

# PATRIOT

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(U.S. Air Force photo/William C. Pope)



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

CHIEF OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Lt. Col. James Bishop

SUPERINTENDENT

Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

STAFF

Master Sgt. Stephen Caruso  
Tech. Sgt. Malcolm Tevanian  
Staff Sgt. Tamara Williams  
Senior Airman Monica Ricci

WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICERS

Capt. Andre Bowser  
Capt. Meghan Smith

NCOIC

Tech. Sgt. Stephen Winn

VISUAL INFORMATION

William C. Pope

## UTA SNAPSHOT

>> Wing commander pin-on ceremony, Saturday at 2 p.m.

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**ON THE COVER >>** As the last C-5As endure the New England chill before they fly to the boneyard. A C-5M with the silver engine inlets and blue tail marking of Dover Air Force Base, Del. is parked in the middle of this cadre of As. The C-5A with the Westover red tail markings and parked backward is the C-5A that will be going the Air Force Museum, Dayton, Ohio. (photo by William C. Pope)

**NEXT GENERATION >>** A transiting Dover Air Force Base, Del., C-5M's engines frame one of the few remaining A-models remaining in the Air Force. The older C-5s -- loaners from the Air Force Reserve's 433<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing -- are temporary trainers until the Patriot Wing begins receiving its M-models. Turn to page 8 for more on the C-5A engines. (photo by Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe)





The much-anticipated C-5M will be coming to the Patriot Wing soon. This completely refurbished model will feature more powerful but quieter engines, improved cargo area lighting, and a host of other upgrades. The first few M-models will be loaners from Air Mobility Command active-duty units so that we can continue to train our maintainers and aircrews. We'll start seeing the first of our very own later in the year as eight of our former B-models start returning as M-models.

Owning C-5Ms is a big deal. This will impact more than just operations and maintenance. This will have a positive impact for the whole wing and even our nearby community.

The positive impacts for ops and maintenance are obvious, since the performance, mission capability rates and reliability should be much better than what we're experiencing as of this writing. Additionally, there will be much better enroute support when we take these aircraft on the road.

Fortunately, we won't need to endure being the sole A-model and AMP base left in the AMC system. Right now, if a jet breaks on the road, we are responsible for dispatching a maintenance recovery team from Westover to fix the jet, regardless of where it is. We need to do that because the rest of the Air Force is now trained on the M and are no longer qualified to support the AMP systems. The extra time on the ground while waiting on parts and MRT costs the government money.

The surrounding communities have something to look forward to because the M-model has proven to be more quiet, thanks to its new engines. But don't be fooled by less noise. Those motors are significantly more powerful and they're more fuel-efficient. Crews will enjoy the extra power on days when we have heavy loads, short runways, or when operating from higher elevations. The extra power available also makes it safer in the event that we lose an engine, and that power will get us to cruise altitudes faster where we can enjoy increased fuel efficiency. Taxpayers are getting more "bang for the buck" out of the M-model, which brings more global reach by sending more cargo farther and faster for less money than the legacy AMP jets.

So how does that affect the rest of the wing? Ops and maintenance will not require as much money to keep the AMP jets moving so there should be more funds to do other things. Having better enroute support also means that we don't have to change plans as often when we send our jets out into the system.

Simply put, the new jets will help the entire wing accomplish its mission: Provide global-reach capabilities with mission-ready Citizen Airmen. It also brings us a step closer to the 439<sup>th</sup> AW Vision: AFRC's premier wing, providing innovative Airmen and leading-edge capabilities to support the Total Force.



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

## BRIEFS

### Commander to depart in June

Brig. Gen. Jay Jensen, 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing commander, is scheduled to leave Westover in June to assume a new position at the Pentagon, where he'll be Director of Plans, Programs and Requirements, Office of the Air Force Reserve.

Jensen informed the Patriot Wing in late January of this news, adding that he and his wife learned of his new assignment with mixed emotions. They arrived at Westover just a year ago.

"I've enjoyed serving and getting to know the men and women of the Patriot Wing," he said.

### SECAF Departure

Another senior leadership change of note in Washington, D.C., is the Secretary of the Air Force. Deborah Lee James will step down. Her replacement, former Congresswoman and Air Force Academy graduate Heather Wilson, has begun her confirmation process.

