

PATRIOT

439th Airlift Wing | Westover ARB, Mass. | Volume 47 No. 8

August 2016 | Patriot Wing -- Leaders in Excellence

Patriot Clipper

page 4



photos by TSgt. Amelia Leonard

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UTA SNAPSHOT

>> Saturday is Family Day!

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ON THE COVER >> Members from Westover, March, Wright-Patterson, Bradley Field, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency from Maynard, Mass., worked together during exercise Patriot Clipper here at Westover during the week of July 11th. (photos by TSgt. Amelia Leonard) -- see more on page 4.

SEE 130 >> The 439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron poses for a group photo in front of a C-130 Hercules from the 910th Airlift Wing, Youngstown, Ohio. The AES trains monthly on various aircraft including the C-130, C-17, and the KC-135, because their mission at this time, doesn't include the C-5, so the unit has built relationships with other units that can provide the training they need. (photos by TSgt. Amelia Leonard)



EDITORIAL **Family is key to mission success**

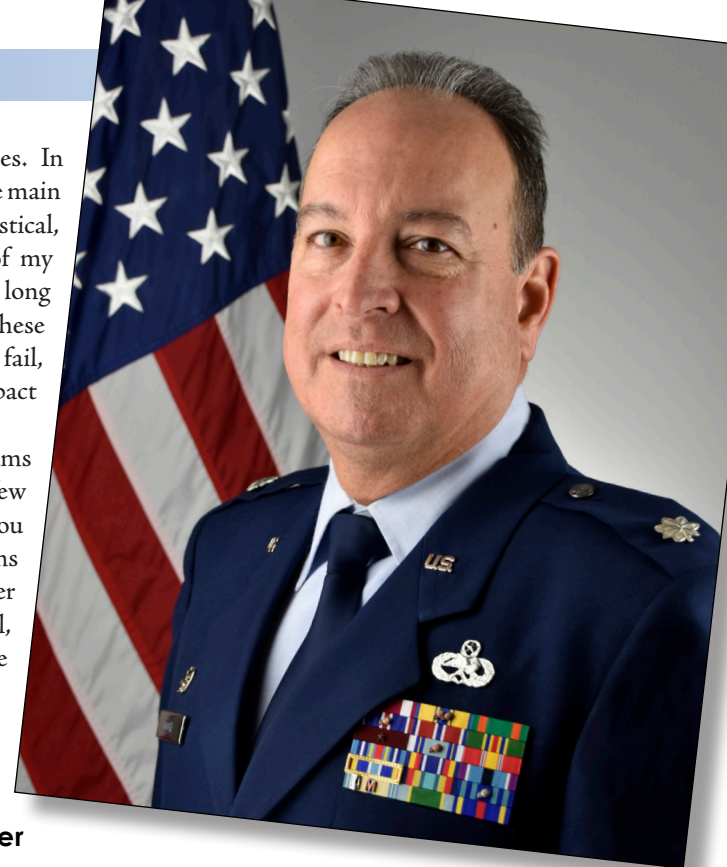
As the August UTA focuses on Family Day, I thought it fitting to share my outlook on how 'family' can impact all of us who serve. One constant I've observed in my 36 years of military service has been that the most successful and effective people I've had the honor of working with have had the strongest support from family. When I use the term 'family,' I don't necessarily mean blood relations, but I'm also referring to people a person may have close, personal relations with. I've found that people I've worked with who had strong family connections had far less distractions in their work-life because the support they received from their family greatly help absorb some of the responsibilities they had in their daily lives. The Patriot Wing Commander's Intent purposely lists its priorities as: Family, Job, Reserves. Our leadership puts 'Family' as the number one priority because our members are much more effective and ready to serve if their families are taken care of, prepared, and supportive of the member's reserve commitment.

As social creatures, we developed into societies very early in our existence, with the family being the most basic unit. So it would stand to reason that the family would be a basic human need and a key building block to a societal foundation—the more solid the family units, the stronger the society. This holds true within our wing. If we analyze our most effective units, along with strong unit leadership and followership we would find

the strongest support from individual families. In 2011, as a deployed detachment commander, the main issues I dealt with were not operational or logistical, but family issues back home from members of my team. Properly preparing their families for their long deployment would have resolved many of these issues. Although the issues didn't cause us to fail, the distractions they created had significant impact to our effectiveness.

