



PATRIOT

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UTA SNAPSHOT -- SATURDAY

>> Disaster training exercise, Base Hangar, flight line, noon.

News briefs | **pg. 3**

One for the books | **pg. 4**

Show draws thousands | **pg. 5**

Air Show Gallery | **pg. 6-13**

Thank you, performers! | **pg. 15**

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A Legend returns | **pg. 17**

FIRST >> Again we are making changes to the Patriot, now without the constraints of the printed format we thought this more screen friendly ratio would be a better fit now that we are online. It is also more printer friendly.

WESTOVER

DESCENDANTS >>

To celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the base the great-grandchildren and their families of Gen. Oscar Westover for whom the base is named. From left to right; John Kernan (age 10), Tim Mount, Tamara Westover Mount, Amelia Mount (age 8), Tiffany Westover Kernan, Katherine Kernan (age 9), Gunnar Hansen (age 1), Peter Hansen, Kristin Hansen, Dashed Hansen (age 2). (photo by W.C.Pope)



EDITORIAL Air show highlights long history of Air Force professionalism at Westover

The 2015 Great New England Air Show is in the books. It was an epic event and the entire 439th Airlift Wing should be proud.

This event took a lot of planning and hard work. There were months of meetings and coordination that went into ensuring we had a safe and successful airshow. There are many people to thank and it is impossible to list everyone. I particularly want to thank our Security Forces Squadron for keeping us safe. It was not an easy task to bring nearly 400,000 guests onto this installation. I'd also like to thank the Galaxy Council for their support. Without them we could not have done this. The entire wing has my utmost appreciation for showcasing this great organization and installation.

As with any air show the weather is always a concern. In the days prior to the air show it seemed that the forecast



changed by the minute. In the end we had two days of great weather that allowed all of our performers to put on a great show.

It was great to have so many great performers and teams. It is not often that you get to see the Canadian Snowbirds and the Blue Angels at the same show. With the addition of the Golden Knights, the F-22 demo team and the other great civilian acts, this air show will be tough to beat. It was great to see the F-22 team venture out to the Holyoke Soldiers Home. What a great display of community outreach.

I have no doubt that our local community has a better understanding of who we are and what we do here at Westover. It was a great way to give back and say thank you. Also, what better way to celebrate Armed Forces Day and the 75th anniversary of Westover than with

a display of airpower.

While Air Force bases are not designed to handle hundreds of thousands of people, we learned some valuable lessons. We will learn from the complex logistics of this air show and apply those lessons learned to make the next one even better.

All of you should be very proud of yourselves and of this wing. This was not easy and everyone had incredible attitudes and were great ambassadors – not only for AFRC but for the Air Force. You all made it look easy.

With the airshow behind us we look to the Capstone Event in August. This event will bring headquarters to Westover to evaluate our effectiveness. I am confident that we will do well and look forward to showcasing this outstanding wing. I am grateful to be your commander and proud of our air show and its display of the Air Force Reserve Command's finest Citizen Airmen.

**by Col. Al Lupenski
439th AW commander**

BRIEFS

Become an SABC instructor

To become a self-aid buddy care instructor you must complete the online CBT and the hands on training with your unit SABC Monitor. Once this is done contact MSgt. Raamah Thompson at 557-7011 to set up your class for instructor training. These classes are normally on the Saturdays of both UTAs at 10 a.m., but can be scheduled during the week.

Psychological Health Summer Classes

Westover's director of psychological health has announced summer class dates. Classes include: Tai Chi for Relaxation, Relaxation Yoga, Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, iRest Meditation for Deep Relaxation, and Relationship Seminars. Check base emails for schedules or call 557-2623 for more information.

Disaster training exercise to take place June A UTA

A National Disaster Medical System exercise is scheduled to take place June 6 at the Base Hangar. Some agencies involved are the Northampton Veteran's Affairs office, local area hospitals, the Department of Public Health, and of course, Westover Fire, Security Forces and the 439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. Western Massachusetts will be considered the "disaster area," prompting a number of ambulances to exercise ground transport exercise patients from local hospitals, to the Westover Fire Station, and onto C-130s, C-17s and HH-60 Helicopters.

