

# PATRIOT

439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing | Westover AFB, Mass. | Volume 47 No. 7

July 2016 | Patriot Wing -- Leaders in Excellence



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439<sup>TH</sup> AIRLIFT WING COMMANDER

Col. Jay Jensen

CHIEF OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Lt. Col. James Bishop

NCOIC

TSgt. Stephen Winn

STAFF

TSgt. Amelia Leonard

SSgt. Tamara Williams

SrA. Charles Hutchinson IV

SrA. Monica Ricci

WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

Capt. Andre Bowser

VISUAL INFORMATION/

Layout

W.C. Pope

SUPERINTENDENT

MSgt. Andrew Biscoe

## UTA SNAPSHOT

>> Have a great UTA weekend!

Doing it right, fit to fight | **pg. 4**

B-52 returns to club | **pg. 5**

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**ON THE COVER >>** On June 2, a base wide exercise was conducted with a focus on disaster preparedness. The scerio took place around a chemical attack at the base clinic and a number of base agencies practiced their emergency skills. -- see more on page 7.



**DETOUR >>** The reconstruction continues on the full length of Patriot Avenue with parts of it being closed down as they work on different sections. At the time of these photos on June 9 the contractors were working on the under- layment concrete in front of building 1408. Construction is scheduled to be completed by the end of the summer. (photos by W.C.Pope)

## EDITORIAL **Be Ready... Get involved**

**I**t has been almost four months since I was introduced as your new Command Chief. I must say, it has been an amazing four months!

When I first joined the team, the three most common things I heard were: "You're going to love Westover," "The community loves us and supports us like no other," and "It's nice to see a female Chief up there."

I can now say from my very own experience that yes, Westover is a place to love. I have also seen the community involvement is immense! Both can be summed up in the word PRIDE, and I'm am excited to be part of the team!

As for being the first female 439<sup>th</sup> Command Chief... I am humbled and honored! I would like to think I was hired for much more than being a female though. I would like to think I was hired because I was ready and Brig. Gen. Lupenski and Col. Jensen saw leadership traits that would help continue Westover's legacy of being great, going forward.

I've never thought of myself as a "first" anything. I just always knew I didn't want to be last. When I was a Staff Sergeant, I remember being at commander's call and the senior ART stood up and said, "You HAVE to be ready; jobs that have been filled for years are coming open and we have folks that would be great prospects, but they aren't ready." He was referring to having CDCs, PME, etc. done. I didn't want to be left on the shoreline when the ship sailed, so I took his word to heart, and I made it

a priority to always be ready.

What does "be ready" mean? There are squares that everyone must fill, such as skill level training, time in service, time in grade, Professional Military Education, having records prepared to meet Developmental Boards, etc., but to be quite honest, that only makes you eligible – not necessarily ready.

Being ready means seeking out positive mentors and always striving to be your best. It means making sure you are mentoring and taking care of the Airmen around you. (That is everyone's job no matter your rank.) It also means you have to stay hungry for new learning experiences and be thinking about the bigger picture (more than just your shop/base/status). Get involved with groups like the Rising Six, Top 3, Air Force Sergeants Association, and Reserve Officers Association.

Becoming a leader doesn't happen overnight; it comes from a lifetime of experiences, learning from our mistakes and taking care of each other.

So I would ask ... Are you ready?

**Command CMSgt. Shana Cullum**  
**439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing commander**



## BRIEFS

### Chief's Scholarship

Applications are currently being accepted by the Chief's council for two \$500 College Scholarship Awards. One will go to a 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Enlisted Member E-1 to E-8, and the other to an E-1 to E-8 Family Member (dependent) for the 2016 Fall Semester. The Scholarship Application submission deadline is 31 August 2016. The winner will be announced in mid-September. An electronic copy of this application can be obtained at <http://www.westover.afrc.af.mil/>.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Award winners

The second quarter award winners have been announced and they are as follows. SrA. Keegan Halpin of the 439<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron is the Airmen of the Quarter. TSgt. Jeffrey Szymanski of the 439<sup>th</sup> Logistics Readiness Squadron is the NCO of the Quarter. Also from LRS, MSgt. Victor Markey won Senior NCO of the Quarter. Capt. David Nissen from the Aircraft Maintenance Squadron is the CGO of the quarter. Also from the AMXS, Mr. Edward Stuck is the Civilian of the Quarter. And finally the Civilian Supervisor of the Quarter is Mr. Kenneth Belanger from the 439<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron.