In my opinion, the military has the best programs to help members and their families. With very few exceptions, as an Air Force Reserve member, you and your family have access to the same programs our Regular Air Force members have. Whether your or your family's needs are physical, psychological, spiritual, and even financial, the Air Force has a program to assist you.

Lt. Col. Daniel Moore
439th Maintenance Group commander



BRIEFS

Say goodbye to the B UTA

This month is a combined UTA for family day. September is the last month to officially have a B UTA. From October forward there will only be the A UTA.

Deployer's absence felt

More deployer's left Westover to join their temporary units abroad last month. Most shops on base are feeling the pinch due to their co-workers departure. Over two hundred Westover reservists have answered the call of duty. Please, remember their families and check in on friends during their absence. Also don't forget about the key spouse program.

VIP Boss lift

Are you a traditional reservist and have always wanted your civilian employer, boss, supervisor or manager to see what you do here every month? You'll have a great opportunity coming in September on the VIP Boss lift. This is a no cost event and you can nominate your boss. This event will allow employers the rare opportunity to tour the control tower, fire a weapon in the Firing Range Simulator, tour the U.S. Military's largest aircraft, enjoy a catered lunch, and then fly in a C-5! All names must be submitted by August 25. See our sign up sheet on page 9.

Dawn of the Green Dot

The entire base is getting in on some green dot training. This cutting edge replacement for annual Sexual Assault Prevention and Response training has a new focus. It is being implemented in groups of 30 at a first come first serve basis. Base leadership has already completed the training and supervisors have until September 30th to attend. General base population has until the end of the year. These informal classes are meant to foster a new more comfortable mentality that involves individuals assessing actions in their life as each moment can be used to do something positive.

Family Day Events

Family day is Sat., August 6 on the Base Ellipse. There will be many activities, games for the kids, and entertainment. For the adults there will be a horseshoe tournament and more.

A Car Show will be held in the Fitness Center's back parking lot. So bring your special car, truck or motorcycle and show it off. There will be a people's choice trophy.



★ ★ ★ Patriot Clipper

WESTOVER TEAM WORK >> Members of the 439th Airlift Control Flight and Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, 302nd Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, and the Marine Air Support Squadron 6 from Westover Air Reserve base, Mass.; 452nd ALCF from March Air Reserve Base, Calif.; Army national Guard MEB from Natick, Mass., 103rd Airlift Wing from Bradley Field, Conn.; and the Federal Emergency Management Agency from Maynard, Mass., teamed up during exercise Patriot Clipper here at Westover during the week of July 11th. (photos by TSgt. Amelia Leonard)





Patriot Clipper

by TSgt. Amelia Leonard

More than 100 military members and civilian personnel worked together to support Patriot Clipper, a joint forces exercise stationed out of Westover during the week of July 11, 2016.

Patriot Clipper tested the ability of the military and its civilian counterparts to work together and respond to a natural disaster at forward operating locations and full range operations in high threat regions with forces rapidly deploying and redeploying.

"We are simulating being at a bare base where we need to get personnel and support equipment into our theater of operations," said Maj. Jessica Rose, member of the 439th Airlift Control Flight and commander of the exercise Contingency Response Element. "We're specifically simulating how we would respond to an earthquake, hurricane, or any other kind of humanitarian disaster."

The goal of the mission was to open the airfield and set up a CRE and Joint Task Force, creating capability for incoming mission support, security, troop sustainment, search and rescue, law enforcement, and base defense to deploy teams to multiple incidents and operation areas.

Members of the 439th ALCF and Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, 302nd Maneuver Enhancement Brigade and the Marine Air Support Squadron 6 from Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass.; 452nd ALCF from March Air Reserve Base, Calif.; Army National Guard MEB from Natick, Mass., 103rd Airlift Wing from Bradley Field, Conn.; and the Federal Emergency Management Agency from Maynard, Mass., all participated in the exercise.

"The teamwork has been outstanding," Rose said. "It's always great to get cross-talk. There should not be a Westover way or a March way; There should be an Air Force way," she said.

"Every day we build upon the past day," said A1C Bryam Descua-Rodriguez, member of the 439th AES. "Every day has gotten smoother for us, and we've really learned from each other."

Working as a joint-task force is not something that many Citizen Airmen, or reserve soldiers and Marines have had the opportunity to do.

"I've never worked with any other branch, so it was a good learning experience in how their cultures work and how ours intertwines with theirs," said Descua-Rodriguez.

Three Air Force aircraft were utilized during the exercise. The C-5 Galaxy, C-17 Globemaster and C-130 Hercules transported cargo and passengers from Westover to



Plattsburgh, International Airport, N.Y., Pease Air National Guard base, N.H., and the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station at Cape Cod, Mass.

"We have already transported more than 290,000 pounds of cargo and performed more than 20 sorties in a four-day period," said Rose.

However, due to the nature of the mission and the unpredictability of how aircraft will hold up during these types of exercises, there were some unexpected curve balls thrown at the ALCF CRE commander and support staff during the exercise.

The biggest challenge always seems to be the readiness of the planes, said Rose. "No matter when you need to get cargo into theater, planes break along the way. The biggest challenge for us is then how to get the people and cargo into our theater of operations."

Although the AES does not work directly with the air flow planning or maintenance of aircraft, their members also felt the blowback from aircraft malfunctions. "You should always be really flexible and don't get down on yourself if something doesn't go your way," said Descua-Rodriguez. "You have to find a way to get the mission done."

As reservists, the members participating in this exercise are not exposed to these types of events as regularly as their active duty counterparts, so there is often a steep learning curve when jumping into an exercise like this. However, it's also why, as Citizen Airmen, we perform exercises regularly, to be ready to

take action at a moments' need.

"The reserve ALCFs provide 45% of the entire Air Force capability for the global air mobility mission. That's no small feat," said Rose. "Having these exercises to prove our worth to leadership, the Air Force and reserves is a critical part."

Citizen Airmen must also balance their part-time military work life with their civilian jobs or family life.

"I think my family certainly realizes the importance of my mission here and how I fit into the Air Force and the critical part we deliver for the U.S.," said Rose.

As the exercise began drawing down, all participants seemed to be in agreement that the exercise was extremely educational and worth all the hard work that was put into it.

"It's always fun and a learning experience working with everyone, and I hope to do it again in the near future," said Corp. Kofi Boateng, a Marine soldier working with the MASS-6 team from Westover.

Westover delivers humanitarian supplies to Guatemala

by MSgt. Dana Willette
337th Airlift Squadron

On May 27, 2016, I was fortunate to be the C-5 Flight Engineer in an Air Force Denton Humanitarian Mission to Guatemala City.

A crew from the 337th Airlift Squadron at Westover Air Reserve Base took 35 pallets weighing 88,500 pounds to the Central American country. The cargo was going to Tecpan, a remote village and the ancient Mayan capital of Guatemala.

Meeting us in Guatemala City would be Kathleen Price, founder of Mission of Love Foundation.

When we picked up the cargo at Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Ohio, about 50 people from Mission of Love and the flying squadron were there to meet the plane. They had a barbeque set up, perfectly timed for us. When we arrived the food was coming off the grill. I remember thinking how thoughtful that gesture was. The crew immediately started to upload the cargo and prepare for departure.



Chief flight engineer Glenn Flynn was able to give tours to the base families who had come out, inspiring future generations of aviators and support staff.

Hours later, when we touched down in Guatemala and I met the head of the non-profit, she told me this would be the 58th

Denton Amendment airlift mission she has coordinated to get life-sustaining supplies and equipment to people in remote villages! Despite Kathleen Price's vast experience in moving cargo, major obstacles had to be overcome up to the very last moment in order to deliver this aid to the people who were desperately awaiting its arrival.

The Denton Amendment Program is a DoD transportation program that moves humanitarian cargo donated by non-governmental organizations to developing nations

to ease human suffering on a space-available basis. The Mission of Love Foundation is the largest user of the Denton Program in the world, according to Kathleen Price. Sen. Jeremiah Denton was also Rear Admiral Denton and was held prisoner of war in Vietnam for almost eight years, later writing the book When Hell was in Session. Since

1998, officials report that 5.6 million lbs. of humanitarian supplies has been delivered to 50 countries.

Upon landing at Guatemala City airport, we were welcomed by Kathleen Price, the mayor of Tecpan, Serpio Ordonez, and volunteers who couldn't wait for those back doors on the airplane to open and the first pallets to come off. We learned that the Mayan doctors didn't have one piece of gauze in the hospital to treat patients!