Capstone

The capstone event is scheduled to take place from August 6-11. About 40 Air Force Reserve Command people will visit Westover to validate our self-assessment of our ability to perform the wing's mission.

Base cable channel 50

The televised Westover News Network is available for viewing in the fitness center, billeting, and the Westover Club. The base cable channel, produced by the 439th AW public affairs staff, includes news and events and feature stories on the people and the mission at Westover. For more information, call 557-2062.

Around Westover



OUTREACH >> Westover hosted the Youth Outreach event in and around the Base Hangar May 27. About 140 students attended, including Junior ROTC students from Central High, Springfield School of Science and Technology, and Chicopee High. Fifteen young men and women attended from the neighboring Westover Job Corps. Lt. Col. Donald Gomes, Military Equal Opportunity office and MSgt. Zakir Robinson, 439th Maintenance Squadron, organized the Youth Outreach. Scores of young Airmen volunteers assisted from all over base. "This is the ninth year we have sponsored this event and it's always a big hit with the students," said Lt. Col. Gomes. "Each year we add new activity stations." The eight-minute stations included police K-9, fire department, bomb disposal, first aid, ASVAB testing, aircrew flight equipment, security forces and a C-5 tour. (photo by SSgt. Kelly Goonan)



LEGO REAPER >> On May 15, a flatbed arrived from Hancock Field, Syracuse, N.Y. with a huge shoe-box shaped caintainer. In no time the maintainers from the 174th Attack Wing put the contents - a MQ-9 Reaper together like a model kit. The unique "drone" made a great addition to this years air shows static displays. The 174th swapped out its F-16s in 2009 for the unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) Reaper. One-third of their F-16 fighter pilots stayed on to pilot the Reaper from behind video-game like controls. (photo by SSgt. Kelly Goonan)



Great New England Air Show draws close to 400,000



by MSgt. Andrew Biscoe

An unprecedented air show with six headline acts -- including two major North American aerial demonstration teams -- pulled in nearly 400,000 visitors May 16-17.

Mother Nature, which ultimately determines how high and fast the pilots can safely perform, cooperated both days of the Great New England Air Show, as sunny skies backdropped performers who looped, turned, and climbed over the base.

The show's momentum actually began to wind up well before the weekend, when the first U.S. Navy Blue Angel F/A-18 fighter roared into the western Massachusetts skies May 14. Three incentive rides brought an area teacher, policeman, and local journalist into the air for more than a half hour each. Blue Angels and Canadian Snowbirds practice flights raised the pre-show level of excitement for the base populace as well.

A variety of Air Force airlift, trainer, and fighters

comprised the static aircraft. Spectators had a rare chance to view a Reaper drone from the Air National Guard's 174th Wing at Hancock Field, N.Y. The performers, besides the Blue Angels, included the Canadian Snowbirds, an Air Force F-22, the Geico Skytypers, a Canadian CF-18, and the Army's Golden Knights parachuting teams.

"This was an epic air show," said Col. Albert Lupenski, 439th Airlift Wing commander. "Our security forces Airmen superbly handled an enormous volume of traffic -- all while we're in an increased threat posture. Hundreds of volunteers also were key to the success of this event. The convergence of three major flying acts was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

Lt. Col. David Smith, air show director, said he heard compliments all weekend about the professionalism of the entire Patriot Wing.

"Everyone I spoke with said how kind and accommodating all the people are here, and that this was an excellent air show," he said.

AIR SHOW UNITES PAST, PRESENT MILITARY

by SSgt. Amelia Leonard

Air shows. They're known for their adrenaline-pumping, aerobatic demonstration teams, plethora of static aircraft displays, rows-upon-rows of food and souvenir vendors, and hundreds-of-thousands of spectators.

