

Star Spangled 2015 Roundup



PATRIOT

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UTA SNAPSHOT

>> SATURDAY: Awards gala at the Westover Club, 6 to 8:30 p.m.

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Another year came to a close for the Patriot Wing in December. Turn to pages 5-7 for a look back on some of the highlights of 2015.



NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS >> Here's hoping everyone had a family filled holiday from Santa and Mrs. Claus and the JAG's office! Santa's "helpers" Bob and Kathy Kies have bringing the holiday spirit to Westover for more than 22 years. Kathy has worked in the JAG's office since 1989. (photo by TSgt. Brian Boynton)

EDITORIAL

“Highly Effective” throughout the year

Well it has been a great year. I can't thank you enough for all the hard work and dedication. As I look back over the year one thing stands out. This wing is truly about Excellence. You have proved it time and time again.

There are so many accomplishments that I don't have enough space to address all of them. There are two that stand out. Our “Highly Effective” grade on the recent Unit Effectiveness Inspection and the announcement back in November that we were the winner of the 4th Air Force Raincross Trophy. Both of these accomplishments speak volumes about the Airmen at Westover.

The grade of Highly Effective is something to be proud of. To date only four wings in Air Force Reserve Command have achieved that grade. Think about that... your professionalism and dedication to excellence is why we received that grade. We did not achieve such a high grade because we “prepared for an inspection.” We earned that grade because we were ready. We just showed the Inspector General team what we do on a day-to-day basis. As we move forward, I fully expect that we will continue to show that we do it right, and do it right every time.

It was an honor to accept the Raincross Trophy for the Patriot Wing back in November. This was the first time that the 439th Airlift Wing has won this award. Again, it shows that the sign on the marquee “Leaders in Excellence” is not just a catch phrase. We really believe it and we prove it every day. The Raincross Trophy is given to the top wing in 4th Air Force, the largest Numbered Air Force in the Air Force Reserve Command. There are a lot of wings out there doing great things, so to receive this award is truly an honor and you most certainly deserve it. This award belongs to each and every Airman in this organization.

As we move into the New Year, let's continue to focus on excellence. We are a benchmark organization and I am proud to serve as your commander. Happy New Year to you and your families.

Col. Al Lupenski
439th Airlift Wing commander



BRIEFS

SFS awards

Our security forces professionals reined in three AFRC-level awards in November. Outstanding flight level NCO went to SSgt. Rory Griffin, outstanding support staff SNCO went to MSgt. Steven Pelletier, and the outstanding civilian support staff went to Charles Trovarello.

Wing honors quarterly winners

The fourth quarter winners for the 439th Airlift Wing are: Airman: SrA. Jonathon Teixeira, 439th Force Support Squadron; NCO: TSgt. Dennis Szepanski, 439th Maintenance Squadron; SNCO: MSgt. Jessica Anderson, 439th Civil Engineering Squadron; Company Grade Officer: Capt. Shelly Martin, 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Civilian: Tracey Ress, 439th Operations Support Squadron; Civilian Supervisor: Michael Wysocki.

Senate confirms Patriot Wing commander's promotion

The Senate confirmed Westover's wing commander for promotion to brigadier general, Dec. 10. This follows the Air Force announcement Nov. 24., that the President had nominated Col. Albert Lupenski for promotion awaiting Senate confirmation. The actual pin-on date will be announced in the near future.

Col. Lupenski has commanded the 439th AW since September 2014. He's also the fifth out of six wing commanders at Westover since 2000 to be nominated for the flag officer rank.

January awards banquet

A new event that features a presentation of annual wing-level awards will be held Jan. 9. The Westover Club will host the gala from 6-8:30 p.m. Service dress is required and tickets cost \$25, which covers the buffet.

James Street Gate

The James Street Gate is scheduled to open by the January A UTA, with reduced operating hours. The Westover Road Gate will remain open 24 hours each day.

439TH AIRLIFT WING NAMED BEST IN 4TH AF

by SMSgt. Keith Baxter
Headquarters Fourth Air Force

MARCH AIR RESERVE BASE, Calif. – The 439th Airlift Wing at Westover was awarded the 2015 Raincross Trophy at a dinner, Nov. 19, naming them best wing in 4th Air Force, a title they will carry for the next year.

“I am incredibly proud of my Airmen, they worked very hard for this award. They don’t do it for recognition, they do it because each and every one of them take pride in their jobs,” commented Col. Albert Lupenski, 439th AW commander. “This is all for them.”

The Raincross Trophy was reinstated in 1998 after the NAF headquarters relocated from McClellan Air Force Base, Calif. to March ARB.

“The competition for these awards is really a matter of pride in Fourth Air Force,” said Maj. Gen. John C. Flournoy, 4th Air Force commander. “The decision is never easy because each wing has a unique mission set. Every wing is performing far above expectations.”

This year’s selection process was among the most competitive, with each wing submitting high quality nomination packages, said Lt. Col. C.J. Bentley, 4th Air Force process manager. “The competition was tight but the stand out winner was the 439th.”

The Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce Military Affairs Committee hosted the 16th Annual Raincross Trophy Dinner at the Riverside Convention Center, which was attended by commanders and command chiefs representing each wing in the numbered Air Force, as well as local community leaders and elected officials.

March ARB is home to 4th AF headquarters and the 452nd Air Mobility Wing.

Three other awards were announced at the ceremony:

The 315th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, S.C., was presented The Aircrew Excellence Award.

The 434th Air Refueling Wing, Grissom ARB, Ind., earned The CMSgt. James Clouse Trophy, for maintenance excellence.

The 927th Air Refueling Wing, MacDill AFB, Fla., received The TSgt. Anthony Campbell Trophy, in recognition of being the best Mission Support Group in 4th AF.



Pre-deployment series - Part 4

CBRN instruction includes new M-50 mask instruction



EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the fourth part of a four-part series on pre-deployment readiness. More than 250 Patriot Wing Airmen are scheduled to deploy next spring and summer.

by MSgt. Andrew Biscoe

“ALARM RED, MOPP-4!”

For those who have been in the Air Force awhile, that means to don the chemical warfare ensemble mask, and to do so quickly while huddled low to the ground.

During a recent CBRN defense class, Karen Watts, a CBRN instructor with emergency management, kept her eye on the Airmen – and the time. Seconds count when donning the gas mask – nine, to be exact.

“The short time span helps reinforce the urgency of donning the M-50 mask,” Watts said. “It could save your life.”

More than 250 Airmen scheduled to deploy in the spring and summer will spend portions of their UTAs at the emergency management building on Patriot Avenue, where many will don the newer M-50 masks for the first time. The EM building is located on Patriot Avenue, just before the civil engineering complex.

2015 roundup

2015 >> Spectators watch performers at the Great New England Air Show. More than 375,000 people attended the two-day show in May. A 439th Airlift Control Flight Airman marshals a C-17 Globemaster III to its parking spot during Patriot Palm, June. The annual Youth Outreach brought in more than 100 high school students who toured a C-5 and the Base Hangar in May. The James Street Gate was closed for most of the year for an entire renovation and was expected to open in January. Stephen Jendrysik was the Patriot Wing's honorary wing commander for 2015.



2015 roundup



Record snowfall blanketed the base and New England throughout early 2015. The Westover Fire Department earned international accreditation in August. A group of Patriot Wing Airmen traveled more than 250 miles in January to rural northeastern Maine to honor a Westover B-52 crew that crashed in January 1963; ESPN's First Take's national exposure brought Westover into focus as seen here with hosts Steven A. Smith, Molly Qerim, and Skip Bayless in November. A French Typhoon fighter and KC-135R tanker take up a temporary residence on the base's massive flight line in September.



2015 roundup

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2015 >> As the Air Force continued to press ahead with modernizing the C-5 fleet to M models, the Patriot Wing armada began to shrink in 2015. By the end of the year, there were just nine C-5s on the flight line. The Air Force plans to reduce the 439th AW's fleet by 50 percent. The remaining eight C-5s will all be modernized to M models with quieter and more powerful engines. Estimated completion is by mid-2019. Marine Lt. Col. Kyle Dewar salutes during the Marine Air Support Squadron-Six change of command. Marine Maj. Keith Dillard talks with Maj. Gen. John Flournoy, during the 4th Air Force commander's UTA visit to the base in October. Also pictured are Col. Al Lupenski, 439th AW commander, and CMSgt. Brian Wong, 4th AF command chief. Airmen with the 439th Airlift Control Flight and 337th Airlift Squadron coordinate offloading of vehicles during the Northern Clipper exercise in September. A row of A-10 Thunderbolt II attack jets and a C-17 Globemaster III are lined up on the flight line in February.

Around Westover



ARLINGTON WREATHS >> A group of seven maintainers from the 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron participated in the annual "Wreaths Across America" held on Dec. 12 at Arlington National Cemetery and cemeteries across the country. TSgt. Alex Motoc places a wreath on Paul Booker's grave. Booker is the father of TSgt. Andrew Booker, who works with TSgt. Motoc. Each year over 500,000 wreaths are placed on veteran's graves; of those almost 150,000 were placed at Arlington. (photos by TSgt. Alex Motoc, 439th AMXS)

NEW MXG CC >> During the December UTA, Dec 12, Lt. Col. Jordan Murphy took command of the 439th Maintenance Squadron. Airmen from the squadron stood in formation in the ISO Hangar while the stage was set in front of a C-5M Super Galaxy from Travis AFB, Calif. (photos by SSgt. John Alexander, 439th Maintenance Squadron)



ANNUAL FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY >>

The Children's Christmas Party was held in the fuel cell hangar Dec. 5 for all family members. Festivities included craft projects, games, bounce houses, Santa and Mrs. Claus, and treats from the Pioneer Valley USO. (photos by TSgt. Brian Boynton)



ANNUAL USO BOWLING TOURNEY >> The Pioneer Valley USO held its annual event at the Westover Bowling Center and raised \$1,400 for the USO food supplies for Airmen and their families. (photos by TSgt. Brian Boynton)



“What do you want to achieve in your first year at Westover?”



“I want to play a role on the base, have the base become my family and become an asset.”

**>> AB Zaire Laroche,
439th Civil Engineer Squadron**



“I want to finish on the job training.”

**>> Amn. Logan Guay,
439th CES**



“I want to complete my Community College of the Air Force.”

**>>A1C Christopher Childs,
58th Aerial Port Squadron**

RESERVISTS GO ACTIVE DUTY

At the beginning of fiscal year 2016 the Air Force Personnel Center launched the Voluntary Limited Period of Active Duty program.

The program is offering some great opportunities for Air Force Reservists interested in returning to active duty.

Under VLPAD, opportunities to serve an active-duty tour for a period of three years and one day are being offered to Air Force Reserve members for certain Air Force specialties.

Opportunities will be available for enlisted

Airmen and officers in nearly 100 different career fields, including maintenance, aircrew operations and command control systems operations.

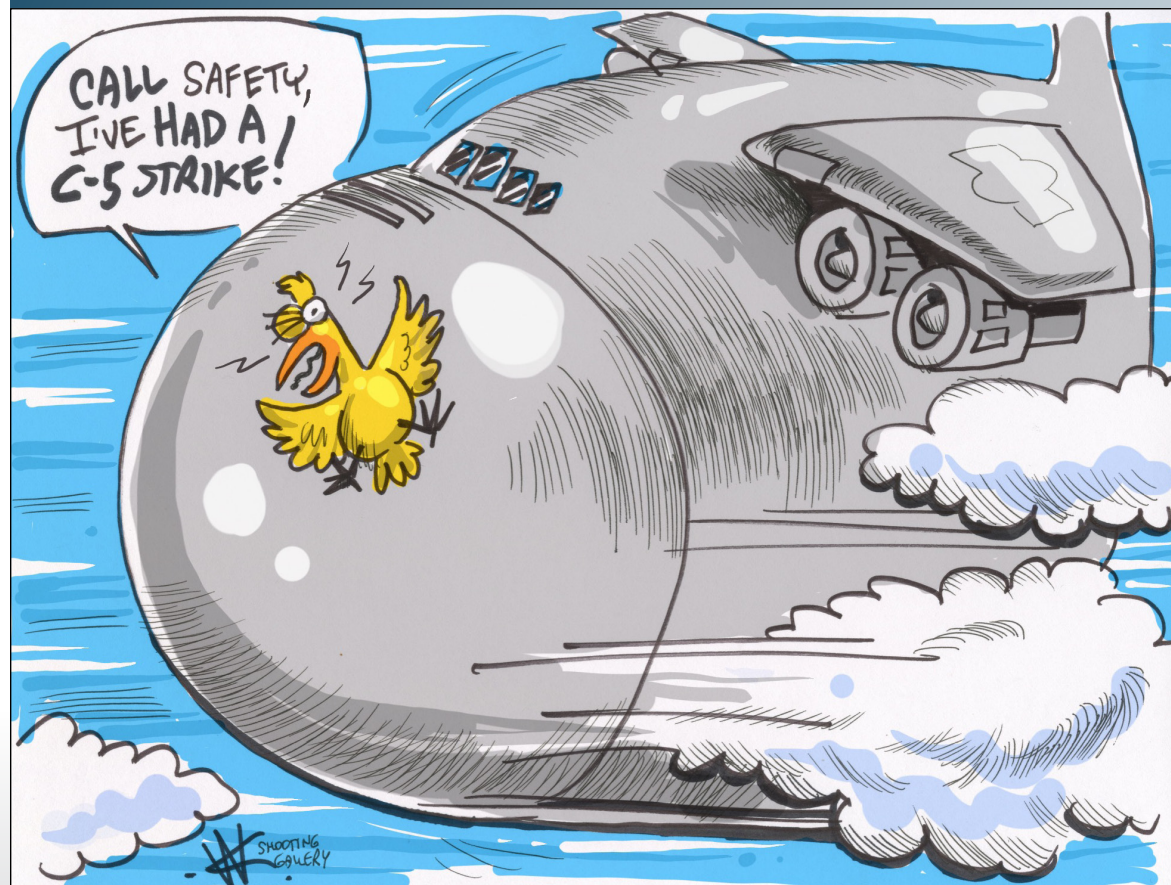
The VLPAD program and several other programs are being put in place to help bolster the Air Force's end strength from 312,980 to 317,000.

Unit Reservists require a letter of recommendation from their Wing Commander.

For more on the VLPAD program, visit the myPERS web page – https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil/app/answers/detail/a_id/30624/kw/vlpad/p/16,17.

POPE'S PUNS

by W.C.Pope



PROMOTIONS

Senior Master Sgt.
Eric Tiff



Master Sergeant
David Meulenaere
Gary Romanovicz



Technical Sergeant
William Buckout
Christopher Thompson



Staff Sergeant
John Ashley
Andrew Barnhart
William Clark
Matthew DeMartino
Matthew Krawiec
Thomas Mancarella
Michael Martineau
Jonathan Zelisko



Senior Airman
Conner Hartman
Meghan O'Brien
Tyler Skiff



Airman First Class
Nathaly Valdiviezo
Atta Sarfo



Airman
Maame Anane
Michael Fortis
Emmanuel Kankam
Alexandra Orn



RETIREMENTS

Senior Master Sergeant
Anthony Basile

Master Sergeant
James Whelton

Technical sergeant
Christopher Migala
Robert Roe



FACES OF WESTOVER

SSgt. Miriam Aponte 439th Maintenance Squadron

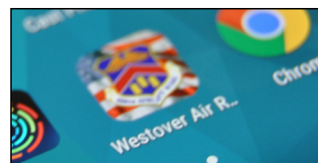
SSgt. Miriam Aponte, a 439th Maintenance Squadron air reserve technician, works in isocronal inspection hangar. She joined the Air Force in May 2010 and is a crew chief who has worked at Westover since June 2011. SSgt. Aponte grew up in Orange County, N.Y., and said that she joined the Air Force after trying college for awhile and finances and direction were lacking in the experience.

She really enjoys working on the C-5s and "getting her hands dirty." She likes working on all aspects of the Galaxy, but says her favorite is the wings. "It's amazing to see how many different components are inside the wings. It's fun climbing around in there doing inspections and maintenance."

She's made quite an impression with her supervisors and co-workers. They use words like "awesome" and "great to work with" when they're talking about SSgt. Aponte. Unfortunately they may be losing her to active duty in January. "I am hoping to go active duty, and if I do, I'll be going to Pope AFB, in North Carolina. There I'll be working on C-130s. This will be interesting ... to be working on a much smaller airframe."

She said she will miss Westover and all the great people she's worked with here.

-- W.C. Pope/photo by MSgt. Andrew Biscoe



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add to homepage!

SERVICES CALENDAR

westoverservices.com

Club: The band Relentless has been booked for Jan. 9 and 23 in the lounge from 7-11p.m. Make plans for March -- the Murder Mystery Theater has been planned for March 5 and 19.

The Grind: Holiday flavors continue: Caramel brulée latte, peppermint mocha latte, gingerbread latte, and peppermint hot chocolate.

Bowling Center: Survive this cold January with Temp-RATE-Ture Bowling, The price per game is the same, As the temperature outside gets colder, the more you save! If zero or below = FREE Bowling! Tuesday-Thursday, 11 a.m. -1:30 p.m.

Outdoor Recreation: Ski and snowboard tuning services full service tune-up Flat Base, base edge sharpened and side edge sharpened (90 degrees) P-Tex repair, wax and polish. Skis \$20/Snowboards \$28.

Fitness Center: Starting Jan. 6, T-25 returns during lunch from 11:15-12 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, Volleyball pick-up games every Friday from 5-7 p.m. Just show up to play, starts Jan. 8.



PATRIOT



Look for WNN on local
community access channels



Published monthly for Patriots like SrA. Paige Sullivan, 439th Airlift Control Flight, and more than 4,700 people assigned to Westover Air Reserve Base.

EMPENNAGE

Desktop Airman Handbook

Airmen will be able to access the Airman Handbook via a desktop icon that was slated to begin Dec. 18.

Kevin Denter, a Profession of Arms Center of Excellence professionalism program analyst, said the handbook is a professional development tool for all Airmen: active duty, Reserve, Guard, and civilian.

"The handbook is an indispensable resource for Airmen to continue to learn, grow and propel our Air Force into the future," Denter said. "It is a single publication that addresses important information on Air Force history, doctrine, values, customs, courtesies and much more."



FLIGHTLINE SKIES >> "Nice spring we're having this winter" is a saying heard around Westover this year as the middle of December has come and gone -- and there's no snow. Temperatures have risen into the 50s. (photos by W.C. Pope)