The non-profit group had tractor trailers standing by to whisk away the much-needed medical supplies, lockers, chairs, wheelchairs, hospital bed and giant pallets of corn. One of the loadmasters, MSgt. John Lyons had said leaving Ohio, "We have everything, including the kitchen sink." It was hard to tell what we had because of netting on the cargo pallets, which keeps the load from shifting and causing damage during flight.

Shortly after arriving, the crew realized the standard Air Force cargo-downloading equipment was not available. The aircraft loadmasters, along with civilian airport

personnel, had to download all 35 pallets with two forklifts. Even working through a language barrier, they accomplished this in record time.

As they were downloading, the volunteers would break down the pallets, smiling broadly. "There had been a drought and the corn crops were weak," Kathleen Price told me. Corn is a staple in their diet – a necessary ingredient for tortillas. For many, corn is the only sustenance available, she said. According to Kathy Price, "The most common complaint among children, when they are fortunate enough to see a doctor, is their tummy hurts from being empty." Just a cup of corn would bring a person to tears. I was glad to discover that we had brought five pallets of giant bags of corn weighing 2,500 lbs. each – more than six tons of corn! There was so much corn, it had to be loaded onto the tractor trailers with forklifts.

Kathy Price asked if we could give



the villager-volunteers a tour of the airplane. "It would be the biggest moment in their lives, and would mean the world to them," she said. With the help of interpreters and wonderful crew members, we were able to show some of the villager-volunteers around. Kathy Price told me later that one of the villagers had a dream, that one day he would be on an airplane, and it came true that day.

After we returned from the mission, I was glad to see pictures of the distribution of the cargo we had delivered and see its impact. In one photo, a young boy with a crippling

life threatening disease lies on a bed we delivered and no longer has to lie on a dirt floor. In another children who can't walk and are immobile now had wheelchairs and big smiles on their faces.

I feel fortunate to see the help this mission provided. I've never had the chance before to follow the cargo and see it distributed on the ground. I was happy to see everyone's hard work come together, and the smiles on people's faces said it all.

Reach is the call sign for the C-5 Galaxy, and this cargo reached a lot of people who desperately needed these supplies. I'm very grateful to play a small role in such a grand gesture of humanity.

Patriot People



WELCOME ABOARD >> Westover welcomes over 15 new airmen to the base each month. This is the newest group to join in the ranks of Westover the largest standalone Air Reserve Base in the country. (photo by SrA. Charles Hutchinson)



MAKING IT STICK >> One of the traditions of welcoming someone to a higher rank is the ceremony of "Sticking the Strips". Doreen Mercado was promoted to Master Sergeant on the July A UTA by Col. Jay Jensen, 439th Airlift Wing commander and Lt. Col. Lawrence Josiah, the wing Staff Judge Advocate. (photo by SSgt. Tamara Williams)

THORPE RETIRES

by TSgt. Amelia Leonard

After over 28 years of service to his country CMSgt. Michael Thorpe retired, effective June 1, 2016.

Chief Thorpe spent the better part of his career here at Westover. He did depart a few times, with a couple deployments, and most recently his stint as the Command Chief of the 22nd Air Force, Dobbins, GA.

Chief Thorpe spent many nights away from home, many birthdays and even holidays were missed due to the mission.

Chief said, "I signed up to do this job my

family was drafted into it." "I thank all of you from the bottom of my heart," he said to his wife and two daughters.

Chief Thorpe was the highest ranking enlisted member at the 22nd, and his boss was the Commander of the unit, Lt. Gen. (Select) Stayce Harris.

"I would turn around and look for the Chief and I'd see him in the corner talking to an airman," said Harris. "The look in that airman's eyes, that person felt like the most important person on the base for that moment."

Chief Thorpe deployed a few times in his career in support of Operation Desert Storm/Shield and also Noble Eagle. He was also the First Sergeant at the 321st Air Expeditionary wing, Masirah Island Air Base, Oman for roughly six months.

In his career all the Chief wanted was to aid and mentor the people around, whether it be an airman or chief, or even an officer, his main goal was to help.

"I was hoping throughout my career I was able to touch and help at least a few people," said the Chief. "And by the gifts that I have received and the stories I have heard, I know I have, so thank you all for being a part of this journey with me."

MEMORIES >>

Bottom left photo, Command Chief Thorpe and family at the 2012 Air Show, at right, June 1 retirement speech, bottom photos are from Thorpe's May 2003 homecoming. (photos by Public Affairs staff)





Next Stop-Harvard

Maintainer launches into the Ivy League



by SSgt. Tamara Williams

This past July UTA, Major Frances Dixon, operations officer of the 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, shared lessons surrounding her recent acceptance into Harvard Business School and the great things that have happened as a result.