The 2015 Great New England Air Show celebrated the 75th anniversary of Westover and highlighted two headliners, the Canadian Snowbirds and Navy Blue Angels, as well as several military and civilian acts. There were more than a dozen Air Force static displays in addition to an entire World War II Warbirds display.

The civilian population saw a world routinely hidden from the public, and got the opportunity to tour the inside of aircraft and speak to air crew. But for veterans like retired SMSgt. Robert Irwin, who stopped by the media tent during the air show and recounted his close calls with the enemy and years of service, the air show afforded him the opportunity to see, feel and climb inside his beloved B-17 Flying Fortress, the same aircraft which carried him through 34 missions in WW II.



SMSgt. Irwin, who enlisted in 1944 at 19 during the height of the war, flew combat missions on the B-17 over Germany. He was a gunner in the aircraft and later taught gunner school in Nevada.

During combat, he was hit twice with exploding shells from enemy fire. He was hit in the foot through the aircraft and then hit in his parachute after evacuating his aircraft. He received the Purple Heart and Distinguished Flying Cross medals for his heroism and injuries sustained during the attack.

After WW II ended, he continued his military career with the Air National Guard. He deployed two more times; once to Libya in 1960 and once to France in 1961 to support the Berlin Crisis. He retired from the Air National Guard after 35 years of service.

There were nearly 400,000 spectators packed into the Great New England Air Show, and there were also heroes, like Irwin, walking among the crowds. His motivation for coming to the show was simple: he wanted to see the B-17 one last time.

2015 Great New England Air Show



BURST OF EXCITEMENT >> Not only were the crowds excited to be at the show, the Canadian Snowbirds were too. The team said the May air show included the largest number of people they have performed for in recent history. (U.S. Air Force photos/MSgt. Andrew Biscoe)

2015 Great New England Air Show



SHEER NUMBERS >> The 2015 air show was one of the biggest in Westover's history. Close to 400,000 people streamed through Westover's gates. (photos by TSgt. Brian Boynton)



2015 Great New England Air Show



CLASS ACTS >> Most air shows only get one headliner. Westover's had six, to include the Blue Angels and the Canadian Snowbirds. (photos by SSgt. Kelly Goonan)



2015 Great New England Air Show



LOOK TO THE SKY >>

The weather forecast for the air show weekend didn't look promising, but Westover's first spring air show was initially overcast and then mild on Saturday and sunny on Sunday. (photos by SSgt. Kelly Goonan)



2015 Great New England Air Show



LOCAL FLAIR >> SrA. Ismael DeBarros, (center), crew chief for the F-22 Raptor demonstration team, is originally from Canton, Mass. Even with the expected problems with heavy traffic, people of all ages enjoyed themselves and got a unique chance to see various military aircraft on display on Westover's vast flight line. (photos by SSgt. Amelia Leonard)

2015 Great New England Air Show



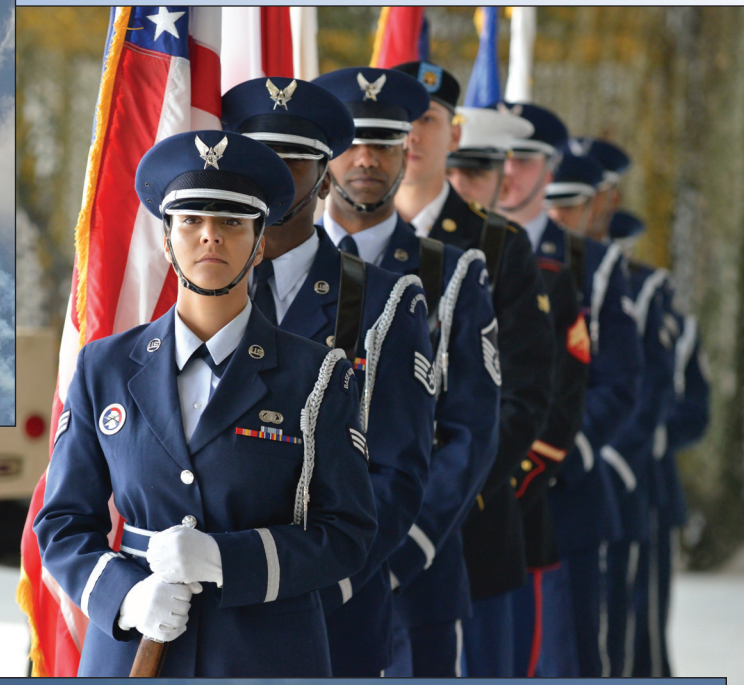
AIRSHOW SIGHTS >>
SrA. Monica Ricci shows photos to the great-great grandchildren of the base's namesake, Maj. Gen. Oscar Westover. The photos included the Blue Angels flying local media and VIPs earlier in the week. (photos by W.C.Pope)



