

An oil painting of a bridge over a river. The bridge is a concrete arch bridge with a dark railing. The river is dark and reflects the bridge and the surrounding trees. The trees are in autumn, with leaves in shades of red, orange, and yellow. The sky is a pale, hazy blue.

# Season of change

Reservist reconnects with artist-side

# PATRIOT

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

439aw.pa@us.af.mil  
(413) 557-2020

Patriot on the web:  
[www.westover.afrc.af.mil](http://www.westover.afrc.af.mil)

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439<sup>TH</sup> AIRLIFT WING COMMANDER  
Col. Jay Jensen

CHIEF OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Lt. Col. James Bishop

WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

Capt. Andre Bowser

SUPERINTENDENT

MSgt. Andrew Biscoe

NCOIC

TSgt. Stephen Winn

VISUAL INFORMATION/

Layout

W.C. Pope

STAFF

TSgt. Amelia Leonard

SSgt. Tamara Williams

SrA. Charles Hutchinson IV

SrA. Monica Ricci

## UTA SNAPSHOT

>> This UTA weekend is a CORE training weekend.

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ON THE COVER -- MSgt. Christopher Houde created the painting "Steam on a Sunday Morning," which depicts a view of the Farmington River from his property in Connecticut, as a way of honoring his mother. She lost a fight to cancer. He said he picked up a paint brush again after three decades to create images of natural scenes for his mother, who taught him how to paint. Turn to page 4.



**A STAR IS BORN** >> Newly-pinned Brig. Gen. John Healy returned to Westover for a pinning on ceremony with Brig. Gen. Carl McGregor during the April UTA. (photo by SrA. Charles Hutchinson)



One day, when I was a junior officer, my boss at the time came back from leadership training, and he surprised me when he shared the lesson that had stuck with him. It was one that I still use today.

Perception is key. That was the thing that made the most profound impact on him, and in simpler terms, he explained; "You are not who you think you are. You are how other people see you."

Back then, the admiral left an indelible mark on me, clearly, as I recount a conversation that happened more years ago than I care to share. Ever since, I've always tried to analyze things from the perspective of peers, bosses, subordinates, friends and family. Understanding that their perspective of things is shaped by experiences, training and education, background and situations affecting them that I may not be aware of. The perspective of those around you will affect how they perceive everything from a situation, the job at hand, a new task or assignment and even communication up and down the chain of command. This 360-degree perspective has afforded me a better understanding of the

battlefield, whether that "theater of operation" is a job, a recreational activity, or a setting with friends and family. By considering what others think about a situation and what is shaping their perspective, I can better understand how a course of action or even my words and actions will affect them. This has afforded me a vantage to make better choices,

and I'm often more effective at shaping the battlespace to achieve the desired effects. By considering perceptions, I've become a better communicator, airman, wingman, mentor, dad, husband and friend.

I encourage each of you to think about perception, both yours and those of others. Do your actions and words inspire others or do they perpetuate mediocrity? When you're on the flight line, in your shops, TDY or even at home and everyone is a little tired, bored, or frustrated by a situation, consider your actions and words and how they are perceived by others. The choices we make; deeds and words make a difference.

*"Do your actions and words  
inspire others or do they  
perpetuate mediocrity?"*

**Col. Les "Anchor" Bradfield III**  
**439<sup>th</sup> Operations Group commander**



## BRIEFS

### Wing Quarterly Awards

The patriot wings second quarter award winners are the Airman of the quarter, SrA Eric Quagliaroli from the 439<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. NCO of the quarter is SSgt. Elisa Escalante from 439<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Staging Squadron. Senior NCO of the quarter is MSgt. Jonathan Bowker from the 42nd Aerial Port Squadron. The CGO of the quarter is 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Cesar Roda from 439<sup>th</sup> ASTS and finally the civilian of the quarter is Mr. Todd Panico from the 439<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Group.

### Still a chance Westover will get KC-46

The KC-46 pegasus is slotted to go to Seymour-Johnson AFB; however, Westover is still listed as a viable option or "preferred alternative". A public scoping meeting was held on April 12 at the Knights of Columbus in Chicopee. Information discussed included environmental and infrastructure concerns.

