

# PATRIOT

439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing | Westover AFB, Mass. | Volume 48 No. 7

August 2017 | Patriot Wing -- Leaders in Excellence



*The last boneyard-bound*

**C-54**, 0448's final flight into the **history books**



story on page 4



## Provide global reach capabilities with mission-ready Citizen Airmen

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## UTA SNAPSHOT

>> Green Dot starts, check your local times and place

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**ON THE COVER >>** C-5A 448 leaves for the boneyard and that only leaves two remaining A models in service, story on page 4. (photos by Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Sadie Hewes)



**C-5 Vibes >>** One of the last two C5-As in the Air Force's inventory was parked next the control tower to greet the first C-5M Super Galaxy. Aircraft 0451 was scheduled to depart Westover in late July for its final flight to Travis Air Force Base, Calif., where it will be displayed in a museum. (photo by Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Sadie Hewes)



**by Staff Sgt. Tamara Williams**

After a tumultuous past four months, the Rising Six survey results are finally in.

The Rising Six conducted a survey on base, which centered on how Westover Airmen prefer to receive, retain, and distribute information.

The survey included questions such as, how do members prefer to receive individual information pertaining to their personal readiness, and what information would they like to receive from the wing on and off duty.

Further, they were asked which information techniques were already working, and how troops preferred to receive information from their squadron; which shaped the survey entirely.

The results revealed that 68.5% Airmen polled preferred grasping information from their squadron via personal email, while the minority of said individuals' opted for the receipt of information through shared drives.

Interestingly enough, Airmen also responded that they preferred to

receive information via their personal email instead of their government email when asked which information sharing techniques were already working. More individuals tend to check their personal emails a lot more frequent, given easier access while off base.

As far as information members desire to receive from the Wing, military members place the most emphasis on knowing their upcoming UTA schedule and base events prior to the drill weekend.

The majority of reserve members that participated in the survey heard about it through their government email; and with the strong feedback, the Rising Six can pave the way in helping leadership communicate more effectively with Westover Airmen.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: The Rising 6 meets each Saturday of the UTA at 10:30 a.m. in the wing commander's conference room in wing headquarters (Bldg. 1850). It is open to Airmen in the ranks of airman basic through technical sergeant.*



**BRIEFS**

**PA products**

Below listing shows links to various public affairs information mediums:

Base web site: [www.westover.afrc.af.mil](http://www.westover.afrc.af.mil)

Westover Facebook page: [facebook.com/westoverpatriot](https://facebook.com/westoverpatriot)

Instagram: [instagram.com/westoverarb](https://instagram.com/westoverarb)

Channel 50:

[YouTube.com/439westover](https://YouTube.com/439westover)

Patriot: [www.westover.afrc.af.mil/patriot](http://www.westover.afrc.af.mil/patriot)

Deadline for the Patriot is by the close of business of the previous month's UTA. For more information, call PA at 557-2020.

**Financial counseling available**

Wilbert Guilford is Westover's new personal financial counselor. He is available to military members and their dependents in building 1100 on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. He is also available by appointment seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on UTAs by request. Guilford provides individualized money management, financial counseling, financial planning and referral services. To set up an appointment or arrange a briefing, please give him a call 480-403-1086.

**Chief's Council scholarship deadline approaches soon**

The application submission deadline for two Westover Chief's Council \$500 scholarship applications is Sept. 30.

The Chief's Council will award a scholarship to one service member assigned to the wing, E-1 through E-8, and one enlisted family member. The selectees will be announced in October and granted toward the Fall 2017 semester. A link to the application is available at:

<http://www.westover.afrc.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/1249057/chiefs-scholarship-application/>

**Solar eclipse to glow in the sky Aug. 21**

It has been 38 years since a total eclipse has happened over the continental United States, and it will happen again Aug. 21 at about 9 a.m. You'll need eclipse glasses to view the event which can be found online, and through public libraries and museums.

**Fall Semester Online Enrollment**

For Airmen looking to further their education, it is not too late to enroll for classes for this upcoming fall semester. Elms College is offering online courses at the tuition assistance approved rate of \$750 per class. The classes offered will translate into credits for your Community College of the Air Force degree, in order to use tuition assistance you must apply within the 45-7 day window prior to the start of class. The enrollment period is currently happening.



*Westover approaches the end of an era*

# 0448 LEAVES FOR BONEYARD THEN THERE WERE TWO

photos by Airman 1st Class Sadie Hewes



**by Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Sadie Hewes**

It was a bittersweet moment as C-5A 448 taxied to the end of the runway and prepared for takeoff. It sat alone, away from the other remaining two of its model, ready to retire from countless hours of service and proud memories it provided Air Force aircrews and maintenance units.