Dixon has served as a full time Air Reserve Technician here on Westover for the past three years and as an active duty officer for seven years, so making the decision to go back to school full time was tough. "I love what I do, and as a Reservist I knew that I had options to continue my service and I could either stay as a Traditional Reservist or become an individual Mobilization Augmentee (IMA) to better support going to school," said Dixon.

The biggest challenge she faced, aside from the entire process within itself, was the fear of the unknown, and not truly knowing what to expect, said Dixon. The mental preparation for Harvard was a long process. Dixon studied for the Graduate Management

Admission Test since August of last year, tested in November, and interviewed in Cambridge the following February.

Dixon applied to several schools initially, including Harvard, but Harvard was always her first choice. Being surrounded by a group of motivated individuals in her unit that had already gone back to school to pursue law degrees and other rigorous studies inspired her to fulfill her dream and pursue her Master's degree in business. The biggest source of inspiration through it all has been her husband; a current Cornell student who is pursuing his Master's degree in business as well.

"Why not live your dream? Why not live your life with no regrets not knowing how things are going to turn out?" said Dixon as she recounted her husband's words.

After her acceptance, the decision to go was an easy one. "Harvard is very pro-veteran. I tell every vet I can that Harvard wants to see more of us...more diversity! The biggest thing they want to do is educate a diverse group of leaders," said Dixon.

Not only does Harvard have an entire program set up to mentor applicants for business school, they also have an organization specifically designed to enhance these students after admittance. "If they can get people of various backgrounds talking and learning from each other then they can create more diversity of thought so it's not as homogeneous," she said.

Dixon is currently taking full advantage of Harvard's Yellow-Ribbon program coupled with her Post 9/11 GI Bill; which together will encompass the total amount of her college tuition, books, and living expenses. "How did I get here?... I was lucky enough to work with and for some really great people who helped me get to this point and mentored me along the way," said Dixon.

Boss Lift set for Sept. 15

Invite your boss to Westover for an exciting and informative tour and flight in a C-5!

On Thursday, Sept. 15, Westover will hold a VIP Bosslift and tour to see firsthand what our citizen soldiers do on duty. The event and flight are open to all employers of Reservists until the slots are full. (Last year, we maxed out at 35 employers!)

The VIP event will allow employers the rare opportunity to tour the cab of the control tower, fire a weapon in the simulator, tour the U.S. military's largest aircraft on the ground, enjoy a catered lunch, compliments of the State Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, and then fly in a C-5!

There is no cost to attendees for this outstanding event. Due to space restrictions, reservists will not be able to fly with their employers.

If your boss would like to join us for this event, please provide your employer's following information NO LATER THAN August 18, 2016.

Registration Information:

Employer's name: _____

Title: _____

Cell: _____

Office: _____

Email: _____

Business name: _____

Address: _____

Reservist (employee's) name _____

Forward this information to:

TSgt Amelia Leonard - amelia.leonard@us.af.mil
or Bill Hebert - ESGRBILL@aol.com

If you have any questions please contact Public Affairs at (413) 557-2020 or Bill Hebert at (413) 348-5195.

Revving engines, breaking glass

by TSgt. Amelia Leonard

Nearly 75 members of the local community, family, friends, military members and motorcycle enthusiasts came together to kick off a cross-country motorcycle journey in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Van Buren sisters ride from New York to California in 1916.

The sisters, Augusta "Gussie" and Adeline Van Buren, were pioneers in the Women's Rights movement. On July 4, 1916 they set out from

Sheepshead Bay racetrack in Brooklyn, New York to be the first females to

ever successfully ride motorcycles from one end of the country to the other. Their mission was simple, to prove to the Army that women were just as capable as men. After proving their capabilities, they hoped to become military dispatch riders. Unfortunately,



upon completion, the Army rejected their applications. However, their efforts still brought women one step closer to military service.

Four years later, women were granted the right to vote, a move that can be directly tied to the efforts of the Van Buren sisters and several other influential female activists during the period.

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of their two-month long endeavor, 75 motorcyclists from all over the country will be following their same route from New York to California. They will also be picking up an additional 175 riders once they reach Colorado to finish out the journey. The trek will take a total of three weeks. According to planners, "This event is not just about motorcycling; it's a celebration of brave and adventurous women, service to community and country, and the history of two-wheeled travel."