### Wing honors its annual award winners

Senior leadership put six Patriot Wing members in the spotlight Feb. 3 during the annual awards banquet held at the Westover Club.

The wing's top reservists are: Airman: Senior Airman (now Staff Sgt.) Eric Quagliaroli, 439<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; NCO: Tech Sgt. (now Master Sgt.) Reid Sindelar, 439<sup>th</sup> AMXS; SNCO: Master Sgt. Michael Edreich; 439<sup>th</sup> AMXS; Company Grade Officer: Capt. Daniel Higgins, 439<sup>th</sup> Communications Squadron. These Airmen will go on to compete at the Air Force level for the Outstanding Airman of the Year honors.

The two civilian members who earned the annual awards were: Civilian: Christopher Petrucci, 439<sup>th</sup> CS; Civilian Supervisor: Robert Mersincavage, 439<sup>th</sup> CS.

### Free Tax assistance

The end of the 2016 tax season -- almost in sync with spring -- is quickly approaching.

Airmen should log onto myPay to print off their W-2 statements. For free tax assistance, Airmen should consult with Military OneSource. Call 800-342-9647 to speak with a Military OneSource tax consultant.

### Wing commander's pin-on

A pin-on ceremony for Brig. Gen. Jay Jensen's promotion to brigadier general will be held March 4 at 2 p.m. in the Westover Conference Center.



# Patriot Wing Airmen honor B-52 aircrew



## NEVER FORGET ELEPHANT MOUNTAIN

>> A group of 439<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Group Airmen annually dedicate a weekend in January to travel to Elephant Mountain in northwestern Maine to pay tribute to one of Westover's Cold War sacrifices. The Airmen seen here Jan. 21 are honoring the B-52 aircrew that took off from Westover in January 1963. The mission ended in tragedy as all but two of the crew members died when the bomber crashed into the side of the mountain. (Courtesy photos)





# TOP 3 PREPS FOR SECOND ANNUAL DINING-IN

by Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

Organizers are putting the final touches on the upcoming second annual Westover SNCO/CPO Dining-In to be held in neighboring Holyoke, Mass., April 1.

The event's resounding success last spring was among the reasons to begin setting up this year's, said retired Senior Master Sgt. Gary Smith, who's helping to organize the dining-in.

"There was not one complaint," said Smith, who's a former 337<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron loadmaster and Top 3 member. The Top 3 is again sponsoring the event, which will bring back a live U.S. Army band.

Senior Master Sgt. Greg Libby, Top 3 president, said organizers are again pursuing a "multi-service atmosphere" this year.

"We don't want this tradition to be forgotten," he said. "It's about esprit de corps."

All present and retired senior noncommissioned officers



are invited from all service branches. Because it's a formal dining-in, spouses cannot attend unless they're in the military.

The dining-in will be held at the Log Cabin Restaurant. Cost is \$50 per person with a cash bar. Tickets must be purchased by March 24. For more information, contact Senior Master Sgt. Calvin Alexander at [calvin.alexander.1@us.af.mil](mailto:calvin.alexander.1@us.af.mil) or Libby at [gregory.libby.1@us.af.mil](mailto:gregory.libby.1@us.af.mil).

## Westover deployers return from Southwest Asia

More than 250 Patriot Wing reservists recently returned from six-month deployments spent at a pair of undisclosed Southwest Asia locations.

At one of those Air Force Central Command bases, about 45 percent of the Airmen assigned to command's 386<sup>th</sup>



Air Expeditionary Wing were reservists or guardsmen. Westover Airmen represented a majority of the jobs in the Air Force: They were assigned to aerial port, intelligence, force support, staff judge advocate, civil engineering, chaplain, chaplain assistants, logistics readiness, maintenance, communications, public affairs and security forces.

Tech. Sgt. Elias Aponte was among more than 50 SFS Airmen

who took up Central Command taskings at the two undisclosed locations.

"Our mission was base security operations and securing the flight line," Aponte said. "We set it up so when the flying guys showed up they were all set to hit the ground running and get their mission on their way."

Aponte, on his second deployment, said first-time deployers reaped a lot of benefits to be working with more experienced Airmen. "It was a good deployment, especially for the first-term Airmen. The time went by fast."

The NCO said the six months taught him about himself. "I grew as a NCO," Aponte said. "I learned a lot about myself. I had the opportunity to be placed in a lot of leadership positions. I loved it."