C-5A 448 was one of the last three remaining A-models in the Air Force's aircraft inventory. Further, it was the last C-5A to head to the boneyard at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona.

The remaining two C-5As, also housed at Westover, will be flown to aircraft museums at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, and Travis Air Force Base, California, later this summer.

Aircraft 0448, nicknamed the four-four late, was originally transferred to Westover September 7, 1988.

Col. Les "Anchor" Bradfield, former 439<sup>th</sup> Operations Group commander, flew the C-5A from Westover to the boneyard. The aircraft has over 22,000 flying hours on the airframe.

The aircraft retired having performed 6,076 full stop landings and 18,106 total landings.

Although Westover is sad to see the C-5As go, aircrew are looking forward to the new chapter beginning with the C-5M Super Galaxies that are replacing the A-models.

"We are all excited about the increased performance of the C-5M," said Lt. Col. Craig T. Tommila, 439<sup>th</sup> OG. "It will extend our global reach capabilities, and increase efficiency tremendously."



# Education just around the corner on **FourBlock**

by Master Sgt. Stephen Caruso

For veteran service members planning to return to school or pursue a career change, the process of making the switch can be daunting. I began my own transition in 2012 after nearly four years of military service, pursuing full-time university studies in New York

City. I was grateful for the opportunity to finally complete my studies, but as valuable as the education was, I was entirely unschooled in where to begin my job search.

I quickly learned a good grade point average was not enough to land a job in a competitive market. I desperately needed to learn how to effectively market my skills. However, like many transitioning veterans, I was unsure how to describe my military experience on a civilian resume or in an interview.

That was when I was introduced to the FourBlock program.

FourBlock is a non-profit career readiness program developed by Marine veteran, Mike Abrams, offering professional development, career exploration, and networking opportunities for transitioning active duty and reserve service members.

Since the program's launch in New York City, FourBlock has expanded to several metropolitan areas throughout the United States. The program is university-accredited and runs in a cohort format in both the fall and spring academic semester.

Participants meet each week for ten weeks, normally at a host company. This gives participants

a chance to get a feel for the company's office setting and culture, while meeting and networking with real employees.

Through FourBlock, veterans are exposed to various industries including technology, financial services, consulting, insurance, government and non-profit. FourBlock has benefitted from generous sponsorship from several leading organizations including PriceWaterhouse Coopers, JPMorgan Chase, Accenture, Amazon, the Council on Foreign Relations, Facebook, General Electric, Google, HBO, Marriot International, and Microsoft to name a few.

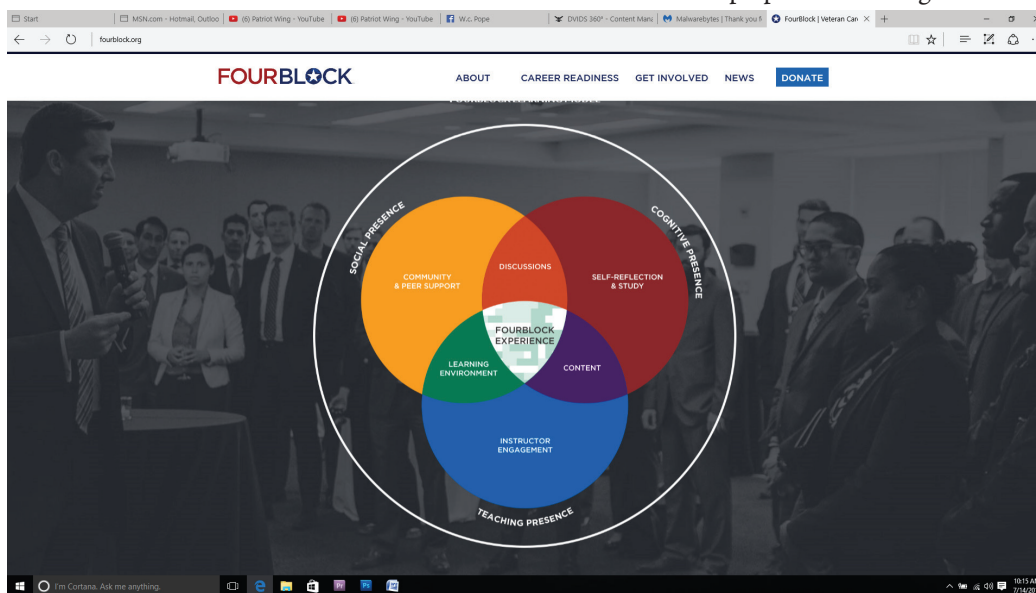
According to the FourBlock website, other program benefits for veterans from the include helping to translate military skills and experiences specific to career opportunities, effectively communicate their professional value, utilize better tools to prepare for interviews, network successfully and interact confidently in a corporate setting.