At a reception for the riders at the Westover Club, Maj. Frances Dixon told the audience, "I would not be here today if it weren't for those intrepid women and their audacious belief that not only could women serve, but they could serve as dispatch riders on the front lines," Dixon, Operations Officer with the 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron said. "I stand here today on the shoulders of giants, of women who came before me and paved the way for me to serve as a line officer in the most powerful military the world has ever known. Women who have believed so strongly in their desire to serve their country and support and defend the Constitution of the United States, that they have endured incredible discrimination, challenges and hardships that many of us could not imagine," she said.

Col. Karen "Jack" Magnus, Mission Support Group commander of the 439th Airlift Wing also addressed the crowd. "They laid down the beginning of a dialogue to include women in the military," she said. When she joined the Air Force in 1988, she was a young lieutenant, highly outnumbered by male officers. She had never met a female colonel in the Air Force until she made the rank of Major. "Once you start breaking glass, it's a little easier to break over time."

Several members of the Van Buren family attended the kick-off in support of the trip. They spoke of how strong their ancestors were, and how Augusta went

on to become a pilot, flying with fellow female activist Amelia Earhart and the Ninety-Nines. When her son was old enough, she taught him how to fly, and he served as a pilot in the Army Air Corps.

For more information, or to follow their journey over the next three weeks, visit www.sistersmotorcycleride.com



YOU COULD TEST POSITIVE WITH DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS

by Bo Joyner, AFRC Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. -- Air Force reservists should be careful when taking dietary supplements because of their potential health risks but also because they could lead to a positive urinalysis test result, according to officials with Air Force Reserve Command's Medical Services Directorate and Staff Judge Advocate's office.

"You really need to do your homework and check with your doctor before taking any kind of supplement," said Dr. Don Jenrette, AFRC's Drug Demand Reduction Program manager. "And you should know all of the ingredients that are in any supplement you might be taking."

Dietary supplements are intended to provide nutrients that may otherwise not be consumed in sufficient quantities. The most common supplements are vitamins. Other popular supplements promise help in gaining or losing weight, or improving athletic or sexual performance.

Jenrette said he and his DDR specialists in the field are often asked if there is a list of dietary supplements that are banned or illegal for use by military members.

He said that Air Force Instruction 90-507 specifically bans any supplement that contains hemp, hemp seeds or hemp seed oil, but there is not a comprehensive list of banned supplements by name. He did say, however, that the Defense Department is crystal clear about what substances are banned for use by U.S. military service members.

According to the DOD's Human Performance Resource Center website, substances banned for use by Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Coast Guard members include:

- anything on the Drug Enforcement Agency's controlled substance list (this includes spice, marijuana, synthetic cannabinoids, amphetamines, mood-altering substances and anabolic steroids);
- any substance the Food and Drug Administration has declared "illegal" or "not allowed" for use in dietary supplements (such as ephedra/ephedrine alkaloids, DMAA, DMBA and BMPEA);
- salvia divinorum (commonly known as diviner's sage); and
- any prescription drug without a current prescription written specifically for the individual.



"Reservists who take supplements that contain any of the illegal or illicit drugs on this list are in danger of testing positive during routine urinalysis screening," Jenrette said, adding that some supplement companies may not list all of the ingredients in their products.

"Positive urinalysis results due to dietary supplement use can occur because products on the market may contain undeclared drug ingredients – that is, controlled substances that are not stated/listed on the product label," according to the HPRC website.

"The FDA has found that many dietary supplements – especially weight-loss, bodybuilding and sexual-enhancement products – contain undeclared drug ingredients that could be potentially harmful and/or produce unwanted urinalysis test results," according to the website.

Jenrette said reservists need to pay especially close attention to supplements that contain hemp seed or hemp seed oil. Hemp is the plant that naturally contains the substance tetrahydrocannabinol (THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana).

According to AFI 90-507, "Studies have shown that products made with hemp seed and hemp seed oil may contain varying levels of THC, an active ingredient in marijuana that is detectable under the Air Force Drug Testing Program. In order to ensure military readiness, the ingestion of products containing or products derived from hemp seed or hemp seed oil is prohibited."