The Total Force concept is a manning pillar in the expeditionary world. The six-month deployments supported Operation Inherent Resolve.





**SAND ART >>** To keep busy in their off hours members of the 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing contributed their art skills to the unit morale T-Wall while deployed to a base in Southwest Asia. Staff Sgt. Janet Izquierdo, 439<sup>th</sup> Force Support Squadron (below) and Staff Sgt. Maryellen Santiago, 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Port Squadron (right) who were deployed with the 386<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Force Support Squadron apply their talents to the T-Wall. "Once again Westover taking charge and leaving our mark!" said Izquierdo, the project leader. Lt. Col. Robert Stolzman, wing JAG officer, contributed to the design. Tech. Sgt. Abdul Addy, 439<sup>th</sup> FSS and Master Sgt. Michelangelo Dotimas, 439<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineers also contributed to the project.





# Chicopee resident sworn in as wing's fifth honorary commander

by Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

The Patriot Wing's newest honorary commander has known Westover all her life.

That's because Marie Laflamme, who's treasurer for the city of Chicopee, is a life-long resident of Westover's neighboring city. Brig. Gen. Jay Jensen, 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing commander, swore Laflamme in as part of the wing's annual awards gala held Feb. 3 at the Westover Club.

The honorary commander program encourages the exchange of ideas, experiences, and friendships between Westover leadership and key members of the local community.

"It was overwhelming," she said of the evening she learned of being selected. "It was emotional to be around so many military folks who deserve the awards."

A standing ovation from the crowd humbled Laflamme. "I thought, 'no way, it's not me. It's you.' I think my speech said it all."

A strong supporter of Westover and its Air Force mission, Laflamme has been a Galaxy Community Council member for many years. She's assisted in planning the Great New England Air Show and Westover's Family Day. She serves on the Board of Directors as the council's secretary. She participates in fund-raising efforts to support the USO, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, Young Marines, and Civil Air Patrol.

Laflamme is a veteran civic and business leader and volunteer in western Massachusetts. She volunteers at the Holyoke Soldiers Home and is a communicant of St. Rose De Lima Parish, also in Chicopee. Her favorite part of volunteering is working with people.

"I've met so many friends. My goal to volunteer was to help others, but I've met so many friends too," she said. "It's all about the people."

She's on the board of directors for Sunshine Village and the Westover Metropolitan Development Corporation.

Laflamme attended Chicopee public schools,



graduating from Chicopee Comprehensive High School and later earned a bachelor's degree in business at Western New England College.

As treasurer, Laflamme oversees a \$180 million budget and the city's payroll for approximately 2,500 employees. She's served on the Greater Chicopee Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and as its chairwoman.

Despite all the accolades, she prefers to sidestep the

attention. She wants to help bring more public awareness to what people do at Westover while in service to their country.

"I'm the worker," Laflamme said. "I like to wear the jeans and get the job done."

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Tech. Sgt. Malcolm Tevanian contributed to this story.*



## SYMBOLIC END >>

Four C-5A/B GE TF-39 engines were loaded on a Dover C-5M Feb. 8 to be flown to Dover Air Force Base, Del., to be retired for reclamation. These older engines may have powered this M-model before its modification. TSgt. Tomasz Drejsa and Staff Sgt. David Murphy, 439<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron, help load the 8,000 pound engines for their last flight. (photos by Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe and William C. Pope)



## TF-39 engines fly for the last time





# End of the TF-39 Era



**TF-39 TRIBUTE >>** The TF-39 engine's first run was in 1964 and the last run will be this summer when the last C-5A leaves Westover for the boneyard.





# Base Hangar renovations now and then

**IN THE NOW >>** Base Hangar construction update: phase one of four with the ongoing Base Hangar construction is nearing completion by late summer. For more information on this construction, tune into base cable channel 50, Westover News Network.



## **BACK IN THE DAY >>**

The Base Hangar is pictured during the 1991 red carpet welcome home celebrations for Desert Storm and on the right the 1958 Armed Forces Day. The control tower operated from atop the hangar until 1962. (photos by PA staff and retired Senior Master Sgt. Stanley Lukasiewicz)



# Wing provides Airmen commissioning opportunities

The Deserving Airman Commissioning Program provides opportunities for solid officer candidates. Men and women with a bachelor's degree, who have the desire to build upon their Airman foundations, can join the ranks of officers in the Air Force Reserve.