In addition, FourBlock offers graduates a great opportunity to give back as volunteers. I have had the chance to mentor several program participants and have referred a few for consulting positions at my company, Booz Allen Hamilton. I recently led a FourBlock event at Booz Allen Hamilton's Innovation Center during which nearly thirty veterans discussed technology consulting careers with company leaders. The level of dedication and preparation among the FourBlock veteran cohort was

inspiring.

FourBlock plans to run fall cohorts in New York City, Boston, and Albany. Transitioning may not be easy, but fortunately there are resources like FourBlock ready to service members past and present succeed in their next chapter.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Caruso's opinions are his own and do not reflect those of the Department of Defense. Those interested in the program may visit [www.FourBlock.org](http://www.FourBlock.org) or may email him at [stephen.caruso@us.af.mi](mailto:stephen.caruso@us.af.mi).*





# 439th senior maintainer, USAF Guardian Angel of the Iowa 500-mile bike ride

by Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Sadie Hewes

How far is too far to push the human body? Runners face 26-mile stretches in a day, swimmers have paddled all the way to islands, and cyclists can pedal for hours on end before they tire.

But how far is too far?

For the cyclists entered in the Registered Annual Bicycle Ride Across Iowa, a 500-mile ride is a huge triumph.

Annually, the Air Force Cycling Team, made up of Airmen from across the country, gather in Iowa to face the challenge. Westover's own Senior Master Sgt. Devon DeStefano, 439<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron electrical and environmental element chief and additional duty first sergeant, is one of the team members who faces the ultimate challenge of physical and mental fitness on this 500-mile journey.

Since Westover does not have its own cycling team, DeStefano rides with the National Capitol Region Team out of Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia. He departed for Iowa July 20 to partake in RAGBRAI 2017. He expected the summer heat to exceed 100 degrees during his ride.

The self-proclaimed cycling enthusiast has taken part in the sport for three seasons, and this is



his second year going to RAGBRAI with the Air Force cycling team.

"RAGBRAI starts in a different town in Iowa every year," said DeStefano, "This year it kicked off in Clear Lakes, Iowa. The route changes every year and crosses the entire state."

DeStefano said that many people assume the cyclists pedal for 500 miles straight, but that kind of work would be nearly impossible, even for the fittest of cyclists.

"We do the ride in seven days, not 500 miles straight," said DeStefano. "We have one big day where we ride between 100 and 110 miles. The other days are broken up anywhere between 50 and 90 miles. We look at 3 to 10 hours per day on the bike."

Although this ride is almost daunting for the partici-







pants, DeStefano said, with a glimpse of pride in his eyes, that finishing the ride is one of the most rewarding things he has ever done.

“You get this sense of pride and joy from doing something not a lot of people get to do,” he said. “At the end of RAGBRAI, we typically dip our tires in the Mississippi river and everyone gets their photo taken. We lift our bikes up over our heads, and just that feeling you get from the fact that you did the 500 miles, it’s amazing.”

Beside the ensuing triumph of finishing the race, the Air Force Cy-



cling Team plays a special part in RAGBRAI each year. They have been dubbed the guardian angels of the ride, helping each and every cyclist they come across who is stopped along the route. Their mission is simply to help everyone in need.

“I changed probably 25 tires last year, fixed broken chains, and even provided self-aid buddy care to heat stroke victims,” said DeStefano. “We never ride by someone stopped at the side of the road. If someone is stopped, we ask if they are OK and if they need help.”

The guardian angels of the route sustain this practice at every ride they go on, instead of focusing on finishing the journey themselves, they are committed to helping others.

DeStefano is also committed to helping fellow Airmen improve their physical fitness at Westover.

Recently, as part of his mission as unit physical fitness manager, he has encouraged more Westover Airmen to start pedaling their way to better physical fitness scores.

“I think cycling can do a lot for people who have trouble running, or for other people who have pain in their legs, knees, or back,” he explained. “I’m actually setting up monthly group rides on UTA weekends. I’m going to keep doing that every month to get people more involved, so hopefully they can take a little bit of what I get out of cycling away from it.”