2015 Great New England Air Show



HONOR >> This air show was dedicated to Korean War veterans. During the air show kickoff breakfast these veterans were asked to stand and as their individual service song played in the background. (photos by W.C.Pope)



2015 Great New England Air Show



FLYING HIGH >>

The three main air show acts were different enough in their styles and formats that they complemented each other, showcasing precision flying by top-notch aviators. (photos by SrA. Monica Ricci)



Around Westover



V.I.P. ANGELS >> Only the few and the proud get to fly with the Blue Angels, and these lucky key influencers can add their names to the short list. From left to right: Joseph Lucian, assistant principal, Coventry High School; Laura Hutchinson, news reporter, WWLP 22; and Jim Hurley, chief of police, Leicester, Mass. The pilot that took these VIPs up for the ride of their lives was Marine Capt. Jeff Kuss, Blue Angel number 7. (photos by W.C. Pope)



CHIEF BRICKS >> The Westover Chiefs Council broke ground on an ambitious project days before the May UTA in preparation for a Chiefs Memorial to be located at the Base Ellipse. The memorial will feature dedication bricks. The bricks range in donation price from \$50 to \$100 and provide donors three lines to write a commemorative statement. The

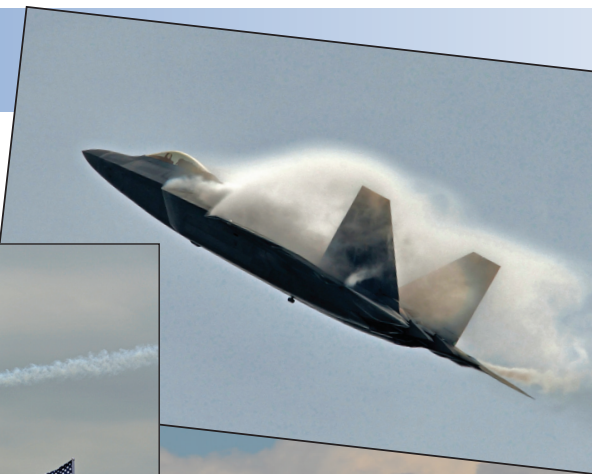
project starts in June and take the better part of the remaining year to be completed, when roughly 4,000 bricks in the shape of a circle will bear commemorative etchings and the overall pattern of the U.S. Air Force logo. The top line can have a maximum of 14 characters and spaces, and 12 characters and spaces for the remaining two lines, for a total of 14, 12 and 12. Make checks payable to and mail them to: Westover Chief's Council, 570 Patriot Avenue, Box 25, Westover ARB, Chicopee, MA 01022.

POPE'S PUNS

by W.C.Pope



Thanks to our performers!