A 439<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Group Deserving Airman Commissioning Board will interview such candidates on the May UTA. The positions looking to be filled are:

31P Security Forces Officer, 21R Logistics Readiness Officer, 32E Civil Engineering Officer

Candidates must be able to complete the entire commissioning process, including Officer Training School, before their 35<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Packages must include the following:

1. Copy of applicant's Air Force Officer Qualification Test (AFOQT) scores
2. Copy of college transcripts
3. A cover letter explaining why you would make a good

officer candidate

4. Two letters of recommendation (one must be from your current commander)
5. A resume which includes work experience (both reserve and civilian job experience as applicable)
6. A current Fit To Fight Score
7. A completed AF Form 24 and AF Form 56

Completed application packages should be sent electronically to 439 MSG/CCE org box no later than close of business April 2. The POC for application submission questions, or problems sending application packages electronically, is Rick Tilburg at 557-3044.

For any questions regarding program specifics, please contact 1st Lt. Christopher Harding @ christopher.harding.5@us.af.mil

Another commissioning opportunity exists at Westover in the Medical Service Corps, 41A3 AFSC. MSC officers are professional health care administrators working in

command, administrative, logistics, and education functions supporting the provision of health care to authorized beneficiaries.

- Education: Applicants' qualifying graduate degrees include: Health administration, healthcare administration (or equivalent), accounting, business administration, business management, and economics.

- Required minimum GPA for the qualifying degree is 3.0
- Maximum age to apply for a MSC Commission is 42 years unless designated on the Critical Wartime Skills List (CWSL)

- GMAT/GRE scores from an examination taken within the last five years are required for all applicants. The minimum score for GRE is 286; the GMAT minimum score is 400. If interested in this type of commission, please contact Capt. Samantha Shameklis at (413) 557-2244 or email her at samantha.shameklis@us.af.mil.

## Wilson testifies on current state of the AF

by Tech. Sgt. Robert Barnett

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Stephen Wilson testified on the need for increased force structure and modernization before the House and Senate Armed Services committees Feb. 7 and 8 on Capitol Hill.

Wilson discussed the current state of the Air Force, how it's ensuring capability within current constraints, and requirements needed to bring the service back to full strength in global vigilance, reach and power.

"During the allotted time of this hearing an average of 65 mobility aircraft will take off, 430,000 malicious connections will be blocked, five homeland defense missions will fly, and three strikes against ISIS will occur," Wilson said.

He provided examples of recent air operations, including various combat and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions, and the Raqqa and Mosul offensives, "where our RPA, fighter and bomber Airmen also conducted 92 percent of the U.S. strikes against ISIS."

The Air Force has shrunk from more than 500,000 active-duty Airmen during Desert Storm to approximately 317,000 today – a 38 percent decrease, all while the capabilities Airmen provide for the nation and allies have never been more vital, and the global demand for American airpower will only grow in the future, he said.

"We are out of balance, and the demand for our mission and people exceeds the supply,"

Wilson said. "Twenty-six years of continuous combat has limited our ability to prepare for future advanced threat environments – scenarios with the lowest margins of error and highest risk to national security. This non-stop combat, paired with budget instability and lower-than-planned top lines made the United States Air Force one of the smallest, oldest-equipped, and least-ready in our history."

Wilson also discussed the current pilot retention issue – pilots are unable to do what they signed up for and are choosing to leave the Air Force after about 11 years of service, he said. In 1991, there were 134 fighter squadrons; today, there are 55.

Air Force leaders, according to Wilson, have been forced to make unacceptable tradeoffs between readiness, force structure and modernization. Today's global challenges require an Air Force ready to defeat violent extremism and any other threat the nation may face.

Quoting Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Wilson said, "The history of failure in war can be summed up in two words: too late. Too late in comprehending the deadly purpose of a potential enemy. Too late in realizing the mortal danger. Too late in preparedness."

Wilson said the biggest priorities for modernization are nuclear deterrence operations, the KC-46 Pegasus, F-35 Lightning II, and the B-21 Raider.

Wilson said readiness cannot be overlooked.

"Your Air Force needs Congressional support to repeal the Budget Control Act and provide predictable funding. It is critical to rebuilding military full-spectrum readiness, which is the number one priority of our Secretary of Defense.