DeStefano said he also hopes to spark in interest in cycling in more people around Westover so that he can start a base cycling team to go to Iowa. He said he would be happy to help people begin to train, even if they started at between 10 or 20 miles.

“To get started, I’d like to just get people to come out and ride with us, and maybe in a year or even two years, we can set up a team on base to go out and represent the Air Force and Westover, and ride across Iowa.”

If any Airman is interested in cycling with DeStefano or would like to know more about the team, they should call him at 413-557-7154 or email him at [devon.destefano.1@us.af.mil](mailto:devon.destefano.1@us.af.mil).



# MASS MARINE CHANGE OF COMMAND



**WESTOVER'S MARINES >>** Marine Aerial Support Squadron 6, a tenant unit of Westover, held a change of command ceremony June 24 on the base ellipse.

During the ceremony, Lt. Col Nathan Henderson relinquished command of the squadron to Lt. Col. Timothy Matthews.

Brig. Gen. Bradley James was the presiding officer. He spoke highly of the talent and innovation that MASS-6 has recently brought to the table across the Marine Corps Reserve.

The families of both the departing and incoming commanders attended the ceremony.

Additionally, four members of the Marine Corp. honor guard, including Cpl. Faustino Mendoza and Cpl. Freddie Ruiz presented the colors during the event.

Over 40 MASS-6 reservists stood in formation behind the honor guardsmen during the ceremony to acknowledge the change of command and meet their new commander.

MASS-6 frequently participates in joint operations with Westover's Airmen and is essential in achieving the total force mission.

photos by Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Sadie Hewes



# 103<sup>RD</sup>'s HOT DOWNLOAD

**COMBAT CARGO >>** A C-130H3 aircrew from the Connecticut Air National Guard's 103<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing conducted combat download training July 11 on Westover's Romeo Taxiway. The C-130, with the Flying Yankees tail flash, landed and taxied toward the Dogpatch. It then turned around, stopped and continued to run its engines. The rear cargo doors opened and a pallet appeared on the ramp. The aircraft jolted forward dropping the pallet onto the tarmac. The training simulates combat operations and gets the crew accustomed to offloading pallets while engines are running, so the aircraft can keep on the move and quickly get back into the air. Afterward, Air transportation specialists from the 103<sup>rd</sup> Logistics Readiness Squadron retrieve the combat offload pallets. Aircrews with the 103<sup>rd</sup> are seen above Westover due to the base's spacious airfield and the short flight from Connecticut. (photos by Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Sadie Hewes and Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe)





# WESTOVER MARINES DEPLOY TO MISSISSIPPI KC-130 CRASH

by Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Sadie Hewes

Marine Wing Support Squadron 472, a tenant unit at Westover, has been activated to aid in recovery of a Marine Corp. KC-130 at the crash site in Mississippi.

Fifteen Marines and one Navy sailor were killed in the crash July 10 in Mississippi.

The cause of the incident is still under investigation.

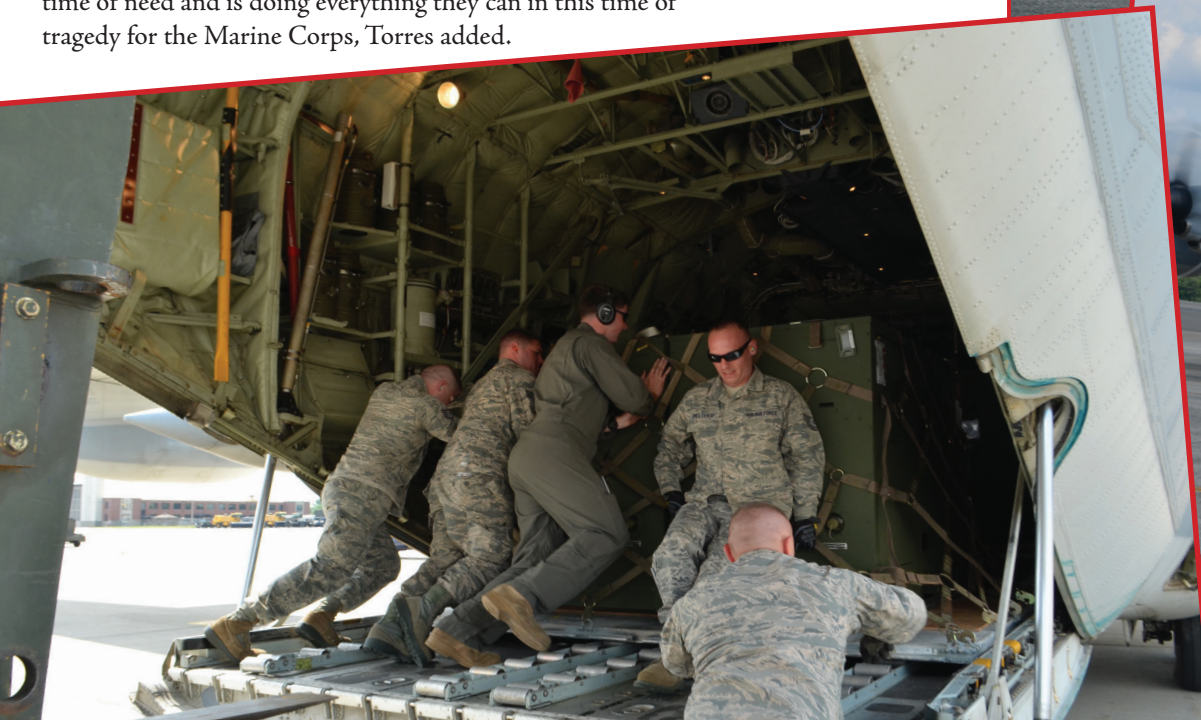
According to Gunnery Sgt. Orlando Torres, MWSS-472, 16 marines were flown to Mississippi July 17 and 36 deployed July 20. Most of the marines activated are traditional reservists assigned to Westover. "The marines are currently expected to stay in Mississippi for 30-60 days," said Torres.

At the crash site, MWSS-472 will be recovering evidence and helping with the investigation. Due to the spread of the debris, the investigation could take more than two months to complete.

"They will be recovering pieces of the aircraft, mapping where they found aircraft parts in a GPS, washing the evidence, bubble-wrapping it, and sending it to a hangar where the aircraft is being pieced back together," said Torres.

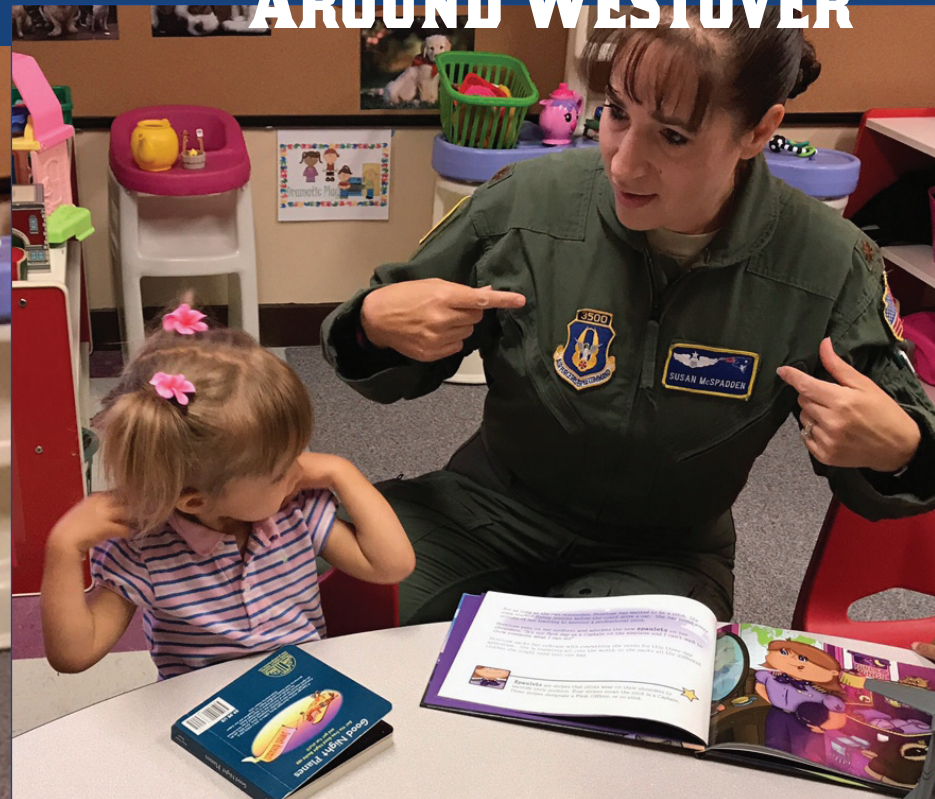
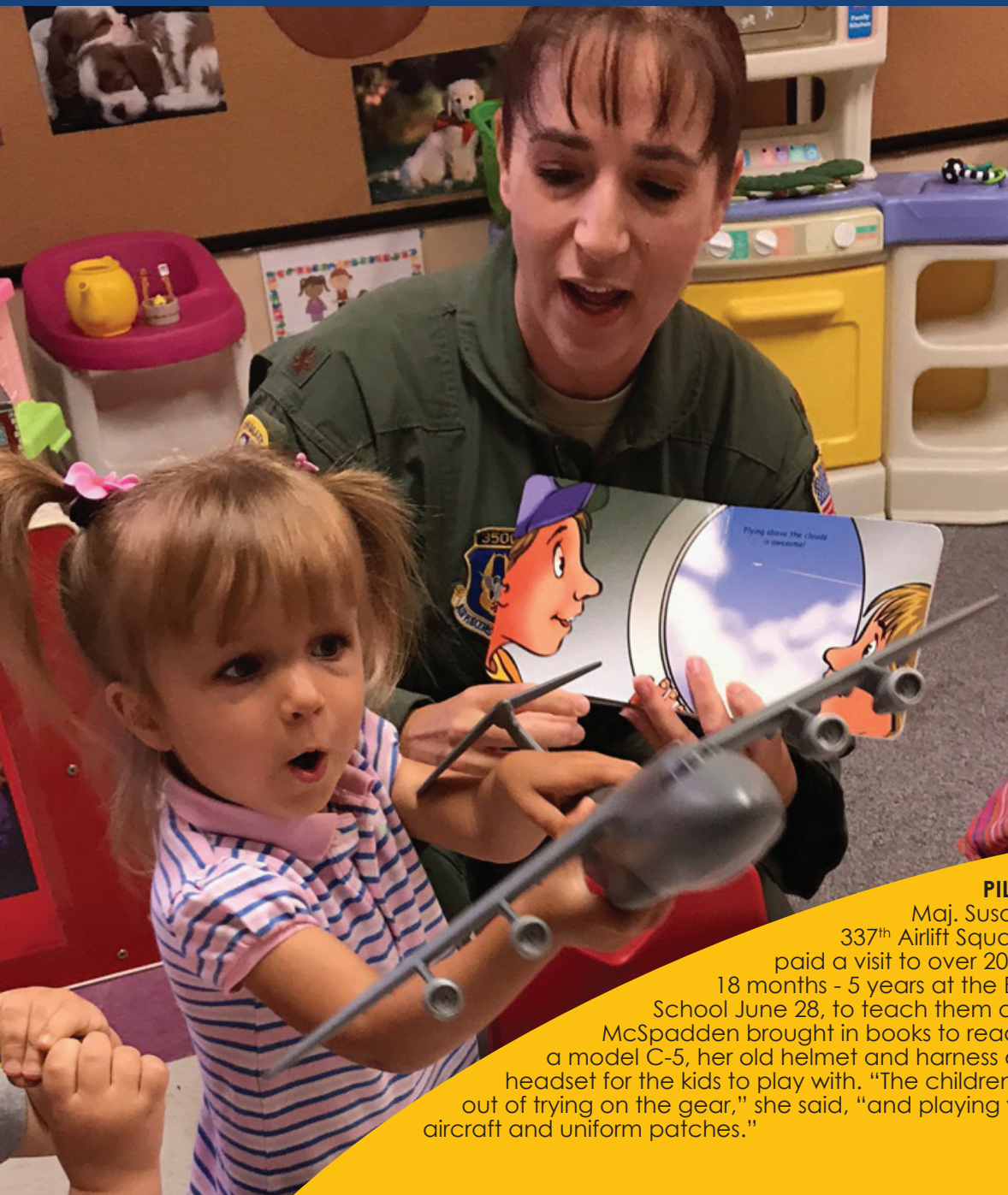
Additionally, Torres said MWSS-472 plans to send 6 vehicles, including tactical fork lifts, dump trucks, and cargo carriers to Mississippi to further aid in the recovery process.

The Massachusetts Marine unit acted quickly in helping their brothers-in-arms in their time of need and is doing everything they can in this time of tragedy for the Marine Corps, Torres added.



photos by Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe





## PILOT PLAYTIME >>

Maj. Susan McSpadden, 337<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron C-5 pilot, paid a visit to over 20 students ages 18 months - 5 years at the Belchertown Day School June 28, to teach them about being a pilot. McSpadden brought in books to read to the children, a model C-5, her old helmet and harness and her current headset for the kids to play with. "The children got a huge kick out of trying on the gear," she said, "and playing with the model aircraft and uniform patches."





