



Gulf War 25 years later

PATRIOT

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439TH AIRLIFT WING COMMANDER
Brig. Gen. Al Lupenski

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Lt. Col. James Bishop

NCOIC
TSgt. Stephen Winn

STAFF
MSgt. Timm Huffman
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

>> SUNDAY, wing change of command, fuel cell hangar, 10 a.m.

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ON THE COVER -- More than a quarter-century ago, the Air Force turned to Westover and yet another historic chapter of history unfolded for the base and the Patriot Wing. Just three years after becoming one of the first all-Reserve C-5 stand-alone bases, the base became a bustling C-5 and passenger hub for the buildup to Operation Desert Storm. Turn to page 6.



WATCHING THE SKIES >> Sunrises year-round can be seen from most vantage points on the base -- including behind the flightline, C-5s and control tower. The skies over the Pioneer Valley can be powerful and dramatic, and that's what it looked like on the January UTA. (staff photo)



As you all know, I will be leaving the Patriot Wing to assume a position as the Director, Air Force Reserve Programs and Requirements at the Pentagon. I look back at the last one and a half years with utter amazement. I have watched as you, the members of the 439th Airlift Wing, prove just how good you are. I could list the number of awards both individual and group but would quickly run out of space. You should all be very proud of your accomplishments.

An organization does not get to this level without teamwork. The team that we have built here at Westover is a champion organization. It takes each and every member to get to this level. One of my mentors was famous for quoting Vince Lombardi. I am going to take this opportunity to do the same.

Lombardi once said, "The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual."

That quote perfectly describes the 439th Airlift Wing.

I will always remember my time here at Westover. I have enjoyed every minute and will miss serving with each and every one of you. You are truly "Leaders in Excellence."

Brig. Gen. Al Lupenski
439th Airlift Wing commander

BRIEFS

New CAP Honor Guard

The Westover Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol's Honor Guard members will be taking part in events to include military retirements, veteran memorial ceremonies, and parades. A page dedicated for Honor Guard Support requests has been created on our squadron website (link here: <https://sites.google.com/site/capwestover/color-guard-support-request>). The point of contact for our CAP Honor Guard is Maj Claire Belden, 413-330-8311, claire.belden@mawg.cap.gov.

Financial planner provides appointments on base

Debra Antel, a certified financial planner who holds a Master's of Science in financial services, is available for free on-base appointments through a DOD-sponsored program. She serves as the Springfield region's Personal Financial Counselor, Military and Family Life Counseling Program. This is a free DOD program for military active duty and Reservists. To make an appointment, call (774) 205-3698 or email MA-PFC2@MFLC.Zeiders.com.

Recruiters' Get One program back up and running

The wing recruiters' Get One program is back in full swing. The Get One website, which also includes a new mobile app, is www.get1now.us. Information includes incentive plans for referring people to the reserve. For more information, call the recruiting office at 557-2125.

Senior NCO Dining-In

The inaugural Westover Senior Non-Commissioned Officer and Chief Petty Officer formal dining-in is scheduled for April 2 at the Log Cabin Restaurant in Holyoke at 6 p.m. Sign-ups will be held until March 25.

Change of command

The wing change of command is March 6 at 10 a.m. in the fuel cell hangar. Showtime for all military personnel is 9:15 a.m. (formation uniform is ABUs or flight suits with sleeves rolled down). Only Airmen on profiles and those with mission support functions are exempt.

WING CHANGES LEADERSHIP IN MARCH

by MSgt. Andrew Biscoe

Westover's wing commander -- and one of the Air Force's newest brigadier generals -- will move to the Pentagon in March to assume his new role as director of Air Force Reserve Programs and Requirements.

Brig. Gen. Al Lupenski, who's led the Patriot Wing since September 2014, will relinquish command of the 439th Airlift Wing to Col. Jay Jensen in the fuel cell hangar at 10 a.m. March 6. Col. Jensen comes to Westover from the Pentagon, where he was Senior Policy Advisor for the Air Force Reserve to the Reserve Forces Policy Board.

The Air Force announced the commander's promotion in late January. Gen. Lupenski is the fifth commander out of six at Westover since 2000 to be promoted to the flag officer rank.

His pin-on ceremony is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. March 5 in the Westover Conference Center.

"It will be difficult to leave Westover," Gen. Lupenski said. "You are truly 'Leaders in Excellence.'"

EDITOR'S NOTE: Please turn to page 3 to read Gen. Lupenski's reflections of his leadership tenure here in his final editorial to the wing.

New wing commander to arrive from Pentagon

Col. Jay Jensen is the Senior Policy Advisor for the Air Force Reserve to the Reserve Forces Policy Board (RFPB), Office of the Secretary of Defense, Washington, D.C. The Reserve Forces Policy Board serves as an independent adviser to the Secretary of Defense, providing advice and recommendations to the Secretary on strategies, policies, and practices designed to improve and enhance the capabilities, efficiency and effectiveness of the seven Reserve components.

Colonel Jensen received a reserve commission in November 1987 from Officer Training School at Lackland AFB, and is currently in Active Guard and Reserve status in the Air Force Reserve. Colonel Jensen is a command pilot with more than 6,500 hours, including airlift, special operations, electronic/weather collection and test missions in two crew positions. Prior to being assigned to the RFPB, Colonel Jensen was the commander of the 403rd Wing, at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.

Colonel Jensen's biography highlights

EDUCATION

1987 Bachelor of Arts degree in Accounting/Management, Peru State College, Peru, Neb.

1994 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

2004 Air Command and Staff College by Correspondence

2007 Air War College by Correspondence

2008 Reserve Component National Security Course, Ft McNair, Washington D.C.

2010 Space Operations Executive Course, Schriever AFB, Col.

2011 Director of Mobility Forces Course, Hurlburt Field, Fla.



2012 AFFOR Senior Staff Officer Course, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

2014 Master of Arts degree with honors in National Security Studies, American Military University, Charlestown, W. Va.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. October 1983 - August 1987, Continuous Photo-processing Specialist/Quality Assurance, 173rd Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, Lincoln Air National Guard Base, Neb.

2. August 1987 - December 1988, T-37B/T-43A Student Navigator, 439th/451st Flying Training Squadron, Mather AFB, Calif.

3. December 1988 - July 1991, C-130E AWADS Instructor Navigator, 39th Tactical Airlift Squadron, Pope AFB, N.C.

4. July 1991 - August 1992, T-37B/T-38A Student Pilot, 8th/25th Flying Training Squadron, Vance AFB, Okla.

5. August 1992 - September 1993, C-12F Aircraft Commander, 58th Airlift Squadron, Ramstein Air Base, Germany

6. September 1993 - July 1998, C-130E AWADS Evaluator Pilot/Flight Commander, 2nd Airlift Squadron;

Chief of Flight Safety 23rd Wing/43rd Airlift Wing, Pope AFB, N.C.

7. July 1998 - April 1999, C-130J/C-130E instructor pilot, Officer in Charge of OL-E, 33rd Flight Test Squadron, Marietta, Ga.

8. April 1999 - July 2001, C/WC-130J Deputy Test Director/Operations Officer, Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center, OL-A, Keesler AFB, Miss.

9. July 2001 - March 2004, Chief of Tactics, 815th Airlift Squadron, Standards and Evaluation Pilot, 403rd Operations Group, Keesler AFB, Miss.

10. March 2004 -January 2006, Director of Operations, 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, Keesler AFB, Miss.

11. January 2006 - July 2008, Commander, 403rd Operations Group, Keesler AFB, Miss.

12. July 2008- October 2009, assistant to and Commander, 315th Operations Group, Charleston AFB, S.C.

13. October 2009 - May 2011, Chief, Programs Division, HQ Air Force Reserve Command, Robins AFB, Ga.

14. May 2011 - July 2013, Commander, 403rd Wing, Keesler AFB, Miss.

15. July 2013 - July 2015: Chief of Staff, Senior Policy Advisor for the Air Force Reserve to the Reserve Forces Policy Board, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Washington, D.C. Aircraft flown: T-37B, T-38A, C-12F, C-17A, C-130E/J, WC-130J, C-130J-30

Brig. Gen. Lupenski gets his star on the Westover walk of fame and heads to Pentagon



Westover remembers Desert Storm a quarter of century later

by Air Force Reserve Command News Service

While Operation Desert Storm called up scores of Air Force Reserve units, few units at the time had the distinction of also hosting a major embarkation point.

That's just what happened when the men and women of the Patriot Wing – then officially known as the 439th Military Airlift Wing – swung into 24-hour action at Westover. Air Force airlift planners seized the advantages of the base's strategic location, long runways, and vast ramp space to convert the reserve base into what would be one of the busiest airlift hubs throughout 1990 and into the spring of 1991.

Operation Desert Storm was an exceptional example of Total Force integration in support of combat operations with an all-volunteer force.

By the time the operation ended in March 1991, Westover had racked up the following statistics:

- More than 63,000 troops processed through on their way to the desert
- Aerial port squadrons handled more than 121,000 tons of desert-bound cargo
- After the war ended, Patriot Wing leadership organized an around-the-clock welcome home center, with more than 30,000 sailors, Marines, Airmen, and soldiers stepping foot on American soil for the first time
- The base handled 3,605 aircraft

Jan. 16, 2016, marks the 25th anniversary of Desert Storm, the coalition effort to free Kuwait from the grips of an Iraq invasion force. Below are some factoids on Air Force Reserve contributions to the campaign, courtesy of the Air Force Reserve Command History Office.

Airlift and Aeromedical

In the build-up to Desert Storm, Reservists provided fully 50 percent of the Air Force's strategic airlift aircrew and aerial port capability, 33 percent of its aeromedical evacuation aircrews and 25 percent of its tactical airlift forces.

Volunteerism

By August 1990, more than 15,300 Reservists had volunteered to serve, about 22 percent of the Air Force Reservists.

Strategic airlift

The first Reserve assets to reach the theater of operations was a C-141 Starlifter aircrew that landed in Saudi Arabia on Aug. 8, 1990. By the eve of Desert Storm, Air Force Reserve aircraft and crews flew more than 107,000 hours, moved more than 135,000 passengers, 235,000 tons of cargo and delivered five million pounds of fuel.



Casualties

On August 29, 1990, an Air Force C-5, flown by an all-Reserve, all volunteer crew from the 68th Military Airlift Squadron, 433th Airlift Wing, Kelly AFB, Texas, crashed on takeoff from Ramstein Air Base, Germany. Thirteen people died and four were wounded. Ten of the 17 were Reservists. Of those 10, nine died and one was injured. SSgt. Lorenzo Galvan, Jr., a loadmaster, earned the Airman's Medal for his efforts to rescue other crash victims. The nine who died were the only Reservists to lose their lives during the conflict.

Reserve Call-Up

On Aug. 22, 1990, President Bush authorized the call-up of 200,000 reservists for 90 days under Title 10 US Code Section 678b. The decision, the first significant, conflict-related call-up of the Reserve component since 1968, marking the beginning of a process that would eventually see more than 20,000 Air Force Reservists called to active duty.

Who got the call-up

By February 1991, more than 17,500 Reservists were on active duty. Roughly one in four was a woman; approximately 1,800 were Air Reserve Technicians, 1,300 were individual mobilization augmentees, and more than 500 were members of the individual ready reserve. More than 7,800 of the Reservists called up were in medical specialties. In expectation of massive casualties that never came, all Air Force Reserve medical units were called to active duty.

Mobilization peak

Mobilization reached its peak on March 12, 1991 with almost 23,500 Air Force Reservists on duty. Of these, more than 20,000 were assigned to 215 Reserve units; 2,300 were IMAs, 960 were IRR or retirees. Most of the Ready Reserve were medical personnel.



Sole fighter unit

The Air Force Reserve's first (and only) tactical fighter unit to be recalled was the 706th Tactical Fighter Squadron, 926th Fighter Group, Naval Air Station New Orleans. The A-10 squadron deployed to Saudi Arabia in mid-January just before the beginning of the air campaign against Iraq.

Combat notes:

Capt. Bob Swain, a pilot with the 706th TFS, scored the first-ever A-10 air-to-air kill when he destroyed an Iraqi helicopter. This same officer -- later a colonel -- commanded the 439th AW at Westover from June 2008 to August 2011.



During one day of combat, Lt. Col. Greg Wilson, 706th FTS and 1st Lt. Stephan K. Otto of the 354th Tactical Fighter Wing, Myrtle Beach AFB, S.C., destroyed 10 mobile Scud launchers and a pair of ammunition dumps and helped AF/A-18s destroy 10 more Scuds.

Tactical airlift

Crews from the 1650th Tactical Airlift Wing (Provisional), drawn largely from the 914th Airlift Wing, Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, NY, and 927th Tactical Airlift Group, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich., flew more than 5,000 hours, and 3,200 sorties in 42 days of combat.

Left Hook

Tactical airlift forces played a major role in the redeployment of forces in northern Saudi Arabia as commanders set up what became the dramatic left hook into Iraq. A-10s operating from bases close to the front lines, attacked a full range of ground targets including Scud missiles. Reserve AC-130 Gunships and HH-3E helicopters also supported special operations as well as search and rescue missions.

Demobilization

The Department of Defense authorized commanders of the gaining major commands to demobilize Reservists, consistent with military requirement, on March 8, 1991. Most Reservists had been demobilized by late June, but a handful remained on active duty through August and beyond.

Desert Storm officially ended Feb. 28, 1991.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: MSgt. Andrew Biscoe, 439th AW Public Affairs, contributed to this story)



A loadmaster's memoirs

by MSgt. Timm Huffman

SMSgt. Gary Smith, a 337th Airlift Squadron loadmaster and flight safety instructor, sits behind his desk with the air of someone with authority as he talks about his dream of setting aside space at Westover to celebrate the long and prominent history of the World War II-era base.

That authority and passion for the base's heritage are rightfully his, since he was part of the original cadre of C-5 crews at Westover and is one of the few remaining 337th Airmen who served in the first Gulf War -- the unit's first real-world test of their airframe.

SMSgt. Smith transitioned to the unit in 1988 from the Hawaii Air National Guard. He wanted to fly and the unit, then known as the 33th Mobility Airlift Squadron, had new planes to learn. That meant he could fly as much as he wanted, and he did. It wasn't long before he was flying weekends as a Reservist and working weekdays for Flight Safety as a loadmaster instructor.

That passion for flying put him in position to be on the first Westover crew to take a C-5 into Saudi Arabia, where troops and equipment were amassing. Their job was to deliver humvees and helicopters for the Army's 82nd Airborne.

The veteran loadmaster said the mission went smoothly until they were headed back to Frankfurt, Germany, for crew rest and they lost an engine to compression stall. The crew was able to milk the plane home, but the event was a reminder that the dangers of flying military missions were real. This fact was underlined and bolded when another Saudi-bound C-5 crashed a few weeks later, killing 13 crew members and passengers.

SMSgt. Smith said there were other dangers, too. He recalled listening to the radio chatter during missions and hearing reports of SCUD missiles launching and Patriot missiles fired to intercept them. In total, he was activated for 11 months, flew 60 missions and had the opportunity to fly into some of the Saudi royal family's private airfields (which he said often included gold-plated doors).

At home, he said the atmosphere at Westover's Base Hangar was like a carnival every night and became a major destination for inbound and outbound troops. Everyone from Vietnam veterans to neighbors down the street turned out to support the effort with donations of goods, to bid farewell and to welcome crews home.

"Best service I have ever got in my traveling in the military. Great people... it was good to have a stop where the people care so much about us," said one unnamed Airman quoted in the base history of the operation.

For SMSgt. Smith, Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm were a chance to put his training into action for the first time.

"I was young, and young on the plane. It was the real thing; it's what we trained to do," he said.

SMSgt. Smith said something else came out of that time period that is still evident to this day -- Westover's reputation for excellence. He said there was, and still is, a real sense of Yankee Ingenuity, of people doing their best and taking pride in doing their best.

Westover remembers Desert Storm



EVAC SQUADRON LEAVES >> Friends and loved ones say goodbye to the deploying members of the 74th Aeromedical Evacuation. Most Westover personnel were activated, a few were deployed, including security forces, aircrews, and the airlift control flight. Westover was the hub for troops from all services, going to the gulf or in support of the operation. Massachusetts Sen. Ted Kennedy visited to support the base's efforts. (archive photos)

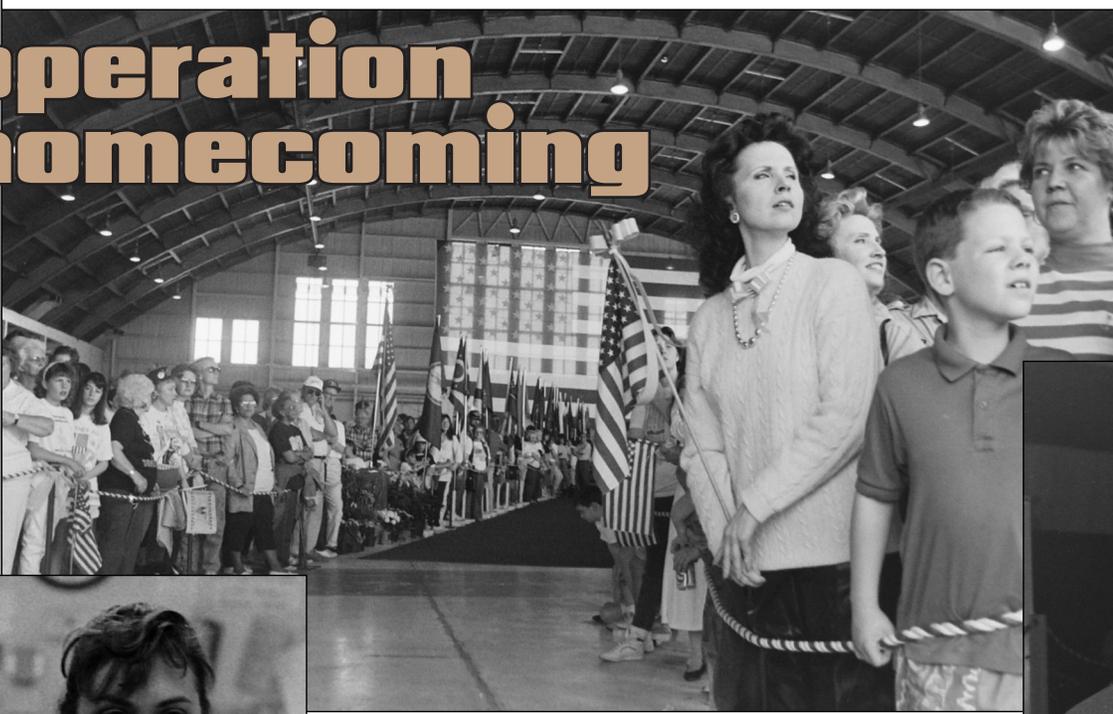


mission

MISSION CENTRAL >> Westover's 24-hour operations as a major Desert Storm hub put the Massachusetts base on the map within Pentagon circles again. Lower center photo shows oil wells burning during the war. (archive photos)

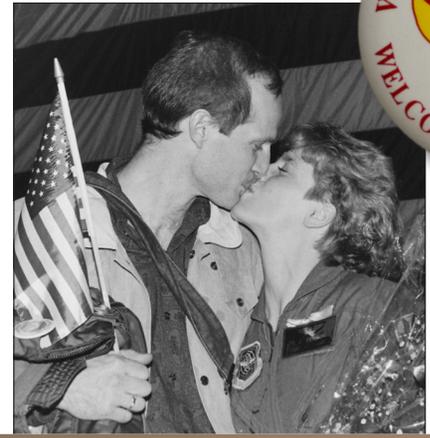


operation homecoming



TIE A YELLOW RIBBON >> Airmen with the 439th Organizational Maintenance Squadron painted a yellow ribbon and bow around the tower to welcome back the troops. Then-President George H.W. Bush visited to welcome home the troops. A red carpet was set up in the Base Hangar and troop supporters waited 24 hours a day to welcome them home. (archive photos)





WHO'S YOUR HERITAGE?

by MSgt. Timm Huffman

I knew the day would come when my Dad retired from the Air Force; he had served since before I was born. For the last three years, James Huffman was the command chief master sergeant at the 459th Air Refueling Wing at Joint Base Andrews, Md. This January it finally happened, and I was honored when he asked me to “officiate” his ceremony.

I equated officiate with narrate, so I said “Sure, Dad, whatever you need.”

I didn't realize I was signing up to speak. Once I figured that out, I thought long and hard about what I'd say. I knew I couldn't give the standard retirement speech about how we used to serve together, because that's not the story Chief Huffman and I share.

Ours is that of father and son; what I know is the sacrifices he made, the commitment to his duty, and the pride he took in wearing his uniform. That's when I decided my speech would be about heritage – his and mine.

Heritage is an important concept in the Air Force. It is a look backwards that informs who we are, provides us insight about the future, and is the source of the pride we take in our service. The Airman's Creed sums it up like this:

“I am faithful to a Proud Heritage,
A Tradition of Honor, And a Legacy of Valor.”

I've been steeped in Air Force heritage my entire 30 years. My earliest memories are from Dover Air Force Base, where I first saw the C-5 – Dad was a crew chief there; after that, Zweibrücken Air Base, Germany, where he worked on one of the many airframes that have disappeared out of the inventory - anyone remember the C-23?

It wasn't until I was older that I began to appreciate the heritage Chief Huffman was creating for me.

After a two-year break in service in the early 90s, Dad returned to his aircraft maintenance career as a reservist. He eventually got one of those really neat-looking diamonds on his sleeve. Being a first sergeant seemed pretty cool to an impressionable son. What I didn't know was that it meant he'd often be away - two UTAs a month, or more. I used to struggle with the thought that Dad would seemingly choose his Air Force life over family. But as I've come through my own career and have seen the impacts my own first sergeants and command chiefs have had in the lives of Airmen, I understand why he needed to make that sacrifice.

Dad played a big role in my own decision to enlist. Coming out of high school, I had this notion I wanted to go to college, but I had no money. He convinced me that the Air Force was a great way to get the cash I needed.

I'll admit that, for a long time, my service was just about the college money. But as re-enlistments came, I had to question my motivation. I also continued to watch Dad pursue his own Air Force path.

Dad set the example of what it means to be an Airman. Never one to sit still long, he took a full-time instructor position at the Senior NCO Academy for four years. After that, he made the move to Andrews to serve as a first sergeant at the 459th ARW, before

making the final progression of his career to serve as that unit's command chief.

What I've learned from watching his career - my personal source of heritage - is the commitment, integrity and life-balance the Air Force expects from me. It has given me pride in my service and has influenced choices I've made to continue my own Air Force career. I've also learned that I have Air Force in my blood, and that means a lot.

Ultra-runner Scott Jurek, who recently completed the entire Appalachian Trail in 46 days, 8 hours, says “Sometimes you just do things.” It's more of a mantra, but as I mulled it over, I began to think of it less in its original context and more in terms of my own Air Force career. I realized that sometimes you serve because it's part of you. It's what you do, it's what your father did, it's what your grandfather did. You are faithful to a proud heritage.

Conflict in the organization – And how to de-conflict

by Lt. Col. Donald Gomes

Is your staff experiencing conflict in the organization?

Are people arguing with each other at every turn by the slightest provocation? Have you tried talking to both parties, being a referee, or separated both parties only to find the problem is still festering?

Understanding these terms before things escalate further is key to helping control the situation:

Mediation is the intervention in a dispute or negotiation. Each party literally comes to a table, with a mediator and each party airs their grievances. The mediator makes suggestions to both parties in order to assist in a possible agreement. The mediator is a neutral third party and has zero interest in the outcome.

Facilitation is utilized when there is conflict within in a group of individuals. This technique involves improving the flow of information between the parties to a dispute. The parties involved are having problems communicating due to personal conflict. A facilitator focuses on the process involved in resolving the matter.

Had enough? There's help. Maj. Frances Dixon is Westover's Alternative Dispute Resolution Manager. She's a fully trained Department of Defense mediator. She can get to the root of the problem -- before the problem gets worse.

Civilians have been using ADR in the corporate world for years. There are seven types of ADR, but the ADR Manager primarily uses two, mediation and facilitation. The key in any type of ADR is getting to the root cause of the conflict as soon as possible. But know this – any type of ADR is strictly on a volunteer basis by all parties.

The EO Office personnel are fully trained mediators. If you have any questions, or need additional information, please don't hesitate to call Maj. Dixon at (413) 557-3311.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Lt. Col. Gomes is the director of the 439th AW Military Equal Opportunity Office.

Around Westover



Photo at right shows TSgt. Raphael Marrero (left), and SSgt. Mathieu Toczek, Patriot Wing Honor Guard members, paying tribute to CMSgt. Andrew McGovern (left photo) as they fold the American flag during the chief's Jan. 24 retirement ceremony. TSgt. Marrero and SSgt. Toczek are also 42nd Aerial Port Squadron NCOs. Also pictured is Lt. Col. Qais Ajalat, 42nd APS commander. Airmen assigned to the 42nd gathered at the Westover Conference Center Jan. 24 to honor CMSgt. McGovern, whose retirement ceremony capped 33 years of Air Force service. The 42nd's operations chief served on multiple overseas and home station deployments. (photo by MSgt. Andrew Biscoe)



MONEY MATTERS -- TAKE CONTROL, BE PREPARED

by Debra Antel, financial manager

As tax season approaches, this is a good time to ask:
"Do I know where my documents are?"

Imagine you are shopping, or worse, traveling and lose your wallet. Do you know where contact information for your credit cards is? Are you even sure just what information you had in your wallet?

Imagine you are in a car accident on your way home one cold winter's eve and suffer even a short term incapacity. Do you have someone who can act on your behalf and do they know what you will need help with or where to locate necessary information?

Imagine you had a house fire. Do you really know everything you had in your house, on the walls, in the closets, in the cupboards?

These scenarios could happen to anyone at any time. Many people mistakenly believe financial planning is only about investing dollars. Financial planning is really about much more. People need to change their perception of financial planning being only for those who have dollars to invest and begin to think of financial planning more in terms of achieving peace of mind. Your financial planner will become your coach, helping you to achieve peace of mind by coaching you in all the areas of

your life that can affect your financial wellbeing.

Part of financial planning should include your personal disaster recovery plan. As a Financial Planner, I help examine disaster scenarios, as suggested above. So, take control and get started on your financial planning.

You can take your wallet to a photocopier and make two or three copies of all the cards and information you find in it. Be sure to make a copy of both the fronts and backs. You should then file a copy of this where you keep other important papers in your home, put a copy in your safe deposit box and list it in a document locator file. If you travel, make an extra copy to carry with you on trips. Now, if you lose your wallet, you know exactly what was in it, who to call, the numbers to call and best of all – you know where you filed this information. One more tip; please don't carry your Social Security number in your wallet!

You can start to compile a document locator. You can find a lot of help on the internet or from your financial planner for this. You should file this in a safe place at home and put a copy in your safe deposit box. Once compiled, leave a note or letter somewhere handy, this way you can either tell someone, or they will be able to find the location of your document locator because your letter will lead them to it. You will want the person

who has your Power of Attorney, or executor of your estate to be able to have access to this information when needed. Now if you find yourself suddenly incapacitated, your representative will be able to locate necessary information, i.e. medical insurance information, medical records, employer name and phone number, checking account, etc., etc.

Start a video, photographic or written list of what is in each room of your home. If you talk to someone who has done this and who has suffered a loss, they will tell you how much they and the insurance company depended on such information because it was so hard to remember and prove exactly what was lost when it came time to fill out the insurance claim.

I hope I have demonstrated to you that you don't need a lot of money to have a disaster that will impact you financially. With preparation you can minimize the headaches and costs involved in recovering from a disaster. Preparation will put you in control and give you peace of mind.

Contact MFLC PFC Debra Antel (774) 205-3698 or email me at MA-PFC2@mflc.zeiders.com.

AF announces year two adjustments to enlisted evaluations, promotions

by TSgt. Bryan Franks

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs
Command Information

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Incorporating various observations and assessments from the first year under the new enlisted evaluation and promotion systems, the Air Force is making several adjustments for year two to ease execution and strengthen processes.

In 2015, the Air Force began execution of the new enlisted evaluation and promotion systems with the goal of ensuring performance as the main factor when promoting or evaluating Airmen. The new systems also increased a commander's opportunities to identify top performers and clearly indicate an Airman's promotion potential to the boards.

Enlisted performance reports available for review by senior NCO evaluation boards will decrease from the previous 10 to five years beginning with the calendar year 2016 master sergeant evaluation board. This change allows an increased focus on recent performance and compliments implementation of restricted stratification and forced distribution rules that also emphasize recent performance.

With the change from reviewing 10 years of reports decreased to five years, the Air Force is also transitioning to a single-phase process for the upcoming master sergeant evaluation board.

Starting with the 2016 promotion cycle, the master sergeant evaluation board will be condensed into a single-phase process in which all weighted factors and board scores are combined into one score for each Airman. Accordingly, this single-phase approach will eliminate the EPR points as a separate weighted factor similar to senior and chief master sergeant evaluation boards.

"After going through the first master sergeant evaluation board in 2015, we were able to assess our capacity to review all eligible Airmen. We now know our systems, facility and annual board schedule can support boarding all eligible technical sergeants," said Brig. Gen. Brian Kelly, the director of military force management policy.

"This adjustment allows every technical sergeant a chance to have their performance reviewed on its own merit directly by the board."

Under these adjustments the master sergeant evaluation board will review all eligible technical sergeant selection folders containing each Airman's evaluation brief, EPRs closing out within five years of the promotion eligibility cutoff date (PECD), and all decorations received over the Airman's entire career. Any Article 15 received within two years of the PECD and recommended for placement in the selection folder by a commander will also be visible.

Another announced adjustment for 2016 is the continuation of the previously-planned reduction in points associated with time-in-service and time-in-grade. For calendar 2016, the multipliers for calculating total TIS and TIG points will be reduced again by another one-third, impacting the 2016 E-5, E-6, E-7, E-9, and 2017 E-8 promotion cycles. The Air Force will again conduct analysis on the impact of this change and determine if future reductions to completely eliminate the TIG and TIS weighted points from the Weighted Airman Promotion System will continue in calendar 2017.

Finally, beginning in calendar 2016, EPR point calculations for promotion to grades E-5 and E-6 will be based solely on an Airman's last three forced distributed reports in their current grade. This adjustment provides an equitable method for transitioning from the legacy to the new system. Accounting for legacy EPRs, if in current grade, is accomplished by considering and factoring them into an Airman's promotion recommendation. This allows a clean break under the new Forced Distribution system where no points are awarded for legacy EPRs.

For more information about senior NCO evaluation board processes or other adjustments related to enlisted evaluation and promotions, visit the myPers website.

Winter lands at Westover but for only a layover



A heavy snow blanketed and stuck to everything around base including the KC-135 and B-52 models by the newly-reopened James Street Gate, Feb. 5. By the end of that weekend, most of the snow had melted. (photos by MSgt. Andrew Biscoe)



TROOP TALK

"The groundhog didn't see his shadow; spring comes early this year. What are your early spring plans?"



"Buy a grill and cook out as much as possible before July, that's when I go to Qatar."

>> SrA. Rob Smitherman,
439th AW Command Post



"I don't have any. Enjoy spring break, I'm a full-time student. I am going back to Louisiana, I was active duty there."

>> SrA. Mike Falcione,
439th Maintenance Group



"Watch my son play baseball and start running outside!"

>> MSgt. Christy Diller,
439th Force Support Squadron



"I'm going to Disneyland, and I am taking my sister."

>> SrA. Kailee Valliere,
439th Force Support Squadron

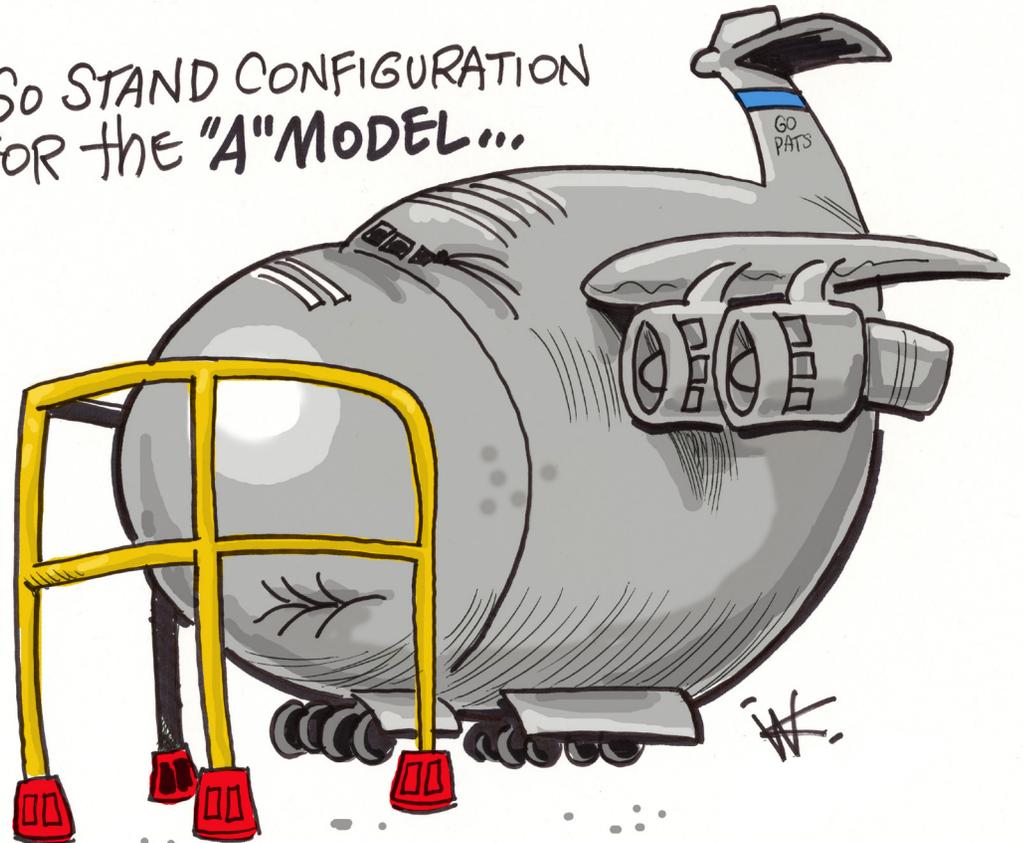


COMM ASSUMPTION >> Maj. Venice Goodwine assumed command of the 439th Communications Squadron Feb. 6, at the Westover Club. Maj. Goodwine was born in Tampa, Fla. and was stationed at Yongsan AG, Republic of Korea for the last nine years in a number of positions with the United States Forces Korea. Before that she had been stationed in Guam for three years. Maj. Goodwine's most recent assignment was as executive officer to the commander of the Air Force Reserve's 403rd Mission Support Group at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. (Courtesy photo)

POPE'S PUNS

by W.C.Pope

RISO STAND CONFIGURATION FOR THE "A" MODEL...



PROMOTIONS

Senior Master Sgt.
Matthew Mynczywor



Master Sergeant
Gary Chandler



Technical Sergeant
David Barrett
Dimitri Celestin
Elisa Escalante
Jamal Kelley
Robert Nicasio
Christopher Mautino
Eric Ruth



Staff Sergeant
Gregory Borer
Ryan Loos
Megan Palmer
Nikolaus Solari
Gregory Tayetto
Oscar Weke



Senior Airman
Arthur Collins
Kevin Cordingly
Corey Costa
Justin Dumont
Zachary Egan
Paige Erdman
Casey Gilbert



Michael Greenwood
Audrey Jimenez
Jonathan Koehler
Trung Nguyen
Matthew Whalen
Aliesia Whittle

Airman First Class
Joshua Cicio
Ronald Garfano
Kassandra Lopez
Nicole Mackay
Jeannette Padilla
Austin Sanchez



Airman
Sarah Bartlett
Samantha Bolduc
Latroy Franklin
Molly Miller
Agatha Muoghalu
Tinaja Neal
Brian Nguyen
Saeda Thomas



FACES OF WESTOVER

SSgt. Jeremiah Gombos 337th Airlift Squadron, Loadmaster

Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Gombos is a 337th Airlift Squadron loadmaster who has served at Westover for six years. Of those years, Gombos spent the first four as an aerial porter, moving cargo on and off various aircraft. As a civilian, the Airman works for the Transportation Security Administration at Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks, Conn.

He said his favorite part of the job is the opportunity to explore new locales. "Being a loadmaster, I get to travel around the world to places I never get to see, certainly on my own dime,... [and] do some real world missions," he said.

The highlight of Gombos' time at Westover are the people he works with in Westover's flying squadron.

"You've got some fantastic people in the 337th and you end up spending a ton of time together confined in that aircraft, and that's what I like the most about it," he said.

--by MSgt. Timm Huffman

RETIREMENTS

Major
Andrew Mihaley

Senior Master Sergeant
Anita Mancini
Jeffrey Manning

Master Sergeant
Benedict McCracken

Technical Sergeant
David Jensen
Jemel Williams

SERVICES CALENDAR

westoverservices.com

Club >> St. Patrick's Day Buffet, March 17, 11a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. (\$7.95 for club members and \$10.95 non-members) Murder Mystery Theater - "A dinner to die for", March 5 and 19. Cocktails at 6 p.m.; show at 7 p.m. (\$16 per person includes appetizers and show - \$15 for club members) Easter Brunch, March 27, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Make reservations by March 22, call 557-2029 or 593-5531 (non-members \$21.95, Club members \$19.95, Children 5-10 \$10.95, Children 4 and under are free) Kids' Easter Egg Hunt: Club members only, Kids ages 1-3 are from 1 to 1:20 p.m., age 4-7, 1:30-1:50 p.m., and kids 8-10, 2-2:20 p.m.

Bowling Center >> Shamrock Bowl, March 18-19. Open at 5 p.m. wear green and receive discounted bowling. Shamrock Pin: Bowl a strike when the headpin has a shamrock and win a free game Friday and Saturday Nights throughout the month of March. Celebrate Spring March 21 and enjoy free lunch time bowling and shoe rental 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Fitness Center >> St. Patrick's Day 5k Run: Register March 1 to 16. Run will be held March 17.

Outdoor Recreation >> March Madness Specials half off cross-country and Downhill Ski Packages as well as Snowboard Packages. Half off bounce house rentals and snow blowers.



PATRIOT



Look for WNN on local community access channels

EMPENNAGE

Do you know where your TSP is?

If you signed up for the TSP contributions but neglected to choose how you wanted your contributions invested—you are 100% invested in the G Fund. Is this where you want to be?

Did you know you can take a loan from your TSP account? Or that loans can only be taken for specific reasons and must be repaid within 5 years? Furthermore if you miss one monthly repayment the balance of the loan will be treated as an early withdrawal and subject to taxes and penalty.

Do you know the early retirement age for withdrawal of TSP funds penalty fee? Do you know how you can take withdrawals

before the early retirement age penalty free?

Do you know you can use an L fund even if you are not planning to retire on or near the date of the specific L fund choice.

Do you max out your TSP contributions? The maximum contribution for 2016 is \$18,000 for those under 49; those 50 and over can save an additional \$6,000.

Be sure you know how to log in or request your new password prior to making an appointment. Phone: (774) 205-3698

Email: MA-PFC2@MFLC.Zeiders.com



Published monthly for Patriots like SrA. Jessica Vega, 439th Airlift Wing legal office, and more than 4,700 people assigned to Westover Air Reserve Base.



COLD TAKE OFF >>

With Mt. Tom looming in the background, a Westover C-5 kicks up some loose snow as it lifts off into the chilly blue-gray skies of the Pioneer Valley's winter. (photo by MSgt. Andrew Biscoe)