"We need to act now," he continued. "Before it's too late."



## TROOP TALK



"Tell us a time when you had good luck!"

"I'm usually pretty lucky when it comes to money. And when it comes to jobs and unexpected money."

**Staff Sgt. Jason Snukis,**  
42<sup>nd</sup> Aerial Port Squadron

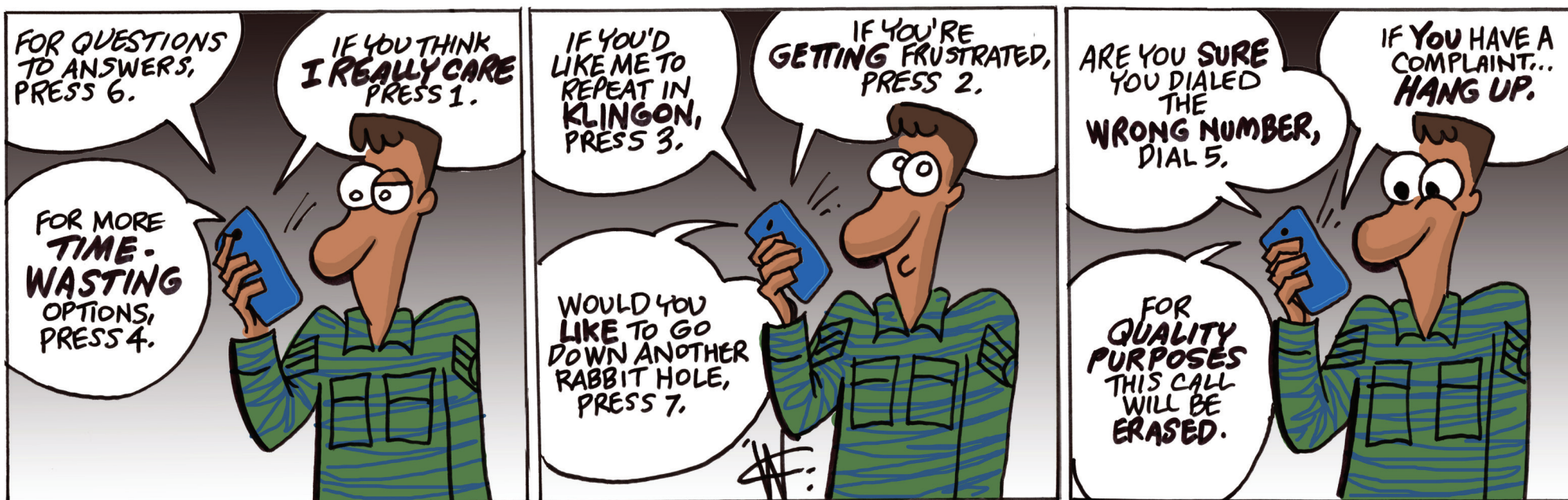
"My first UTA here, my car hit black ice and I spun out three times, hit a guardrail and got out completely unscathed. Then someone did a 180 around me and ended up driving me the rest of the way to base."

**Staff Sgt. James Kearney,**  
439<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron



## POPE'S PUNS

by William C. Pope





## PROMOTIONS

### Senior Master Sgt.

Keith Landry  
Crystal Harry



### Master Sergeant

Christopher Crawford



### Technical Sergeant

Cindy Nguyen



### Staff Sergeant

Brian McDonald  
Andrew Lafontaine  
Jordan Vert  
Shanon Duffy  
Rebeca Serrano  
Brandon Deans  
Sarah Estime  
Kyle Raymond



### Senior Airman

Matthew Blanchette  
Christiana Burelle  
Mark Iervolino  
Emmanue Kankam  
Alexandra Orn  
Matthew Mallinson IV



### Airman First Class

Amanda Nathaniel  
Kalin Verardi



### Airman

Asia Flint  
Christian Sears  
Faustino Colon Jr.  
Jazmyn Anderson  
Kiana Eaton



## Staff Sgt. Gregory Tayetto

439<sup>th</sup> Aerospace Medicine Squadron



## FACES OF WESTOVER

### by Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

Like his counterparts throughout the Patriot Wing, Staff Sgt. Gregory Tayetto bustles through the UTAs helping to orchestrate scores of physicals for reservists within the confines of the 16-hour weekend.