# AROUND WESTOVER



**BIG CHANGES >>** Col. Frank Bradfield was busy turning over the reins of the 439<sup>th</sup> Operations Support Squadron and the 337<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron to new commanders, Lt. Col. Travis Board, above right, and Lt. Col. Matthew Potter -- all while Bradfield prepared for his own departure toward the end of July. (photos by Airman 1st Class Sadie Hewes)

## Rare C-5CM Model aircraft visits Westover

photos by Tech. Sgt. Stephen Winn



by Tech. Sgt. Kyle King  
and Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Sadie Hewes

The Westover population is accustomed to the whine of the C-5A and B model aircraft, and has been in awe over the new-and-improved C-5M Super Galaxies, but the model that has not been housed at Westover is a rare C-5C.

Just one of two C-5Cs visited Westover in July. Judging a book by its cover, it would be difficult to tell that there is something different about tail 80213. However, from the inside, the aircraft is very different. To allow taller cargo to be loaded into the C-models, the rear passenger compartment, more commonly called the troop deck, was removed from this model. Further, a removable aft bulkhead was installed toward the rear of the plane.

The engine of this aircraft was recently updated to the General Electric F-138 commercial engine. Due to this upgrade, the model is now considered to be one of the only C-5MC Super Galaxies in the U.S. military's inventory.

The F-138 engine delivers a 22 percent increase in thrust, a 30 percent shorter take-off roll, has a 58 percent faster climb rate and will allow significantly more cargo to be carried over longer distances.

This upgrade has made the aircraft much quieter, enhanced the aircraft's reliability and maintainability while maintaining structural and system integrity, and reduced the cost of ownership and increased operational capabilities well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



# EPME<sup>21</sup>

*Enlisted Professional Military Education  
for the 21st Century*

**by Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Sadie Hewes**

The Enlisted Professional Military Education program, better known as EPME, was recently redesigned to give Airmen more opportunity to partake in in-residence training and education for their career fields.

The goal of the redesign is to give all Airmen a better chance of attending in-residence leadership training, including airman leadership school, the noncommissioned officer academy, and the senior noncommissioned officer academy.

Reservists will not be required to attend these training schools in-residence, but will have the choice between doing the distance-learning course and attending the school. There is still an element of distance learning that is required as a pre-requisite for the in-residence schooling for NCOA and SNCOA.

"Basically, this gives members more time to complete the DL prior to attending in-residence," said Eric DeVoursney, Air Force Reserve Command Enlisted PME Manager. "An example is NCOA. Members can complete the distance learning as staff sergeants and attend in-residence as technical sergeants. All of the distance learning will be self-enrollment, and scheduling in-residence learning has not changed."

DeVoursney also said that all in-residence schooling slots will now be rank-based and the program's redesign has done away with time-in-service requirements for all schooling.

The AFI on the redesign, officially named Enlisted Professional Military Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, or EPME 21, is scheduled to be published in late July.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: or more information on EPME 21, Airmen can reference <http://www.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/1250631/af-announces-enlisted-professional-military-education-redesign/> or contact the Air Education and Training office. Turn to the back page of this Patriot to read some frequently asked questions.*

## Westover receives simulator to train pilots on new Super Galaxy

**by Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Sadie Hewes**

A new flight simulator (sim) is helping aircrews train on the C-5M Super Galaxy.

The \$1.5 million simulator houses initial and recurring C-5M training that all Westover aircrew are required to complete.

The investment in the simulator will save the base money by allowing Airmen to train in-house.

"The C-5M model simulator replaced the C-5A/B simulator to match the new aircraft we are receiving," said Maj. Matthew Podkowka, 337<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron aircrew training coordinator. "This allows us to complete qualification and recurring training at Westover rather than needing to travel to another location."

The C-5M sim took the place of its older version and was ready for training May 1, 2017.

Podkowka said that the new sim is programmed specifically to the new C-5M, and has an enhanced visual display that makes the flight simulations even more realistic.

Aircrew began training to fly the new model aircraft in January, learning to be initial cadre training instructors at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware. With this training they learned both how to



fly the C-5M and how to train their counterparts on the simulator. With this training plan, all Westover aircrew are slated to be fully qualified on the C-5M model by the end of this year of 2017.

"The individuals who trained at Dover were initial cadre instructors and evaluators who were given additional seasoning time to become the experts who are tasked with training the remainder of the aircrew," said Podkowka. So far, the training has been going smoothly for the 439<sup>th</sup> aircrews.