"Any product with hemp seed is prohibited," said Maj. Ryan Haslam, an attorney with AFRC's staff judge advocate's office. "Arguing that you popped positive for THC due to hemp seed use can still get you discharged because it is a failure to observe the prohibitions in AFI 90-507 and, as a result, a violation of Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice."

Military members should be mindful that products containing hemp seeds or hemp seed oil can be found at health food stores, including those located on military bases.

"Military members need to read the product label prior to consumption to make sure it doesn't contain hemp seed or hemp seed oil," Jenrette said.

Studying the label is good advice for anyone thinking of taking a supplement. Buying only from reputable, well-established supplement manufacturers is also recommended. Getting your doctor's opinion is another piece of good advice.

"Common sense is key when we talk about supplements," Jenrette said. "The best policy for Airmen is to be vigilant about what you put into your body. If you're not 100-percent sure that what you are taking is safe and does not contain any illegal ingredients, stay away from it."

TROOP TALK

"What do you hope to accomplish by the end of the summer?"



"Run a 4k in under 20 minutes."

>> TSgt. Jose Lara,
Airmen and Family Readiness



"I want to learn to fly a helicopter."

>> SrA. Michelle Trombley,
439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron



"To further my Air Force Career."

>> SSgt. Craig Nealon,
439th Airlift Wing



"To be qualified for upgrade training to be a flight engineer."

>> SrA Cecelia Ortego,
337th Airlift Squadron

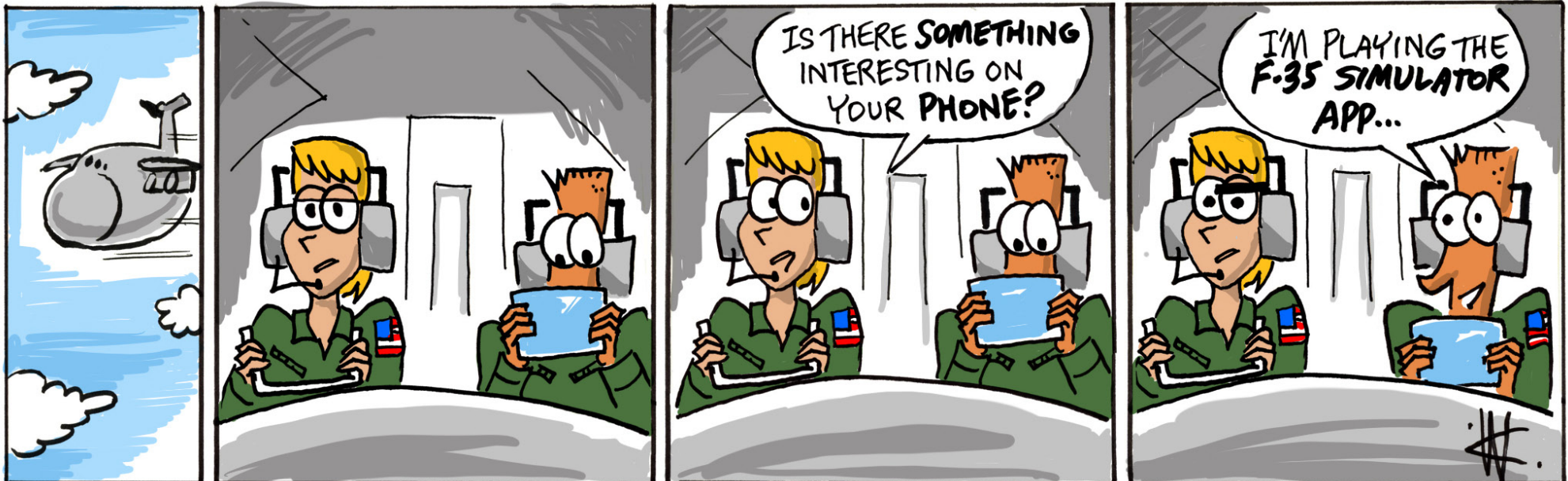
"Find a place to live and a job."