HIGH FLYING APPRECIATION

>>This year's air show saw a record number of attendees and it was in no small part because of all of the stellar performers. We have to thank all the great airmen that made this possible. (photos by Public Affairs Staff)



PROMOTIONS

Senior Master Sgt.
Charles Carlin



Master Sergeant
Alexis Agnew
Ronald Antezana
Kenneth Collins
Keith Fernet
Heath Libiszewski
Erik Richard
Kara Vautour



Technical Sergeant
Garrett Barsalou
Christopher Cardella
Nathan Ford
Jeffrey Gordon
Ashley Sizemore



Staff Sergeant
Joe Afonso
Michael Burney
Telmo Dasilva
Amy Donohoe
Rozlyn Edwards
Jozlyn Goosens
David Maison
Steven McQuade
Philip Paradis
Stacey Rutkauskas
Meliss Van Gorden



Senior Airman
Romaine Campbell
Austin Ferrari
Colleen Hutcheson
Megan Kitchen
Branden O'Brien



Airman First Class
Travis Biega
Kisha Rivera



**Are
your
records
up to
date?**

Maj. Matthew Podkowka Air Boss, 2015 Great New England Air Show



A Patriot Wing C-5 pilot led the choreography of one the largest air shows at Westover held in decades during his debut as the air boss.

Instead of flying the U.S. military's largest jet and speaking with Westover air controllers, Maj. Matthew Podkowka switched positions and stood watch in the base control tower for three straight days. He orchestrated six major flying demonstrations during the Great New England Air Show.

"The air boss is important because the position really involves all of the military acts – how they're going to perform the show, when they're going to perform, what sort of performance they'll fly to when they can start engines and taxi," he said.

With six of the U.S. Navy's Blue Angel F/A-18s flying in the area, Maj. Podkowka worked with Federal Aviation Administration officials to ensure the air-space was safe for the world-famous team.

"We got a FAA waiver during the air show to perform aerobatics," he said. "The air show went off without a hitch; there were no delays, and the weather cooperated. We had a small snafu Saturday with ensuring one of the flags was set up right, but overall this air show went smoothly. By the time Sunday rolled around, we had all the bugs worked out."

Maj. Podkowka has been a C-5 pilot for 10 years, and has been at Westover since 2003. He's originally from Ware, Mass.

--MSgt. Andrew Biscoe

SERVICES CALENDER

westoverservices.com
by Mollie Anello, services marketing assistant

CLUB >> DJ Kuls, KanJam & Cornhole Tournaments, June 6 and June 27, 7 – 11 p.m.

BOWLING >> Flag Day Bowl June 14, 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. - Wear Red, White, or Blue and receive free bowling during lunch! Father's Day Bowl, June 19-20, 5-11 p.m. - Bring dad and he bowls for free! Games for Grades during the month of June, bring in your report card and receive a free game of bowling for every "A"!

FITNESS >> NEW Wellbeats Class Times! Check out the fitness center for details on classes and times; new outdoor fitness equipment is set up on the ellipse side of the gym - enjoy your workout in the outdoors! There is a pull up bar, sit-up bench, double sit-up bench, and push-up bars.

OUTDOOR REC >> Boats, kayaks, canoes, fishing equipment and more! Come to outdoor recreation for all of your summertime rentals! Call 557-2192 to make your reservation today!



PATRIOT



Look for WNN on local
community access channels



Published monthly for Patriots like SSgt. Jacob Rylander, 439th Security Forces Squadron, and more than 4,700 people assigned to Westover Air Reserve Base.

EMPENNAGE

Outbrief on Westover's feasibility for the new KC-46 tanker

Through the first week of June, Lt. Col. Kelly Hosey will host an evaluation team that will determine the viability of Westover getting Boeing's new air refueling tanker, the KC-46 Pegasus.

A final decision by Air Force Reserve Command and the Air Force will be made sometime next year.



WESTOVER LEGEND >>

Retired Col. Charlie Brown returned as the main speaker at the Great New England Air Show Kickoff Breakfast May 15. The former maintenance group commander and a Vietnam War POW delivered a powerful and succinct speech that set the mood for the entire air show. He's pictured here by a replica of a B-52D Stratofortress shot down over North Vietnam in December 1972. (photo by W.C.Pope)