### Chief's Induction Ceremony

The annual chief's induction ceremony will be next month on the Saturday night of the A UTA. This is an invite only event held to recognize the airlift wing's newest chief master sergeants.

### We want you to become a First Sergeant

Are you looking for a challenge? Are you ready to step into a great career opportunity? Westover currently has two open First Sergeants positions, if you are MSgt. or TSgt. eligible to immediate promotion. You can get a full list of requirements from CMSgt. Kristine Seney at [kristine.seney@us.af.mil](mailto:kristine.seney@us.af.mil). Packages are due NLT 31 May 2016.

### Lodging crunch next month

If you are a commuter and haven't booked your lodging yet, you may run into some trouble this month. Because five colleges in the local holding graduations, most hotels will be booked.

### May is core UTA

May is a core UTA. You know that means decreased office hours around the base and more briefings. Additionally, a wingman standdown is scheduled for Sunday of the UTA.



# SEASON OF CHANGE: RESERVIST RECONNECTS WITH ARTIST-SIDE

by Capt. Andre Bowser

The steam rolling off the water is palpable; it tastes like the Farmington River on a crisp Sunday morning: like tree leaves, bushes, branches and minerals.

The sun is not visible, but the colors of the trees and brush suggest the season is fall, with deep reds, oranges, greens and browns.

The colors are vivid in the painting depicting the scene where MSgt. Christopher Houde found himself one early Sunday morning, because he wanted to take someone special to that place.

“My mother taught me to paint and draw when I was younger,” said the 20-year veteran of the Air Force, who has served on active duty, as a Traditional Reservist, and as an Air Reserve Technician. He started reconnecting with the artist his mother had nurtured because it was his turn to nurture her. “I would bring my mother drawings while she was in hospice care.”

Reconnecting with his artist-side by drawing for his mother was the way he spent her last days with her. MSgt. Houde said he picked up a paintbrush after 30 years as a way to honor his mother, Janice, who lost her fight with lung cancer on Oct. 11, 2010, at 2:34 a.m. He said her indelible spirit lives on in many ways, including through his love of art.

Although MSgt. Houde holds a Bachelor’s degree in business, as well as a Master’s of Business Administration, he is taking art courses toward a Bachelor’s of Fine Arts now.

“I’m doing this for me--just because,” said Houde, who serves as a finance troop on UTAs.

Natural scenes are his favorite subject, in part because they allowed him to bring his mother to the places where beauty still persisted above all else. He said his artwork decorated her room during the final days of her life.

In his most recent, completed painting, “Steam on a Sunday Morning,” a bridge hovers over placid, shimmering-dark waters, reflecting deep earthen tones from the land all around; a large, grey edifice sprawls both under and above the painting--free from usual bridge traffic. While a powder-blue sky rests above the bridge, its reflection is topped by a smoky mist reminiscent of the frothy head of a latte.

The seasoned Master Sergeant captured a secluded area along the Farmington River; it’s a familiar scene along his property in the town of East Granby, Connecticut.

“Painting is like riding a bike,” he said, adding that although it took him three decades to find the inspiration to pick up a paint brush, it was for good reason. “I was taking care of my family--focusing on my career.”

MSgt. Houde, 43, who has been married for 20 years to his wife Rachel, said he took time to teach his two daughters to draw--Ashlie, 19, and Lauren, 16--but now he has found a renewed sense of serenity in the craft.

Picking up a paint brush after so many years, he said, allowed a surprising number of lessons from his mother to come flooding back into his mind, his eyes and his hands.

Long before he adds any color to his paintings, MSgt. Houde said he starts by capturing the shadows--making each scene rise as if from the shadows-- and providing a realistic, yet impressionistic, world to the viewer.



**ARTIST >>** MSgt. Houde starts his paintings in black and white, and then builds on the shadows. He is pictured, at left, with his wife Rachel during the Westover 75th Anniversary Ball in 2014. (courtesy photo)

# Maj. Gen. Miller nominated for AFRC CC

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga, April 5, 2016 – Maj. Gen. Maryanne Miller was nominated by President Barack Obama to replace Lt. Gen. James F. Jackson as the Chief of Air Force Reserve and Commander, Air Force Reserve Command (pending Congressional confirmation).