>> SrA Katherine McGinnis,
337th Airlift Squadron



POPE'S PUNS

by W.C.Pope



PROMOTIONS

Senior Master Sgt.
Christopher Israel



Master Sergeant
Doreen Mercado
Anthony Racco



Technical Sergeant
Kaitlin Bellows
Leonard Brower
Gary Davis
Michael Garcia
Aviles Gonzalez
James Hawkins
Timothy High
Ninfa Palmer
Joaquin Rojas



Staff Sergeant
Alexander Allen
Jenny Banner
Ryan Bator
Nicholas Call
David Christensen
Michael Dimonda
Kyle Gauthier
Eric Glatczak
Alexi Leguillow
Karol Makusiewicz
Yeison Mora
Edgar Reynoso
Andrew Rueda
William Schiavi
Erik St. Germain
Nathan Visconti
Ashley Williamson
Daniel Wilson



Senior Airman
Yanique Baker
Solmairasra Acevedo
Rodriguez
Puneet Khunda
Ashley Michie
Abraham Nicolau
Jennifer Poirier
Hali Ramos
Quiterio Sanchez
Zachary Strasser
Jamie Williams



Airman First Class
Maame Anane
Jessica Jablonowsk
Brian Veilleux



Airman
Timothy Armitage
Orville Henry



FACES OF WESTOVER

A1C. Nathaly Valdiviezo 337th Airlift Squadron

by SSgt. Tamara Williams

Airman First Class Nathaly Valdiviezo, Peruvian native from Glastonbury, Conn., and member of the 337th Airlift Squadron shared her journey into the Air Force one Westover morning. After migrating to the United States from South America when she was just five years old, Valdiviezo did not know exactly what she wanted to do in life but knew she wanted to be a part of something bigger than herself. While her first passion was art and she loved painting murals, inking, spray painting, and just about anything which involved visualizing and her hands, her situation definitely changed for the better, said Valdiviezo. Her cousin; one of the first members of her family to join the Air Force, inspired her to join after a lengthy conversation. With all of the benefits the military provides including free education, it was a no brainer for Valdiviezo. "It was a hard decision. I was a visual artist, so the discipline and the responsibility that came with joining the service was one of the more challenging aspects," said Valdiviezo.

Going from civilian to military, not knowing what to expect, and being an only child was also a transition. Valdiviezo was used to looking out for herself. "Here, we all look out for each other, no

one is selfish, everybody works for a cause, and we work as a team," she said.

For the first time, she had an organization of brothers and sisters looking out for her, and she was looking out for them.

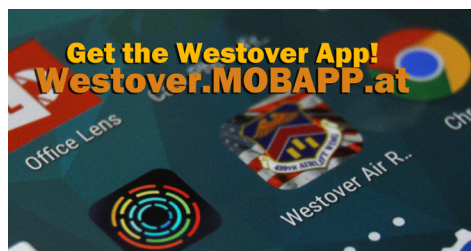
Valdiviezo made the decision to join the Air Force not just for the benefits but for what it represented. "I wanted to do something with meaning, something that had impact on the world, even if it was a small one," she said. She now works as the pilot facilitator, ensuring air crews are up to date on their requirements, meeting their qualifications before flight, and safe for travel.



RETIREMENTS

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Matthew Llodra

Master Sergeant
Mark Boganski



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RIBBON CUTTING >>

On June 28, the Westover Express opened its doors to renovations including a new floor layout, cashier stations and a Subway.

Performing the ribbon cutting were, Col. Jay Jensen, 439th Airlift Wing commander; Bill Lodge, Westover Express manager; Kathi Zeler, General Manager AAFES Eastern Region; Col. Karen Magnus, 439th Mission Support Group commander. (photo by TSgt. Amelia Leonard)

New Transgender policy

In July, Secretary of Defense Ash Carter announced that transgender individuals will now be able to openly serve in the U.S. Armed Forces. The DoD policy announced in June also establishes a construct by which service members may transition gender while serving, sets standards for medical care and outlines responsibilities for military services and commanders to develop and implement guidance, training and specific policies in the near and long-term. The full policy must be completely implemented no later than July 1, 2017.

Enlisted Pilots are coming

The Air Force recently selected the first ten enlisted airmen to attend RQ-4 Global Hawk pilot training, marking the first time since World War II enlisted airmen will be behind the stick. The first combined enlisted and officer training course will begin October 2016, with the first enlisted airmen expected to graduate in 2017.

Air Force leadership changes

We have a new Chief of Staff of the Air Force. On July 1, Gen. David Goldfein was sworn in as the twenty-first chief of staff taking over for the retiring Gen. Mark Welsh. Also the Air Force Reserve Command has a new boss. On July 15, newly promoted Lt. Gen. Maryann Miller will take the reins from retiring Lt. Gen. James Jackson.

