez@gmail.com. T-25 Club will be every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 11-11:30 a.m. There will be a boxing tournament at Foxwoods Casino, Conn., Nov. 8, 7:30 p.m., UMASS/WARB v. Coast Guard Academy v. West Point. Come and cheer on our own: SSgt. Roberto Figueroa, Cpl. Vinny Torrez, Sgt. April Bendickson, Nick Mileskie and UMass student Jake Miller, with coach Rocky Snow! OUTDOOR REC >> Rent your fall clean-up equipment today! Lawn vacuum, power rake, brush cutter and more! Visit the website for a list of items. 557-2192



You can now Watch Channel 50, Westover News Network at the Westover Consolidated Club, Billeting, Fitness Center, and on local access channel 19 in Chicopee.



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FIRST CLASS
US POSTAGE
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Published monthly for Patriots like SrA.
Yael Perez, 58th Aerial Port Squadron,
and more than 5,500 people assigned to
Westover Air Reserve Base.