Tayetto is a flight operations medical technician. His primary role is to take care of the men and women who fly the C-5s here. "It's our job to keep our people fit to fight," he said. "I ensure everybody's healthy to serve in the military."

He grew up in Boston and spent time in the famous Bay State seaport town of Gloucester. He lives in South Hadley, Mass., and is setting himself up for his next goal of getting his commission.

"I'm finishing up my MBA in management, and am working towards becoming a medical services officer in 2018," he said. "Another goal of mine is to become a squadron commander."

In the mean time, Tayetto, who's on full-time orders, enjoys his role within the clinic. "It's hard work, but rewarding. It's a fun job," he said.

## RETIREMENTS

**Chief Master Sergeant**  
Wilbert Feltner

**Senior Master Sergeant**  
Steven Peterson  
Robert Salomaa  
Joseph Schneider

**Master Sergeant**  
John Tetreault  
Michael Witt  
Robert Flynn Jr.  
Ronald Girard Jr.  
Michael Jump  
Ellen Moore  
Steven Pelletier

**Technical Sergeant**  
Daryl Dejorjy  
Michael Peros  
Paul Rhoades

## SERVICES CALENDAR

westoverservices.com

**CLUB >>** March 17 - St. Patrick's Day Buffet Served from 11-1 p.m. and 5 p.m.-7p.m. in the lounge. Enjoy all the Irish favorites, corned beef, cabbage, carrots, boiled potatoes and shephard's pie; \$8.95 club members and \$11.95 for non-members.

**GRIND >>** Throughout the month of March -two-of-a-kind at the Grind! Daily deals \$2 Grande Lattes. Salads and Subs \$5.75 includes a bag of chips or fresh fruit. Available Monday through Friday only!

**BOWLING CENTER >>** The center opens at 5 p.m. March 18. Show your Irish Spirit! Wear green and receive discounted bowling. Shamrock Pin -- bowl a strike when the headpin has a shamrock and win a free game!

**FITNESS CENTER >>** March 15 is the 5K St Patrick's Fun Run. Sign-up starting March 1. Those interested may sign up all the way up to the day of the race (starts at 7:30 a.m.) One male and one female winner will receive a trophy.

**OUTDOOR RECREATION >>** Rent all your outdoor needs through the center at prices that beat all local centers. Check out a full list of items at [www.westoverservices.com](http://www.westoverservices.com)



# PATRIOT



Look for WNN on local community access channels





Published monthly for Patriots like Senior Airman Caridad Perez, 439<sup>th</sup> Operations Support Squadron and more than 4,700 people assigned to Westover Air Reserve Base.

### AF releases new guidance on civilian hiring freeze

The Air Force has released additional guidance in regard to the federal civilian hiring freeze implemented Jan. 23.

According to the official memorandum, the hiring freeze applies to all executive departments and agencies regardless of their operation and program funding. Military personnel are excluded. Some exemptions are permitted to meet national security mission and public safety responsibilities or to prevent essential services from interruption.

The Air Force recently released additional implementation procedures in support of a follow-on Feb. 1 memorandum outlining the implementation of the freeze. According to the guidance, all requests for personnel action received by the Air Force Personnel Center by Feb. 7, 2017, will continue to be announced, and referral certificates will continue to be issued.

If tentative job offers were given to selectees before Jan. 22, but with entry dates after Feb. 22, they will be notified of their pending status. Also, as of Feb. 7, AFPC will not be accepting recruit/fill actions without an approved hiring freeze exemption signed by the Secretary of the Air Force.

Official guidance also calls for the implementation of a long-term plan to reduce the size of the federal workforce through attrition. "The Air Force is dependent on a strong civilian workforce to carry out its global mission," said Christine Armstrong, the Civilian Sustainment and Transition Programs Division chief. "We will continue to work closely with Air Staff to ensure the entire Air Force team receives up-to-date guidance as it becomes available."

For information concerning non-appropriated fund positions, contact: [afpc.svirf.humanresources@us.af.mil](mailto:afpc.svirf.humanresources@us.af.mil)



### SNOW SHOW >>

A belated winter storm -- by New England's standards -- finally arrived Feb. 9, and dumped 15 inches of snow on the base, according to the base weather staff. (photo by Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe)