



# PATRIOT

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## 2014 IN REVIEW





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439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, 975 Patriot Ave., Westover ARB, Chicopee, Mass. 01022-1825

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



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439<sup>TH</sup> AIRLIFT WING COMMANDER  
Col. Al Lupenski

CHIEF OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
Lt. Col. James Bishop

LAYOUT/VISUAL INFORMATION  
W.C. Pope

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

STAFF  
TSgt. Brian Boynton  
TSgt. Stephen Winn  
SSgt. Kelly Goonan  
SrA. Alexander Brown  
SrA. Charles Hutchinson IV  
SrA. Monica Ricci

SUPERINTENDENT  
MSgt. Andrew Biscoe

NCOIC  
MSgt. Timm Huffman

### UTA SNAPSHOT

>> SATURDAY: Commander's Call, Base Hangar, 3 p.m.

News briefs	pg. 3
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**ON THE COVER >>** Photos from the past year illustrate another busy year at Westover. Turn to pages 6-7 for more glimpses back at 2014.

## EDITORIAL      HOPE: It moves us forward and bring us out...

**H**appy New Year from your chapel team!  
You probably just finished celebrating Thanksgiving, Christmas, Kwanza, or Chanukah.

Now we move to the new year. This season tends to be filled with new goals, plans, etc. Each January brings renewed resolve, faith, love, and energy. It seems like everyone is looking forward, eyes fixed on the future and full of hope.

Have you ever stopped and thought about hope?  
Many of us just celebrated Christmas, a holiday celebrating the birth of Jesus. Among the many other things recorded about that event, there is an account of a woman named Elizabeth. Her life was pretty rough. Her entire family and nation were under occupation and completely at odds with the governing authorities placed over them. They waited for years for someone to come rescue them, set them free, and make things right. Further, she had no children. Children were the single greatest symbol of legitimacy, value, and meaning in her society.

Unfortunately, she and her husband were older -- well beyond the age of being biologically capable of having children! Generally speaking, she had no hope. She had no reason to think that might change.

However, in one instant, she learned that the promised rescuer was on his way. She was going to have a baby! A short time later, when she confirmed that she was pregnant, she exclaimed, "How kind the Lord is! He has taken away my disgrace of having no children!"  
As you read this, you've probably begun to think about all of the exciting things she was about to encounter. But read her words again.

She's focused on no longer being a disgrace. Hope contains elements of the future and the past. Hope calls us toward something

and out from something else.

I pray that the new year is a time of great hope for you and all your friends and family. Sometimes our hopes and dreams can be diminished by questions regarding where we are, where we have been, and where we are going.

In your journey, I encourage you to ask yourself two questions:

- 1) *Where do you want to be going?*
- 2) *What is haunting you or holding you back?*

Your chapel team would love to help you explore those questions. I publish an encouraging message each Thursday in the podcast and daily on Facebook and Twitter.

Check out the links below!

Podcast: [iTunes](#)  
RSS Feed  
Facebook: [WestoverChapel](#)  
Twitter: [@WestoverChapel](#)

**by Chaplain (Maj.) Matthew Zimmerman**  
**439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing**



### BRIEFS

#### Outreach help

Organizers with the annual youth outreach program need volunteers. Reservists interested in helping out with this popular spring event should contact the military equal opportunity office at 557-2220.

#### Crime stop

Security forces would like to remind that the Crime Stop Hot Line for non-emergency crimes on base is 557-2144.

#### Patriot Wing honors its annual winners

The following Patriot Wing members are the annual award winners for the 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing: Airmen: SrA. Anthony Secreto, 439<sup>th</sup> Operations Support Squadron; NCO: MSgt. Patrick Yarusso (TSgt. during award period), 439<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron; SNCO: MSgt. Gregory Pauli, 439<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineering Squadron; ASTS; 1st Sergeant: MSgt. Albert Raymond III, 337<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron; CGO: Capt. Frances Dixon, 439<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Civilian: Shirley LaFlamme, 439<sup>th</sup> Logistics Readiness Squadron; Civilian Supervisor: James Boudreau, 439<sup>th</sup> AMXS. Additional coverage of these Airmen will be published in the February *Patriot*.