### Free Fun Fridays

Looking for something free to do with the family this summer? Head on over to the Airmen and Family Readiness Center for this year's "Free Fun Friday" list. This program sponsored by the Highland Street Foundation runs all summer long. Give the Airmen and Family Readiness Center a call or stop on by to see what's available.

### Think before you ink

Are you thinking about ink? If you had plans to get a custom tattoo done please consult chapter 3.4 of AFI 36-2903. The Air Force's dress and appearance standard has all the specifics.

### Sijan Award Nominations due

The Air Force Personnel Center is currently accepting nominations through August 31<sup>st</sup> for the 2016 Lance P. Sijan U.S. Air Force Leadership Award. This recognizes the accomplishments of total force officers and enlisted leaders who demonstrate the highest qualities of leadership in the performance of their duties and personal conduct. For more information go onto MyPers and search the keyword "SIJAN."

# FITNESS GURU VISITS WESTOVER TO GET TROOPS FIT TO FIGHT!

by Tamara Williams

TSgt. Timothy Kelly, a certified fitness specialist from the 315<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Squadron, Charleston Air Force Base, took time during the June UTA weekend to teach Westover airmen some of his personal fit-to-fight tips in order to help those struggling



with physical training.

His goal: improving the fitness scores and overall physical readiness of fellow airmen. When it comes to fitness training, TSgt. Kelly holds a black belt in Aiki Bu Jitsu; he is an advanced level defensive tactics instructor and a certified expert in the suspension training field. He has personally trained over 100 individuals, including professional football player Josh Stamer of the Tennessee Titans and Jessica Jacobs, former Miss North Carolina.

TSgt. Kelly started

training over 25 years ago as a Marine Corps recruiter in 1986, shortly after one of his recruits failed their physical training test. The then-Marine recruiter found himself in front of his unit commander dropping and giving push-ups as a result. After that incident, he saw that none of his recruits ever failed again. "Just hoping people reached their goals, and helping them pass their fitness test became the number one motivating factor (for me)," said TSgt. Kelly. And helping folks reach their goals, he did.

The message during his fitness seminar was simple; "Be very specific in what you need to accomplish and address your weaknesses," TSgt. Kelly said as he paced back and forth across the front of the conference center like a body builder on a stage. By not setting specific goals and focusing on non-problematic fitness areas, it is not helping one get closer to their end goal. When it comes to



fitness, "my goal is essentially to help folks understand the basic fitness structure," said TSgt. Kelly.

TSgt. Kelly broke down a fitness regimen for doing push-ups, sit-ups, and running more efficiently while gaining the most use out of one's body without placing unnecessary stress on it. "There's no one movement in exercise that only involves one muscle group," said TSgt. Kelly. He said the foundation to securing a healthier lifestyle is watching what goes into one's body.

According to TSgt. Kelly, giving your body enough nutritious calories to burn fat, and maintaining a balanced diet, is what keeps that fire stoked.

As a stroke survivor and a person that's recovered from a hole in his heart, TSgt. Kelly takes medical-supported programs very serious and has instituted them in his life as a result. He said his hope is that others do the same. For more information and tips from TSgt. Kelly visit our Facebook site at [Facebook.com/Westover.Patriot](https://www.facebook.com/Westover.Patriot).



# “Frosh One Zero” comes home

by TSgt. Amelia Leonard

Members of the 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, retirees, and civilians gathered to witness the unveiling of a Browning .50-caliber machine gun monument here at Westover on June 4.