The General is currently serving as the deputy to the chief of the Air Force Reserve, Headquarters U.S. Air Force Washington, D.C. She assists the chief of the Air Force Reserve who serves as the principal advisor on Reserve matters to the Secretary of the Air Force and Air Force Chief of Staff.

After Senate confirmation, she will become the first female Citizen Airman to achieve the rank of Lt. Gen.; first female

Chief of Air Force Reserve and first female Commander, Air Force Reserve Command during a ceremony in July.

“She is a proven leader and will continue to lead our Citizen Airmen to the next level of excellence,” said Jackson.

Miller, a graduate of The Ohio State University, has received many distinguished awards and decorations in her 35 year career and is a command pilot with more than 4,800 hours in numerous aircraft.

For more information, please contact AFRC Public Affairs at (478) 327-1746.

Find out more about the Air Force Reserve Command at <http://www.afrc.af.mil/>



## Changes to DoD mobilization authority could impact reservists

by AFRC Force Generation Center/Published March 21, 2016

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. -- Department of Defense Mobilization Authorities for Reserve Component access is undergoing some changes that could impact benefits for deploying Reservists, according to Air Force Reserve Force Generation Center officials.

The authority in Title 10 U.S.C. 12304b, Mobilization for Preplanned Mission Support, was approved by the FY12 National Defense Authorization Act. “However to date, the Air Force has not uniformly utilized this mobilization authority,” said Lt. Col. Greg Bules, Reserve Policy and Integration Legislative Initiatives program manager. “It’s important that all Citizen Airmen realize what benefits they are, and are not, entitled to with the changes,” Bules said.

Reserve Airmen who deployed in fiscal years 14, 15, and 16 have either been mobilized under Title 10 U.S.C. 12302, Partial Involuntary Mobilization, or opted to “volunteer” under 12301(d), MPA/man-days, said Bules.

“As we move forward in a resource-constrained environment, the Presidential extension of 12302 is questionable, and military planners expect to see growth in the use of 12304b,” Bules explained.

The FGC explained how the changes impact Reservists.

Like 12302, the use of 12304b activation is involuntary, but the associated benefits do not match those under 12302 and 12301(d). Currently, Reserve Airmen involuntarily mobilized under 12304b will not receive the following benefits:

- ♦ Reduced Age for Retirement

- ♦ Post 9/11 GI Bill Credit
- ♦ Vocational Rehabilitation
- ♦ Voluntary Separation Pay Recoup Protection
- ♦ Pre-Mobilization Health Care
- ♦ Federal Civilian Differential Pay

Multiple Unified Legislation and Budgeting efforts have been submitted in order to insert appropriate benefits into U.S.C. 12304b, but will require approval (and funding) by Congress, according to Bules.

One benefit was recently added to 12304b in the FY 16 National Defense Authorization Act. Reserve members mobilized under 12304b are now afforded an exemption from the five-year limit on reemployment rights, also known as USERRA rights.

As always, all who serve in the uniformed services have return rights to their civilian employment, but there will not be a five year cap.

“It is critical that activated Airmen understand what mobilization authority is in play, and what protections and benefits are authorized,” said Bules. “If you are selected for mobilization under 12304b, you should be given the option to deploy under 12301(d) status to ensure you receive the applicable benefits and entitlements.”

For more information, Reservists should contact their logistics readiness squadron, or the AFRC Force Generation Center at [afrc.fgc.workflow@us.af.mil](mailto:afrc.fgc.workflow@us.af.mil), or call 478-327-1234, DSN 497-1234, (option 3 for deployments).



# Westover Reservist Shares Her Story of Long Journey to Becoming a JAG

by SSgt. Tamara Williams and Capt. Andre Bowser

Air Force Academy graduate Capt. Tara Dunn has long had a career as a military Judge Advocate General in her sights.

Now she's closer to hitting her mark.

The executive officer of the 439<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Group had always been considered ambitious, and since majoring in one of the more challenging programs at the academy then tackling the rigors of her second year of law school at Northeastern University it was easy to understand why.

But just like the axiom "the race is not for the swift..." she has endured some trials along the way.

"Trying to balance out the demands of work in the midst of preparing for the Law School Admission Test was one of the most challenging aspects of my journey thus far," Capt. Dunn recounted during an interview over one busy drill weekend in February at Westover. She said balancing the key role in the Patriot Wing of supporting a commander has helped her develop core strengths and skills that carry over to her academic pursuits, and ultimately her pursuits in becoming a lawyer and a JAG.

The dream of joining the JAG corps goes back to Capt. Dunn's early years. "I've always been interested specializing in civil rights because of my grandfather," she said.

Capt. Dunn said her grandfather was the main driving force behind her decision to go Air Force. She said he joined the military when it first started to racially integrate back in the 1940s.

"Throughout his technical training, he remembered being one of the only African-American members in his class," Capt. Dunn said. "Each squadron had to be comprised of at least one African-American during that time period in order to be considered integrated."

Capt. Dunn said she always knew she wanted to become a lawyer even as a youngster, given her early proclivity for reading. Although her first passion was education, years later she found her second driving force: playing division one basketball at the Air Force Academy.

Her passion for college basketball was cut short, teaching her a life lesson in resilience and tenacity, she said.

"After my last big injury, my basketball coaches cut me from the team at the end of the season while I was still going through rehabilitation," Capt. Dunn said. "I was absolutely devastated."

Capt. Dunn said she was approached by the Academy's head volleyball coach, just as she was contemplating transferring to another school in order to play college basketball elsewhere. "She pulled me into her office and said that she heard what I was going through," she said.

Capt. Dunn spent the remainder of her time at the Academy balancing books and military drill with volleyball—finding the physical activity as a healthy outlet for stress. After graduating from the Academy as a volleyball athlete, Capt. Dunn said she went on to play her first favorite sport for the All Air Force Basketball Team as a lieutenant and a captain.

All of the training, preparation, discipline and balancing of a busy schedule at the Academy and in the active-duty Air Force paid off when Capt. Dunn left the full-time military to pursue her passion for law.

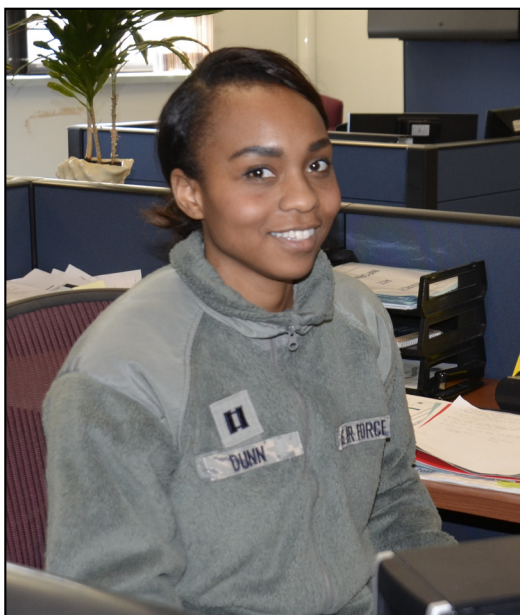
Although the long nights and even longer days as a law school student are tough, Capt. Dunn said she derives her strength from the rigors of her undergraduate education in the Space and Missile program at the Academy. "As a second year law school student, 12 hour days, prep course after prep course, and even longer nights, are the norm," said Capt. Dunn. She said in addition to calling on family and friends to help her through the trials of law school, Capt. Dunn calls on her faith, which was instilled in her by her family. "Having that reassurance helped me build a type of mental toughness and hard work ethic that I continue to rely on throughout law school."

When asked how she does it from day to day: serving as a reserve executive officer; a full-time law school student; keeping up her physical fitness regimen, Capt. Dunn mentioned her faith, family, and friends, again.

She pointed out that as a life-long athlete, she quickly learned that the best support is often found among peers. "I still have strong connections with my teammates because we were all right there in it together," she said, adding that her team has now grown to include the entire Air Force family.

In her journey to becoming a Judge Advocate General in the Air Force, Capt. Dunn has especially relied on her military family, she said, including Patriot Wing JAGs who have offered her advice along the way. "The connections I made will endure for life as they are all my brothers and sisters," she said.

Once she earns her Juris Doctorate, Capt. Dunn said her next step will be applying for and competing to become an Air Force Reserve JAG.



# Team Blue & Green

## Westover Aerial porters team up with Army Guard to support overseas mission

by MSgt. Andrew Biscoe

Joint-service spirit teamed Airmen in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Aerial Port Squadron with Army National Guard and active-duty Air Force Aircrews to load a C-130J Super Hercules recently.

The Army Guard's 20<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Group called upon the Aerial Porters March 23 for help with inspecting, building and loading the cargo onto a C-130J. The porters reviewed the plans to move the cargo with some of the Army members at a Chicopee armory.

On the day they loaded the pallet of ammunition with the C-130's engines running, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Airmen used a 10K all-terrain forklift to get the cargo loaded aboard.

Aerial port Airmen are perhaps most visible on the flight line when they're seen loading and unloading pallets using giant K-loader platforms. They're also responsible for inspecting cargo before it's put in place on aircraft.

"We're the mobility force -- as the mobility force we inspect airworthiness of the cargo with the deploying force, we also verify cargo configuration for the specific airframe that the cargo will be loaded on among other things," said TSgt. Peter Alicea-Correa, aircraft services supervisor. "The Loadmaster is the final inspector and verifies air eligibility before the cargo is uploaded onto the aircraft. But we make sure to work out any errors or issues before the cargo arrives at the aircraft for loading."

**ON POINT >>** Air Force Reservist and active-duty members assist Army National Guardsmen load cargo on March 23. The Army Guard's 20<sup>th</sup> Special Operation Group asked the Patriot Wing for a helping hand. (photos by MSgt. Andrew Biscoe)

**GOOD TO GO >>** A C-130J Super Hercules takes off from Westover with cargo headed overseas. (photo by MSgt. Andrew Biscoe)





## TROOP TALK

### "What does your parent do in the Air Force Reserve?"



When asked what his father does for the Air Force Jayden said, "He bowls!"

>> Jayden Fairey, 3-year-old son of Capt. Alan Fairey, Logistics Officer for the 58th Aerial Port Squadron

When asked what his father does for the Air Force, "Boss Micah" as he was referred to on the bowling screen answered, "He works on computers."

>> Micah and Jonah Huffman, 10-years-old and 8-years-old, children of MSgt. Timm Huffman formally with the 439<sup>th</sup> Air Wing Public Affairs office



When asked what his father does for the Air Force, he happily walked past me for the bowling ball and said, "I got this!"

>> Sam Ratcliff, 3-year-old son of Maj. Stephen Ratcliff, critical care officer for the 439<sup>th</sup> ASTS



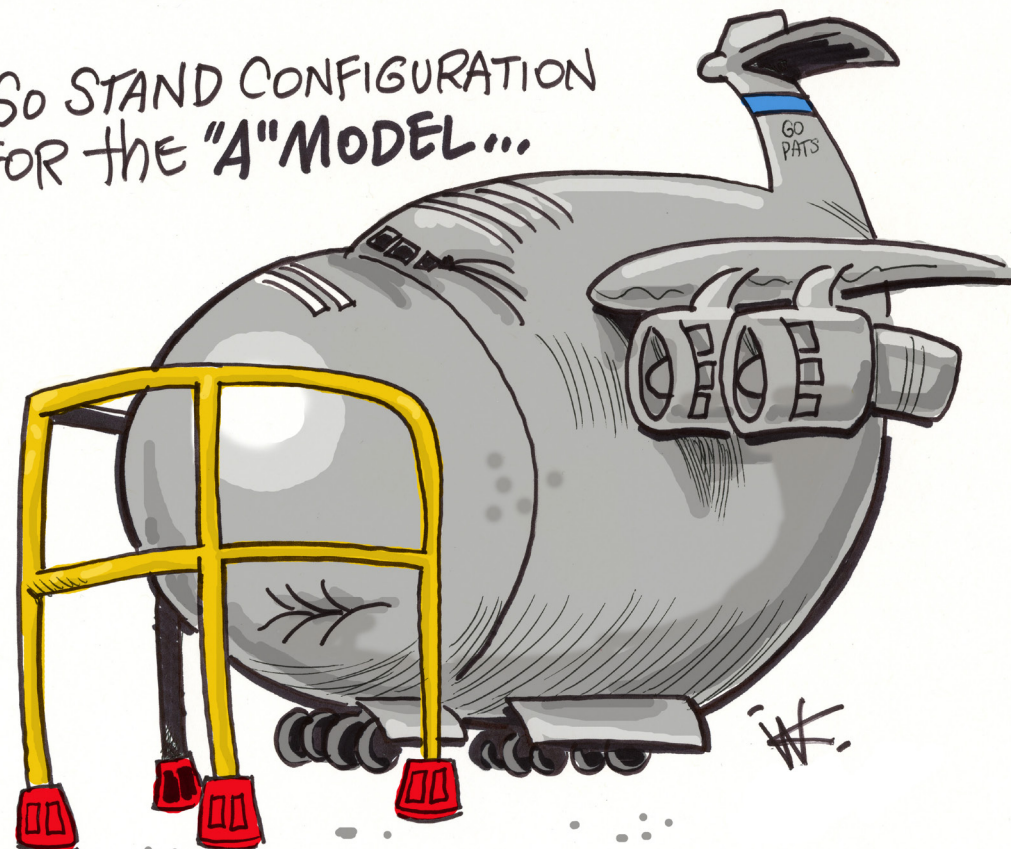
### MAINTAINING HIGH HONORS

>> Members of the 439<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron posed for a group photo after their Commander's call on the April UTA where each of them received an award or were promoted. Back row, L-R: CMSgt. Justin Thurber, TSgt. Joe Dulong, TSgt. Robert Martucci, SSgt. Zachary Penny, SrA. Romaine Campbell, A1C Sean Geisman, SSgt. Gary Davis  
Front row, L-R: SrA. Corey Costa, Amn. Alexandra Orn, SrA. Kerlyn Rodriguez, TSgt. Sheinaice Perez, SSgt. A. Jenelle Medina, Lt. Col. Jordan Murphy. (photo submitted)

## POPE'S PUNS

by W.C.Pope

**R**ISO STAND CONFIGURATION FOR THE "A" MODEL...





**Senior Master Sgt.**  
Danita Thiabeault



**Master Sergeant**  
Robert Eisnor  
Danielle Pelletier



**Technical Sergeant**  
Kristiana Barton  
Shane Burns  
Kristie Carl  
Jennifer Grace  
Joshua Harrison Lombardi  
Jay Jordan  
Robert Martucci  
Mao Meas  
Aleina Bernier Regan  
Savannah Skiff  
Keith Taylor  
Cassie Schettino



**Staff Sergeant**  
Derek Aalerud  
Janelle Abel  
Tony Alvarado  
Jeremy Andreason  
Eric Atwater  
James Brosnan  
Sarah Buelow  
Dillon Childs  
Steven James Christensen  
Kiernan Daly  
Brian Jenkins  
Shane Jobin  
Nicholas Karos  
Teresa Lussier  
Anthony Mcdermott  
Zachary Penny  
Maryellen Santiago  
Justin Skot  
Brittany Spano  
Bill Vautour  
David Viertel  
Garyson Winn



**Senior Airman**  
Collin Camara  
Landon Cannizzaro  
Jose Lehardy  
Courtney Lehnert  
Cody Ferro  
Jeffery Hupfer  
Pierson Keefe  
Kaitlyn Kellam  
Stephanie Ortiz  
Lina Ramirez  
Stephanie Oquendo Ramos  
Siana Rosado



**Airman First Class**  
Thomas Anyon  
Bryam Discua Rodriguez  
Zaire Laroche



**Airman**  
William Comette



## FACES OF WESTOVER

### A1C Cassandra Lopez 439<sup>th</sup> Logistics Readiness Squadron



When A1C Cassandra Lopez was initially talking with her Air Force recruiter, the Bronx native was given the choice of serving at Joint Base McGuire Dix Lakehurst, New Jersey, or Westover.

Despite the long drive from the New York City, she opted for a change of scenery and the chose the Patriot Wing.

"I don't regret the decision now... It has been a great experience and I plan on staying at Westover for my career," said the 439<sup>th</sup> Logistics Readiness Squadron, command and support staff Airman.

She said the highlight of her time here at Westover is the people, who she calls friendly and everyone on base is easy to approach. Her goal is to work her way up to a supervisory role in her career field and maybe even Chief Master Sergeant someday.

When not serving her country, Lopez works in administration for Macy's department stores near her home.

## RETIREMENTS

**Lt. Colonel**  
Michael Harry

**Major**  
Christopher Watkins

**Chief Master Sergeant**  
Joanne Boczanowski  
Michelle Dunfield

**Senior Master Sergeant**  
Antonio Demarco  
Patrick Thompson

**Master Sergeant**  
Lyle Armstrong  
Glenn Griffiths  
Adam Burr  
Robert Cirillo  
Joseph Whalen  
Andrzej Widor

**Technical Sergeant**  
Earl Gambino

## SERVICES CALENDAR

westoverservices.com

**Club >>** Lip Sync Battles every Friday night at 7pm in the lounge starting in May! Paint Nite May 14<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. Butchers Block on the Patio Tuesdays from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday BBQ's from 11 to 1 p.m.!

**The Bowling Center >>** Join the Walking Dead League starting May 19<sup>th</sup> Join the league and get a Walking Dead deigned bowling pin or ball. Mother's Day Special May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> 5 to 11 p.m. bring mom bowling and her games are free!

**Outdoor Recreation >>** New Aerator and Self Propelled Overseeder, get your lawns ready for summer. New 2016 Forest River R-pod 179 20ft campers! Come try out our camping and fishing equipment along with all of your summer party essentials. Stop by Outdoor Recreation Today!

**The Fitness Center >>** Get Fit Club every Wednesday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. There is a different fitness class every day stop by the gym and get all the information you need!



# PATRIOT



Look for WNN on local community access channels



## EMPENNAGE

### Patriot Avenue under construction

Major repairs on Patriot Ave. have started. Work will include demolition of the existing asphalt, repair of the underlying concrete slabs, and eventual asphalt repaving. This work is scheduled to last for two months. During that time you can expect to see a combination of work crews with flagmen or road closures with detours.

Please slow down and use caution while passing work crews and avoid the construction areas whenever possible. There will be times when traffic will be detoured around construction by using Hangar Ave., Eagle Dr., and Walker Ave. Every effort will be made to ensure there is access to all facilities.

Work will start at the Marine Facility, Bldg 3505, and go all the way to the intersection of Patriot and Logistics Ave. near Base Supply.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call 557-2433.

### Openings as a Chaplain Assistant

Westover ARB has openings for Chaplain Assistants. We are looking for SrA. through SSgt. If you have any questions about the positions and/or if you are interested, please contact TSgt. Richard Leger @ DSN 589-7006 or Comm (413) 557-7006 or richard.leger@us.af.mil.

### Two new computer labs for admin/training

439<sup>th</sup> Communication Squadron has established two computer labs to accomplish military related UTA administrative and training requirements, i.e. EPRs/OPRs, CBTs, and CDCs. One is located in Building 1100, Airman and Family Readiness, and the other is on the second floor of Building 5375, Base Supply. Airmen are encouraged to use these alternate locations when squadron facilities are limited. Food and beverages will not be allowed in these areas.



Published monthly for Patriots like Amn. Tinaja Neal, 439<sup>th</sup> Operations Group, and more than 4,700 people assigned to Westover Air Reserve Base.



### HIGH CALIBER MEMORIAL

>> A bent .50 caliber machine gun from a Westover B-52C was recovered on Sept. 11, 2015. Seven crewmembers died in the crash. The weapon was refurbished and will be unveiled in a ceremony at the Westover Club on June 4<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. (photo by 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Patrick Ford)