#### Organizers seek descendants of base history

Organizers with the Great New England Air Show breakfast organizers seek information on the possible whereabouts of relatives of the Stonina and Halvorsen families. Both these names are synonymous with the base's history. Anthony Stonina was mayor of Chicopee and a car dealership owner. He had a direct influence with the War Department's 1939 decision to build Westover.

Retired Col. Gail Halvorsen, who is still alive today, made history here in 1948. Then-Lt. Halvorsen became known as the "Candy Bomber," for airdropping candy to children in Berlin, Germany. Plans also call for inviting family members of Maj. Gen. Oscar Westover. Anyone who has specific information is asked to email [439aw.pa@us.af.mil](mailto:439aw.pa@us.af.mil).

#### Chapel hours change

The base chapel is altering their services starting in January. A new evening protestant worship service will be offered Saturdays at 5 p.m. Sunday services will continue to be held.

#### Westover Strong

January's Westover Strong theme is nutrition and sports. Amy Rusiecki, from the Running Rusieckis of western Massachusetts, will make her presentation Jan. 10 at 11:30 a.m. at the Westover Club.



**SHIRTS SERVE >>** An annual holiday tradition took place Dec. 7 as first sergeants served the holiday meal to Airmen at the Westover Club. From left: MSgt. Rayanne Emerson, 439<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron; CMSgt. Frederick Hetu, 439<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; and SMSgt. Daniel Howard, 439<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron (and inset photo). (photos by TSgt. Brian Boynton)



# Year in Review 2014

by MSgt. Andrew Biscoe

Force cuts, base construction, and a new wing commander led the headlines in 2014 at Westover Air Reserve Base.

Local and regional media huddled outside base operations April 28 under the looming tail of a Patriot Wing C-5. The press conference brought a difficult reality resulting from Pentagon budget cuts: Brig. Gen. Steven Vautrain, the wing commander, announced that the base would lose eight C-5s beginning in March 2015 and more than 330 maintenance positions beginning in October 2015. The remaining eight C-5s are scheduled to be re-engined to C-5M Super Galaxy airlifters.

In early May, Deborah Lee James, the Secretary of the Air Force, toured the base with Lt. Gen. James Jackson, AFRC commander. The visit included a town hall-style meeting held in the Base Hangar. Maintenance Airmen also hosted the secretary and commander for a tour of the isochronal inspection dock and mobile tail

enclosure.

A few months later under blue skies, Westover welcomed its 14<sup>th</sup> commander. Col. Albert Lupenski, who arrived from Scott Air Force Base, Ill., on the September A UTA. Col. Lupenski, who has more than 32 years of military service including tenure as an enlisted member, previously led the 932<sup>nd</sup> Airlift Wing, an Air Force Reserve Command tenant unit at Scott. Brig. Gen. John Flournoy, 4<sup>th</sup> Air Force commander, presided over the change of command ceremony.



Brig. Gen. Steven Vautrain, outgoing commander since August 2011, headed to the Pentagon to begin his new assignment. The wing's top enlisted billet changed in November. CMSgt. David Carbin retired. Col. Lupenski chose CMSgt. Timothy Maguire, a 24-year Patriot Wing veteran, as the new command chief.

Despite declining military budgets, the wing kept busy with its worldwide missions. Westover C-5 crews brought supplies back from Afghanistan. Denton Amendment humanitarian sent crews to Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. The cargo included an ambulance, medical supplies, food, and a school bus.

During a mid-July press announcement,

Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick cited Westover's space as a reason for the base's possible housing of more than 1,000 immigrant children. The news of this possibility attracted national and local media attention, but in a matter of weeks, state officials informed Westover leadership that the base was no longer being considered as a shelter for the children.

More than 600 Airmen and their spouses gathered in the Base Hangar Oct. 4 to honor the base's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary during the first military ball held since 1990. Brig. Gen. Udo McGregor, former 439<sup>th</sup> Operations Group commander, was the keynote speaker.

Westover's economic impact for fiscal year 2014 topped out at nearly \$221 million – only \$4 million less than the year before. A major contributor to the robust economic engine that the base provides western Massachusetts was the ongoing construction. On the flight line an underground fuel hydrant system took shape. When finished, the new system replaces a 1950s-era fuel supply. The James Street Gate was closed in the fall and will remain closed until the spring of 2015. The \$36 million set aside for Westover's construction comprised more than 20 percent of AFRC's nationwide construction budget.

Another periodic economic driver is the Great New England Air Show, set to be held May 16-17. The U.S. Navy Blue Angels and Canadian Snowbirds will both perform at Westover for the first time in the base's history. The air show also honors the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Westover's service to the nation.

## Great New England Air Show set to soar in May

### Blue Angels, Snowbirds to perform at two-day event

by MSgt. Andrew Biscoe

As one of the northeast's largest air shows quickly approaches, organizers, meetings, and a recent Blue Angels visit have been part of its extensive preparation.

And in another historic first, two aerial demonstration teams will perform. The Canadian Snowbirds will also fly in the afternoon before the U.S. Navy Blue Angels take to the sky to close out the Saturday and Sunday programs.

The 2015 Great New England Air Show will take place May 16-17. The Blue Angels will headline the show for the first time in the base's history. The team flies six F/A-18 Hornets.

One of the Hornets made a stop here Dec. 17 as part of an advance visit. Marine Capt. Jeff Kuss, the team's narrator, and Marine Capt. Corrie Mays, events coordinator, met with air show representatives to familiarize themselves with the airfield layout.

"With two aerial demonstration teams, this year's air show commemorates Westover's 75th anniversary in grand style," said Lt. Col. David Smith, air show director. "We're excited to be working with the Blue Angels and our friends from the north in Canada, the Snowbirds."

The last time the Canadian team flew at Westover was in 1990, during the base's 50th anniversary air show. This spring's air show is being held on Armed Forces Day,



**EXACT ECHELON >>** The U.S. Navy Blue Angels fly their echelon formation over North Kingstown, R.I., in June 2009. The air demonstration team will headline the 2015 Great New England Air Show. The Canadian Snowbirds will also perform both days of the show. (photo by MSgt. Andrew Biscoe)

the same days when air shows were held during Westover's Strategic Air Command era through the 1950s and '60s.

The Blue Angels last appeared at Westover in 1959, but didn't perform at the base. They instead staged from Westover for their performance over the Eastern States Exposition, more popularly known as the "Big E," that year.

As the May show nears, more information on the air show will be provided through the following links:

westover.afrc.af.mil  
Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/greatnewenglandairshow>, and through the base Facebook and Twitter accounts.

## AIR FORCE FITNESS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM SLATED FOR UPGRADE

By Debbie Gildea  
Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas (AFNS) -- Active-duty, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard officers and enlisted members who want to maintain copies of their pre-July 2010 fitness records need to access the Air Force Fitness Management System (AFFMS) and save or print their records by Dec. 30, Air Force Personnel Center officials said Dec. 9.

AFFMS will be offline from Dec. 31 - Jan. 11 to enable AFPC teams to transition content to the improved Air Force Fitness Management System II, said 1st Lt. Nathan Strickland, the AFPC Special Programs branch chief. When the new system comes back online, it will not include fitness information older than July 2010.

The new system - AFFMS II - will improve accessibility and fitness program managers' ability to manage fitness program records. In addition, it will feature more stringent security controls to protect members' information from unauthorized changes or updates.

"This system will provide Total Force Airmen with a more up-to-date, user-friendly fitness management system that will better support the overall Air Force Fitness program," Strickland said. "Before the system goes down, we want to make sure that Airmen are aware of the pending change and have time to go into the system to save their older records."

While there is no requirement for Airmen to maintain fitness records, Strickland advises Airmen who would like to maintain a copy of their fitness history prior to July 2010 to

go to the current AFFMS site by Dec. 30 and download or print their pre-July 2010 information. Records can be printed or saved as PDFs, he said.

"In the interim, base fitness assessment centers and unit fitness program managers will maintain hard copies of fitness score sheets for Airmen who test while the system is down and will update those records once AFFMS II is up and running," Strickland said.

To save copies of pre-July 2010 records, go to the Air Force Portal, hover the cursor over the "Life & Fitness" menu and select "AF Fitness Management System" from the drop down menu. For more information about the fitness management system and other personnel issues, go to myPers.







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2014 IN REVIEW



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## Guide to the Center Section photos

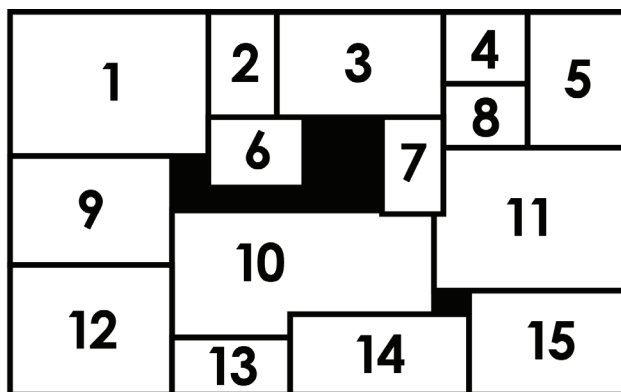
**1** Aerial porters and Army National Guard move a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter onto a C-5, January.

**2** SrA. Maryellen Santiago, 58<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron, gets marshaling training during a Patriot Sands mobility exercise, February.

**3** Col. Albert Lupenski salutes Brig. Gen. John Flournoy, 4<sup>th</sup> Air Force commander, as he assumes command of the 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, September. Also pictured is Brig. Gen. Steven Vautrain, outgoing wing commander.

**4** Maj. Gen. Richard Haddad, Air Force Reserve Command vice commander, tours the air traffic control tower with Brig. Gen. Steven Vautrain, 439<sup>th</sup> AW commander.

**5** MSgts. Joseph Whalen (left) and Todd Panico, 439<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Group quality assurance evaluators, use the new JEDI equipment while on the wing of a C-5, November.



**6** In April, Air Force Reserve Command A-10s line the North Ramp.

**7** A maintenance crew inspects the 65-foot-high tail of a C-5.

**8** As part of a Denton Amendment mission, C-5 aircrew airlifted 20 tons of humanitarian cargo to Guatemala including this school bus, June.

**9** Lt. Gen. James Jackson, chief of the Air Force Reserve, stands on a C-5 wing with Col. Jeff Hancock, 439<sup>th</sup> AW vice commander, May.

**10** Construction continues on the East Ramp on the underground fuel hydrant system.

**11** Deborah Lee James, Secretary of the Air Force, tours the flight deck of a C-5, May.

**12** SrA. Michael Buchanan, right, and MSgt. Chris Hellyar, both with the 337<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron, discuss the specifics of a C-5 mission.

**13** Crew members unload bags of corn in Guatemala, June.

**14** Emergency workers respond to the crew and passengers aboard a Patriot Wing C-5 which landed safely in February following an in-flight depressurization problem.

**15** Westover and western Massachusetts firefighters constantly train on a simulated burning aircraft for the most realistic training possible.

## Around Westover

**BOWLING BUCKS >>** Allen Tracy, right, Pioneer Valley USO president, and Everett Talmadge, Massachusetts Tri-County Bowling Association president, kick off the Dec. 7 bowling tournament at the Westover Bowling Center. Volunteers raised \$1,250 for the USO's food supplies for Airmen and their families. A raffle was held that also raised \$118. (photo by SrA. Charles Hutchinson IV)



**ANGEL VISITATION >>** Marine Capt. Jeff Kuss, top left, and Corrie Mays deplane following their arrival for the Blue Angels' advance visit Dec. 17. Capt. Kuss is the team's narrator and Capt. Mays is the events coordinator. The purpose of the visit was for the Blue Angels to familiarize themselves with the layout of the airfield, local terrain, and base facilities. The air show takes place May 16-17. For more air show coverage, turn to page 5. (Courtesy photo by Ken Middleton)

## WESTOVER STRONG: Too Busy? Lunchtime talk gives tips

by SrA. Charles Hutchinson IV

December's Westover Strong event took place Dec. 6 at the Westover Club. The topic was, "Are you too busy?"

Lorena Prime, a productivity expert and speaker and founder of Clearly Organized Business Solutions from Boston, was the guest speaker. Prime's workshop focused on practical tips that could be used immediately.

"We cannot manage time, but we can manage ourselves," she told the group of Airmen.

She focused on the *Priority Matrix* created by well-known author Stephen Covey.

The matrix is broken up into four quadrants:

Quadrant one concerns tasks that are important and due soon; quadrant two is important, but not due soon. Quadrant three is not important and due soon, and quadrant four is not important and not due soon.

According to Prime, a lot of people skip quadrant two (important, not due soon) and go to three (not important, due soon). The fact that three is due soon, whereas two is not due soon, kicks your quadrant two to quadrant one, and causes people to skip important tasks for non-important tasks that were due sooner.

"When it comes to time management, always focus on doing what is important opposed to doing more," said Prime. "Not every task is equal; different tasks have different urgencies."

In a study done by Microsoft, we interrupt ourselves 40 percent

of the time through checking our phones for new alerts or various other reasons. "You need to be more aware of when you are distracting yourself," Prime said.

One hour of uninterrupted time is equal to three to four hours of normal time, she said.

Prime encouraged delegation. If the person receiving the responsibility can understand at least 70 percent of the task, then they're equipped to handle the task; if you need to train the person on more than 30 percent of the task, either do the task yourself or find someone else more capable of delegating the responsibility.

Prime said, "When it comes to delegation, be a reasonable boss, set reasonable deadlines, and say 'thank you!'"

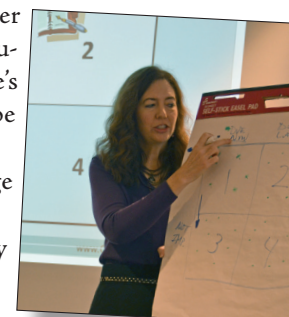
Prime also discussed the positive effects negotiation can have. If you feel a deadline set is unrealistic, it doesn't hurt to attempt to renegotiate the deadline so you can accomplish the task.

More than 25 Airmen attended the event, ranging from junior Airmen to Col. Richard Tubbs, 439<sup>th</sup> AW vice commander.

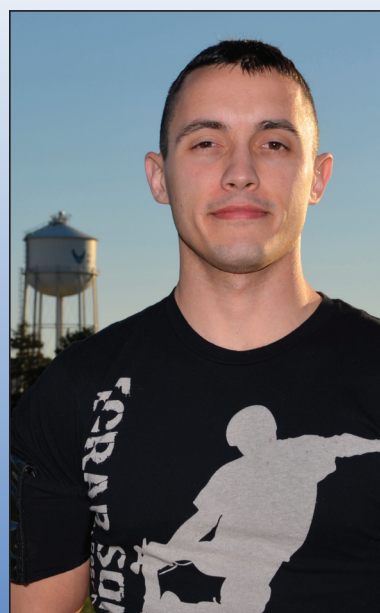
"Any advice on how to more efficiently use our time to get the most important things done helps," said Col. Tubbs.

With a great deal of participation from the attendees, it was evident that this event was well-received.

"This latest Westover Strong event is one more example of how investing a little time over lunch -- to learn new ways to improve ourselves -- pays off in more successful and happier lives," the vice commander added.



## TROOP TALK What's next for your military career?



"I leave for basic in Feb. and am going to tech school to become an aerial porter. My goal is to challenge myself at BMT and tech school to better myself for the future."

>>Christopher Vella  
Agawam, Mass.



"I will be working in military personnel and I will be going to basic training in June 2015. My goal is to be prepared for basic and get accepted into college."

>>Alexandra Orn  
Whitinsville, Mass.



"Once I get through flight engineer school, which is 10 months in Texas, I want to get good hands-on training here and learn the skills to do the job right."

>>Douglas Wright  
Waltham, Mass.



"I have been an electro-environmental specialist for three years. I am looking to make staff sergeant soon and I'm looking forward to college."

>>SrA. Paul Reed  
439<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron

photos by SrA. Monica Ricci



WESTOVER PATRIOTS

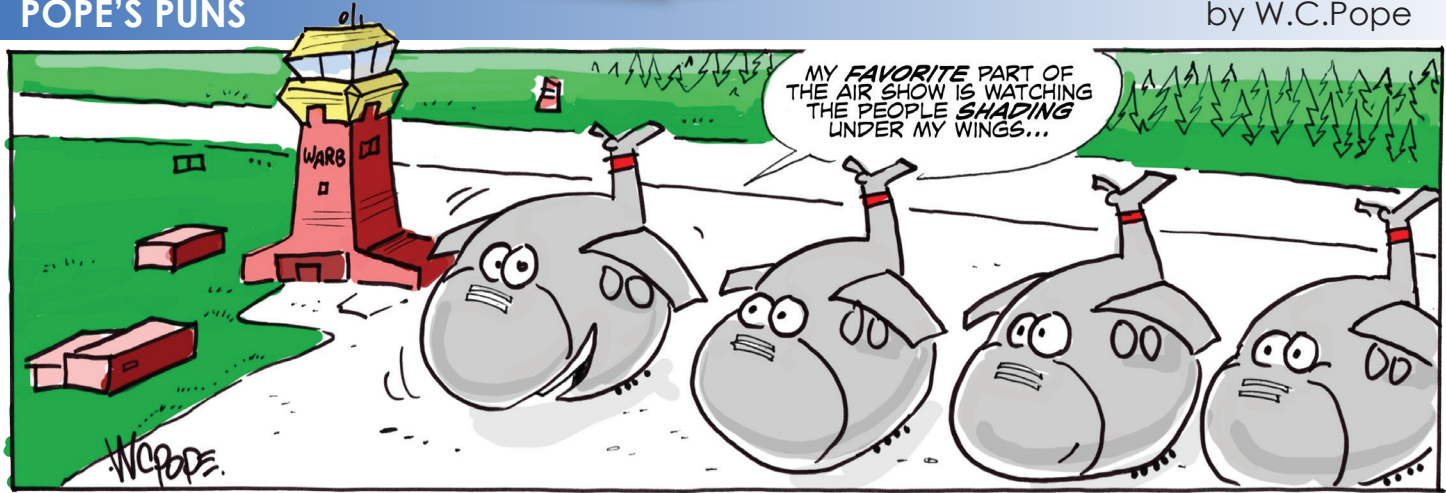
# HOLIDAY CHEER

**CHRISTMAS SPIRITS >>** The holiday cheer was in full swing at Westover and at the Soldiers' Home in December. Clockwise from right: A sing-along takes place at the annual Children's Christmas Party held in the Base Hangar Dec. 6; SMSgt. Heather Zackaricz's daughters and niece played characters from the movie "Frozen;" Airmen spend time with veterans Dec. 17; Junior ROTC Airmen man the "build yourself a snowman" table where kids created marshmallow snowmen, and Santa and Mrs. Claus visit the wing legal office. (Public affairs and courtesy photos)



POPE'S PUNS

by W.C.Pope



PROMOTIONS

**Senior Master Sgt.**  
Christopher Harry



**Master Sergeant**  
Sally Granada



**Technical Sergeant**  
Lori Doherty  
Margaret Gabriel  
Collin Plummer  
Karen Watts



**Staff Sergeant**  
Charles Andrews  
Anthony Cunha  
Jacob LeBlanc  
Demetri Rosa  
Dennis Stacks  
Arthur Statenzi  
Christopher Wasuk



**Senior Airman**  
Drew Balderston  
Richard Brisebois  
Edgar Cupertino  
Diego DaSilva  
Tyler Karanasios  
Keegan Halpin  
Dyllan Jones-Leonard  
Taylor Mercier  
Jesse Messier  
Juan Picazo  
Nicholas Runyan  
Ramar Taylor  
Nicholas Uzzo



**Airman 1st Class**  
Chandler McCray  
Zachary Snyder  
Adam Suplinskas



**Airman**  
Corey Costa  
Casey Gilbert  
Aliesia Whittle



## SrA. Anthony Rodrigue 439<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron

SrA. Anthony Rodrigue pursued the U.S. Air Force right in his back yard -- he's a Chicopee native who's been at Westover a little over four years. SrA. Rodrigue handles security responsibilities on Westover's flight line. He's also one of the first Airmen motorists see as they enter the base. SrA. Rodrigue is a gate guard and works in the inspection bay next to the pass and ID building at the Westover Road gate. SrA. Rodrigue graduated from Chicopee Comprehensive High School in 2009. He plans on pursuing education through the Air Force, and has begun studies with the Community College of the Air Force. In his off-duty time, he enjoys music, and has played the drums for more than 10 years. His favorite music is "hard-core punk." But his primary means of living -- helping keep Westover secure -- has always been his main interest. "Police work has always been interesting to me," he said.

-- MSgt. Andrew Biscoe



FACES OF WESTOVER

RETIREMENTS

**Lt. Colonel**  
John McSpadden

**Senior Master Sgt.**  
Nelson Serrao

**Master Sergeant**  
Dawid Dybski  
Robert Majewski Jr.  
Brian Saylor  
Maida Yeh

**Technical Sergeant**  
Theresa Dionne  
  
**Staff Sergeant**  
Paul Soja

SERVICES CALENDER

westoverservices.com  
by Mollie Anello, services marketing assistant

**CLUB >>** Moose and The Hightops LIVE in the Club Lounge! Jan. 10, 8 p.m.-12 a.m. and Jan. 24, 8 p.m.-12 a.m.

**BOWLING >>** Senior Bowling League, Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m., free coffee and senior discounts at lunch! Join today!

**FITNESS CENTER >>** Basketball Season begins Jan. 12; 3 Point Shootout -- Feb. 20 at 4 p.m.; sign up today!

**OUTDOOR RECREATION: >>** Winter is upon us! Cross-Country and Downhill Skis, Snowshoes, and much more! For more information, call 557-2192.







Published monthly for Patriots like SrA. Merari Antunez, 439<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Staging Squadron, and more than 4,700 people assigned to Westover Air Reserve Base.

## EMPENNAGE

### Quarterly winners

The following Patriot Wing members are the quarterly award winners for the fourth quarter: Airman: SrA. Janet Izquierdo, 439<sup>th</sup> Force Support Squadron; NCO: TSgt. Kayla Grenier, 439<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Staging Squadron; SNCO: MSgt. Kara Stackpole, ASTS; CGO: Capt. Ryan McKenna, 42<sup>nd</sup> Aerial Port Squadron; Civilian: Michael Hobbs, 439<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron; Civilian Supervisor: Kimberly Spencer-Sutton.



**WREATHS** >> Members of the Retired Aircraft Maintainers visited the Veterans' Memorial Cemetery in Agawam Dec. 11 to honor fallen Patriot Wing reservists. Retirees SMSgt. Paul Bergeron (left) and CMSgt. Bill Currier place a wreath at one of the 22 gravesites of deceased Westover maintainers. (photos by MSgt. Andrew Biscoe)