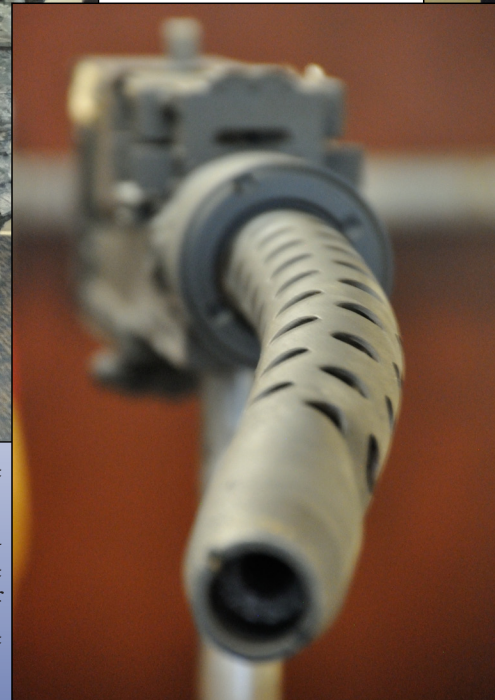
The machine gun, which was recently restored, had been retrieved from Elephant Mountain in Maine, where it lay untouched for nearly 53 years after the B-52C Stratofortress it was affixed to crashed. The B-52, also known as Frosh One Zero, departed from Westover and crashed on Jan. 24, 1963 at 2:52 p.m., while making its first low-level run over northwestern Maine. Violent winds from the mountain sheared off the vertical stabilizer, making the massive bomber impossible to control. The B-52 rolled uncontrollably into Elephant

aircraft ended up in the Maine woods.

“They were at the frontline of the Cold War,” said Col. Jay Jensen, 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Commander. “Some of those individuals paid with their lives, and we’re here to honor them today,” he said.

The monument itself stands about two feet high and is approximately 3 feet in length. The machine gun is attached to the top with a plaque on the front which reads, in part,

“When Strategic Air Command was organized, in March, 1946, a totally new concept of military air power came into being. The use of long-range strategic bombardment to destroy the enemy’s war-making capability had, during the years, proven itself to be the most effective and economic means



of winning a conflict. With the advent of the atom bomb, however, it became apparent that sustained bombardment with nuclear weapons would be intolerable to the continued existence of our civilization. The Strategic Air Command was created then, not to implement war, but to prevent it.”

The monument now sits at Westover so that, “We can remember our heritage, SAC contribution, and the members who lost their lives,” said Col. Jensen.

*Editor’s note: For more background on SAC or the crash itself, you can check out the November 2014 issue of the Patriot here:*

*[http://www.westover.afrc.af.mil/Portals/81/documents/patriot/2014/Patriot\\_Nov2014.pdf](http://www.westover.afrc.af.mil/Portals/81/documents/patriot/2014/Patriot_Nov2014.pdf)*

Mountain, at 320 mph just 500 feet above ground. Of the nine crew members, three were able to successfully eject, but only two survived.

A stone monument placed beside the wreckage lists the names of the crew, and visitors leave American flags of various sizes throughout the debris to honor those who lost their lives there. The wreckage sits with a sign that briefly tells the origin of the flight and how the grotesquely twisted and indistinguishable bits and pieces of the

# Distinguished author and reservist visits Westover

by SrA. Charles Hutchinson



Westover welcomed CMSgt. Matthew Proietti, 3<sup>rd</sup> Combat Camera Squadron, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, to the June 2016 Westover Strong meeting.

During the Westover Strong meeting, Proietti gave an in-depth book review of, "At All Costs," a book he authored about the life of Medal of Honor recipient CMSgt. Dick Etchberger. The book recently made the Air Force Chief of Staff 2016 reading list.

Proietti, a native of Leominster, Mass, and a 32-year Air Force veteran, has worked in the public affairs career field his entire career, and is currently on extended orders as the public affairs manager for the Air Force Reserve's Yellow Ribbon reintegration program. He worked as an active-duty print journalist from 1984 to 1988 and has been a reservist for the past 28 years. He even spent six months here in 1988 as a member of the Patriot Wing.

After leaving active-duty in 1988, Proietti worked as a civilian community newspaper editor from 1989 to 1998. He is also a four-time recipient of the Thomas Jefferson Award, the highest honor in military journalism.



# Airshow 2015 Angel killed in Tennessee crash



by TSgt. Amelia Leonard

U.S. Marine Capt. Jeff Kuss, member of the elite Navy Blue Angels demonstration squadron, died in a plane crash over Tennessee on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. He crashed during a practice run in preparation for the Great Tennessee Airshow in Smyrna, near Nashville.

In a news conference, Navy officials stated that they were unsure why the plane went down, and that they don't know if the plane had a black box, or if the pilot had issued any distress calls before the crash. The Naval Air Forces will be investigating, according to Steve Fiebing, deputy public affairs officer for the Naval Air Forces.

The mission of the Blue Angels is to showcase the pride and professionalism of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps through flight demonstrations and community outreach.

Kuss performed here at Westover during the Great New England Air Show in 2015.

"Capt. Jeff Kuss was on the Blue Angels advance team for our 2015 Air Show," said Lt. Col. James Bishop, Chief of public affairs at the 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing at Westover. "He stood ramrod straight and spoke quickly, but he also had a quick smile and clearly enjoyed interacting with the civilians who were flying in the back seat with him that day. I'm sorry to hear about his loss."

When Kuss arrived at Westover ahead of the rest of the demonstration squadron, he took local reporter, Laura Hutchinson; assistant principal of Coventry High School, Joseph Lucian; and chief of police for Leicester, Mass., Jim Hurley on the ride of a lifetime in his Boeing F/A-18 jet for a 40-minute flight.

"He was so professional and kind," Hutchinson said. "He checked on me the entire flight and put me at ease. I never felt unsafe. He clearly knew what he was doing and could do this in his sleep," she said.

According to the Blue Angels website, Navy and marine pilots must have aircraft carrier qualification and a minimum of 1250 tactical jet-flight hours in order to become a specific type of Blue Angels pilot. Members typically spend two years performing in this special-duty status before returning to their previous units.

"I can't say enough good things about him," said Hutchinson. "I am devastated and heartbroken at his loss. I walked away from my flight with such an appreciation for our military and what they do."



# Exercise, exercise, exercise...

by TSgt. Amelia Leonard

Members of the 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing participated in an exercise here on base on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The exercise tested the abilities of the emergency management, aeromedical, bioenvironmental, security forces, and mission support staff.

The premise of the exercise was simple, a disgruntled member of the wing committed murder-suicide in the medical clinic using chemicals. The exercise tested how quickly emergency responders reacted to the situation, decontaminated everyone involved, and provided timely and accurate information to the Emergency Operations Center and Crisis Action Team.

"Cooperation between the fire department, emergency management, and bioenvironmental was fantastic," said Chief Charlie VanGordon, 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing fire department. "We practice this every year."

Observers felt that the "actors" did an amazing job to make everything feel realistic. "The acting from the affected members of the clinic was so real that it created a certain level of anxiety, chaos and urgency that made the whole scenario very believable," said CMSgt. Kate Casey, Superintendent of the 439<sup>th</sup> Aerospace Medical Squadron.

"The exercise was very realistic," said SSgt. Gregory Tayetto, member of the 439<sup>th</sup> AMS and player in the exercise. "The commotion caused by the angry individual seemed very genuine," he said.

Tayetto used oatmeal to look like he was really vomiting to make everything that much more realistic.

"When the firefighters reached me, I started to vomit uncontrollably while they were assessing me," he said. The firefighters were not expecting this to happen, and I heard one of them say, 'I really think he is throwing up, let's get him away from the building,'" he said.

They carried Tayetto over to the fire truck and decontaminated him with their pressure sprinkler. He had never experienced being sprayed down by a fire truck and said it was, "quite cool."

"Seeing the response by the firefighters, paramedics, military police and bioenvironmental makes me feel assured that if this was a real world situation, I would be in good hands," said Tayetto.



>> The Public Affairs office held a mock news conference where Col. Jay Jensen, 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing commander, was questioned on all aspects of the "emergency", just as the local media would during a real world emergency.

# Starting a business?

by Orestes Varela, Col. (retired)  
Springfield, MA, U.S. Small Business Administration



So you want to launch a business and don't know where to start? Well, there is good news. The Small Business Administration ([www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov)) is a Federal agency that has programs and services to assist you.

The SBA has three core areas of assistance; Counseling, Capital, & Contracting. The cornerstone of our assistance is Counseling. That's the place to start. We have three premier partners; SCORE ([www.westernmassachusetts.score.org](http://www.westernmassachusetts.score.org)), The Small Business Development Center ([www.msbdcenter.org/wmass](http://www.msbdcenter.org/wmass)), and The Center for Women and Enterprise ([www.cweonline.org](http://www.cweonline.org)). Each of these organizations provide FREE one-on-one mentoring and workshops at reasonable cost.

Show me the money! Yes, Capital is money. How can you get the funding to start or expand a business? The bad news first...Grants...well that is free money and the Federal government has basically none; occasionally there are National competitions but it is a rare occurrence.



## U.S. Small Business Administration

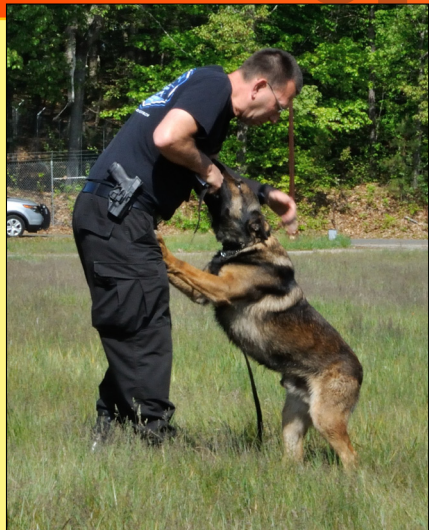
# SBA

## Your Small Business Resource

Generally, you will need to apply for a business loan. SBA partners with local lenders (banks) that actually lend the money (not the SBA) to provide funding to small businesses. Suffice it to say that this partnership reduces the "risk" to the bank so they are more likely to lend the money. We also support a Veteran's Advantage program which waives fees (it costs money to borrow money) for veterans, and their spouses for loans up to \$350,000.

Lastly, Contracting with the Federal government can be very lucrative to small businesses. It's not an "easy" process, but we have experts who can help you navigate. (Generally you need to be an established business to compete for contracts). Additionally, we support the Massachusetts Export Center. If you have a product you are looking to market overseas, we have experts who can help. Franchising is another area that is advantageous to Veterans in particular. We have resources that can educate you on the possibilities. That's just some basic information. Feel free to drop me a line at [oreste.varela@sba.gov](mailto:oreste.varela@sba.gov), or call me at 413-785-0484.

# Dog Days of June



>> Patrolman Tom Stockwell and his canine partner Bear, from Uxbridge, Mass., are tested on their ability to follow verbal commands and those directed using hand motions.



>> Officer Amanda Vanbuskirk and her canine companion Kai of Longmeadow, Mass., stop for a quick photo in front of one of Westover's C-5 Galaxy's during the Massachusetts Police Work Dog Association annual training and certification in May.



>> Rudy, a former Marine canine and his handler, Sgt. John Potter, who now work for the Lawrence Memorial Hospital in Connecticut, return to the flight line during the Massachusetts Police Work Dog Association annual training and certification.

# GROUPS GLIMPSE RARE BIRDS ON BASE

by Lt. Col. James Bishop

Thirty-six people from three area bird clubs came Saturday to watch something fly in the sky around Westover Air Reserve Base that wasn't an airplane. The birds they were watching are rare in Massachusetts, and they weigh just eight ounces.

The Allen, Brookline, and Hampshire Bird Clubs came June 4 to see the upland sandpiper and the equally rare grasshopper sparrow. They saw both rare birds, along with 129 other birds.

The area the clubs explored was "a unique and well-managed habitat that supports the largest concentration of rare grasslands in New England," said Brookline Bird Club Director Linda Ferraresso.

"Westover has about 1,350 acres of grassland habitat," said tour leader Jack Moriarty, Westover's Chief of Environmental Engineering. "This is the largest grassland in New England, and we maintain the grasslands that might otherwise revert to forested areas that could penetrate our airspace," he said.

The walking tour began east of the firing range, and headed across a large field, which was busy with bird activity. As the tour began, the group spotted a variety of birds. As if on cue, a yellow-capped bobolink appeared above the grass, making its complicated call that sounds like the robot R2D2 in *Star Wars*.

Voices rang out as the group spread out:

"There's an upland sandpiper!"

"I hear an eastern meadowlark."

"Come look through my scope."

In all, group members spotted at least 35 species, but the stars of the day were the 19 upland sandpipers, which fly up from Argentina and southern South America in March through May. The black, brown, and white mottled upland sandpipers circled within twenty feet of the group and were visible in short grass by both naked eye and through a high-powered viewing scope.

"Some people would give their right arm to see what we saw today," said Springfield resident Lois Richardson, who raved about the rare sighting of the upland sandpiper.]

Nation-wide, there are an estimated 18.5 million bird-watchers who travel to observe birds, according to a 2001 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service survey.

Moriarty has hosted annual bird club tours for the last four years. His predecessor,



**OTHER WESTOVER WINGS >>** Thirty-six people from three area bird clubs came June 4 to observe rare birds at Westover Air Reserve Base. The group saw the rare upland sandpiper (pictured) and the equally rare grasshopper sparrow, along with 33 other species.



Drew Milroy, hosted the Hampshire Bird Club, the Massachusetts Butterfly Club, the Naturalists Club, and a group of scientists from the Massachusetts Audubon society, among others, for years.

"This is a breeding area for rare birds," Moriarty said. "Safety comes first, and then we try to be good stewards of Federal land." He said base crews mow the grass to maintain a grass height

of 7 to 14 inches, which discourages larger birds and mammals that could collide with an aircraft.

Base officials try to strike a balance: ensuring that the flying mission operates safely and, where consistent with the mission, accommodating the rare grassland species around the airfield – an area that has been called an "accidental wilderness."





## TROOP TALK

*"What about July 4<sup>th</sup> makes you feel patriotic?"*



"The effort that we've put into striving for our freedom and way of life."

**>> SrA. Ryan Newton,  
439<sup>th</sup> Maintenance  
Squadron**

"By celebrating the sacrifices of our ancestors through cook outs, fireworks and raising our American flag."

**>> SSgt. Jeremy Macdonald  
439<sup>th</sup> Logistics Readiness  
Squadron**



"Putting on the uniform every month and remembering previous members who have also fought and served."

**>> SrA. Megan Kitchen  
439<sup>th</sup> Maintenance  
Squadron**

## Patriot People

### NEW CHIEFS >>

The annual Chief's Induction Ceremony was held at the Westover Club on June 4, introducing five new chiefs to the ranks; CMSgt. Carey-Ann Patterson, CMSgt. Heather Zackaricz, CMSgt. Steven Wilkinson, CMSgt. Desmond Farrell, and CMSgt. Richard Michaud. (photos by SrA. Charles Hutchenson)



**TOP CHEFS >>** During the 2016 Military Food Service Awards Dinner in Chicago in May, TSgt. Justin Thibeault, Food Team NCOIC, and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Steve Marchegiani, Services Flight OIC, hoist the John L. Hennessy cup at the conclusion of the banquet. The award is given annually to one Force Support Squadron for excellence in Air Force Reserve Food Service Operations.

## PROMOTIONS

### Senior Master Sgt.

Amelia Obrien  
David Martinez  
Andrew Melton



### Master Sergeant

Miguel Nieves  
Joseph Landry  
Maria Rojas



### Technical Sergeant

Joseph Boisclair  
Sharon Mekal



### Staff Sergeant

David Babcock  
Dylan Collins  
Jeffrey Hensley  
Colleen Hutcheson  
Rebeca Hamoy  
Jake Arpin  
Nathan Rosazza  
Timothy Hall  
Bryan Maclure  
Kyle McCormick  
Kelly Hoadley  
Megan Lafleur



### Senior Airman

Kristen Bentivegna  
Everett Almeida  
Jeremy Rodriguez  
Aidalize Valentin  
Ian Andrews  
Nicolae Marin  
Scott Dunlap  
Kevin Boylan



### Airman First Class

Sean Masse  
Alexandra Orn  
Emmanuel Kankam  
Christiana Burelle



## SSgt. Gordon Richards

439<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron

by TSgt. Amelia Leonard

SSgt. Gordon Richards, a member 439<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron, is our June 2016 Face of Westover. Richards, a native of Belchertown, Mass., has always wanted to be a member of security forces. He deployed to Iraq with Security Forces in 2009, but if his recruiter had his way, he would have never had the opportunity. "When I first enlisted, I was signed up for something else, but I had to convince the recruiter to switch me to security forces," he said. "It was what I always wanted to do." Being a member of the military police has always intrigued him, and he loves the camaraderie that being a member of the 439<sup>th</sup> has brought him. "I've got a lot of friends here now," he said. "I've been in for nine years, and I plan on sticking around until at least 20."

## RETIREMENTS

### Chief Master Sergeant

Frederick Hetu

### Technical Sergeant

John Bisceglia  
James Ohman

## SERVICES CALENDAR

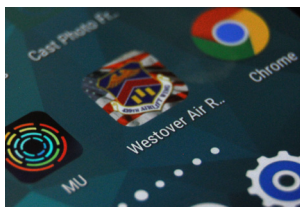
[westoverservices.com](http://westoverservices.com)

**Club >>** Show off your talent and you could become be a Westover Star! The Competitions will be held July 9 and July 23. The top three finalists from each UTA will win \$100 prize and advance to the Finals on the combined UTA, Aug. 6.

**Bowling Center >>** Bring the kids out for bowling fun during Summer Unplugged; kids bowl free all summer long! Family Cosmic Bowl Special for families of 10 or more on Fridays and Saturdays.

**Outdoor Recreation >>** If you haven't been to the Outdoor Rec in a while, stop by and check out all of the things you can rent including all of your summer party necessities, new campers and bouncy houses. With our engraving service we can create a perfect plaque for that over-achiever in your life.

**Fitness Center >>** There will be a bus trip to Brownstone Exploration and Discovery Park in Conn. on Sat., July 16, \$15 per person, bus leaves the Fitness Center at 8 a.m. and returns at 6 p.m. You can sign up and get your tickets at Outdoor Recreation. Join us for the Knockerball Challenge, July 21 at 4:30 p.m., get a team together and come out and have some fun.



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[westover.MOBAPP.at](http://westover.MOBAPP.at)

Look for WNN on local  
community access channels



Published monthly for Patriots like MSgt. Joaquim Pedro, and more than 4,700 people assigned to Westover Air Reserve Base.

## Hanscom going green with electric vehicles

HANSCOM AIR FORCE BASE, Mass. (AFNS) -- In efforts to save energy, the 66<sup>th</sup> Logistics Readiness Squadron recently unveiled Hanscom Air Force Base's first plug-in electric hybrid vehicle and charging station.

The vehicle complies with President Barack Obama's federal government directive to become more energy efficient with the Defense Department's vehicle fleet.

"The 66<sup>th</sup> Logistics Readiness Squadron is committed to complying with this directive by greening the vehicle fleet at Hanscom Air Force Base," said Scott A. Morey, the 66<sup>th</sup> LRS Vehicle Management Flight chief. "As traditional gas-only vehicles exceed their life cycle, we will replace them with hybrid vehicles across the installation.

With the addition of the base's newest plug-in electric hybrid, seven of the 11 sedans are now hybrid vehicles.

A hybrid vehicle utilizes more than one form of onboard energy to operate. The vehicle has a traditional internal-combustion engine and a fuel tank like traditional gasoline vehicles. It also has an electric motor and battery pack that utilizes electric bits to collect and reuse energy that normally goes to waste in standard cars.

The plug-in electric vehicle is built similarly, but allows the operator to switch the car's operation between electric and/or gasoline only.

To accommodate the plug-in vehicle, an electric charging station was installed earlier this year on base to support General Services Administration vehicles. This will provide the base with the capability to add additional electric vehicles as part of the government fleet in the future.

"The charging station recharges battery-powered cars or pluggable hybrids such as the Ford Fusion Energi and other plug-in GSA vehicles," said Thomas Schluckebier, the 66<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineering Division director. "Funding for the station came through a 2015 Massachusetts energy gift in support of the commonwealth's effort to reduce vehicle-related fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions."

Last year, Obama issued an executive order for the federal government to cut greenhouse gas emissions by almost 42 percent through 2025. It is estimated that these carbon reductions will save taxpayers up to \$18 billion.

Other ways the base is demonstrating a commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions is through the Hanscom Commuter Management Office and the van pool program, according to Scott Sheehan, a 66<sup>th</sup> CED environmental engineer.

"Based on the number of commuting miles that have been eliminated by the more than 300 employees participating in the program at Hanscom, we estimate that greenhouse gas emissions have been cut by 4.6 million pounds per year," Sheehan said.

**NOSTALGIA SONG >>** It was a homecoming for cabaret singer Vickie Philips who performed at the Westover Club on May 26. The last time she sang at Westover was in the 60s and 70s at the Officer's Club. Vickie who is 82 years old still performs in New York City and said, "Coming back to Westover after 40 years is like coming home". (photo by W.C.Pope)