"Our biggest challenge with the simulator so far is that they are still working on resolving some issues across the C-5M simulator fleet," said Podkowka. "Until these issues are resolved, many of our flying training and evaluation requirements must be accomplished in the aircraft. Once the simulator becomes fully certified, many events will be able to be completed in it."

The simulator will most definitely serve its purpose and pay for itself with the knowledge and training it will provide Westover aircrew for years to come.

"The sim is extremely realistic in training aircrew in not only the basics of flying the C-5M model," said Podkowka. "One of the primary purposes of the simulator is emergency procedures training."



photos by Lt. Col. Jon Carlson



# Now that the fleet is almost all M Super Galaxys, the C-5 schoolhouse relocates back to Texas



by Senior Airman Zachary Cacicia, 436<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Public Affairs

DOVER AIR FORCE BASE, Del. (AFNS) -- The C-5M Super Galaxy Formal Training Unit conducted its final training flight June 8, 2017, at Dover Air Force Base prior to its move to Texas.

The FTU has been in place at Dover AFB since 2012, and after a yearlong transition has moved all of its courses to facilities at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Kelly Field Annex, Texas.

"Over the past year, they (Kelly Field Annex) have been taking more and more of the course load, about 25 percent every quarter," said Maj. Brandon Stock, the C-5M FTU commander. "Now they have 100 percent of the course load and we are just finishing up what we had already started."

According to Stock, the FTU's operations are moving to Kelly Field Annex because it fits better with their training mission, rather than Dover AFB's operational mission.

The C-5M FTU from its inception was never meant to operate permanently at Dover AFB. The legacy C-5A and C-5Bs were in the process of being upgraded to C-5Ms, meaning both legacy and new aircraft were flying simultaneously. This meant schoolhouses for these aircraft had to remain open for training requirements.

"When the C-5M's came into service, since Dover [AFB] was the first base to receive them, they opened an FTU here," said Stock. "It was a brand new unit that stood up from scratch."

The majority of C-5As and C-5Bs have now been deactivated or upgraded, meaning the A and B model schoolhouse is no longer necessary. All C-5 pilots and engineers now receive training solely on the M model.

Since opening, the FTU regularly taught seven courses at Dover AFB: Initial Pilot Qualification, Initial Flight Engineer Qualification, Instructor Pilot Upgrade, Instructor Flight

Engineer Upgrade, Initial Air-to-Air Refueling and the Pilot Senior Officer Course. In total, 471 students received training including all active duty and Reserve C-5M pilots and flight engineers from Dover AFB, Travis AFB, California, Westover Air Reserve Base, Massachusetts and Kelly Field Annex.

As Dover AFB's FTU closes, Stock looked back with pride on what they've accomplished. "It's been challenging at times with all the moving parts," said Stock. "With any flying schedule there are a lot of moving parts and hiccups along the way, like weather cancellations. I have had to rely a lot on our schedulers. They've kept the pipeline flowing, so we can graduate the students on time and do it safely."

Stock was also pleased with the how the FTU operated as a total force unit, employing both active duty and reserve instructors mainly loaned from Dover AFB flying squadrons.

"Since the 9<sup>th</sup> [Airlift Squadron] isn't augmented with extra personnel to man the FTU for the past couple of years, we've had to rely on our 512<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Reserve partners from the 709<sup>th</sup> [AS]."

For now, many around Dover might notice less C-5 traffic in the air.

"I think they will notice that fewer C-5s are flying because half of the C-5 flying schedule has been reserved for FTU flights," said Stock. "The same number of C-5s will remain at Dover, just fewer touch-and-goes."



**CREW WITH CLASS >>** Maj. Brandon Stock, the C-5M Formal Training Unit commander, instructs student pilots 1<sup>st</sup> Lts. Jason Feys and Sam Haueter, during preflight procedures June 8, 2017, inside a C-5M Super Galaxy at Dover Air Force Base, Del. Feys and Haueter are undergoing C-5M initial pilot qualification training. (photo by Senior Airman Zachary Cacicia)



## TROOP TALK "How do you embody the 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing mission statement?"



"Working at the fitness center, we are making sure people are physically fit and mission-ready."

**Senior Airman  
Manuel Raymundo,  
439<sup>th</sup> Force Support  
Squadron**



"I work with the drug testing, and I just got certified to make sure all the Airmen are mission-ready and in their prime."

**Staff Sgt. Ana Alejandro,  
439<sup>th</sup> Aerospace Medicine Squadron**

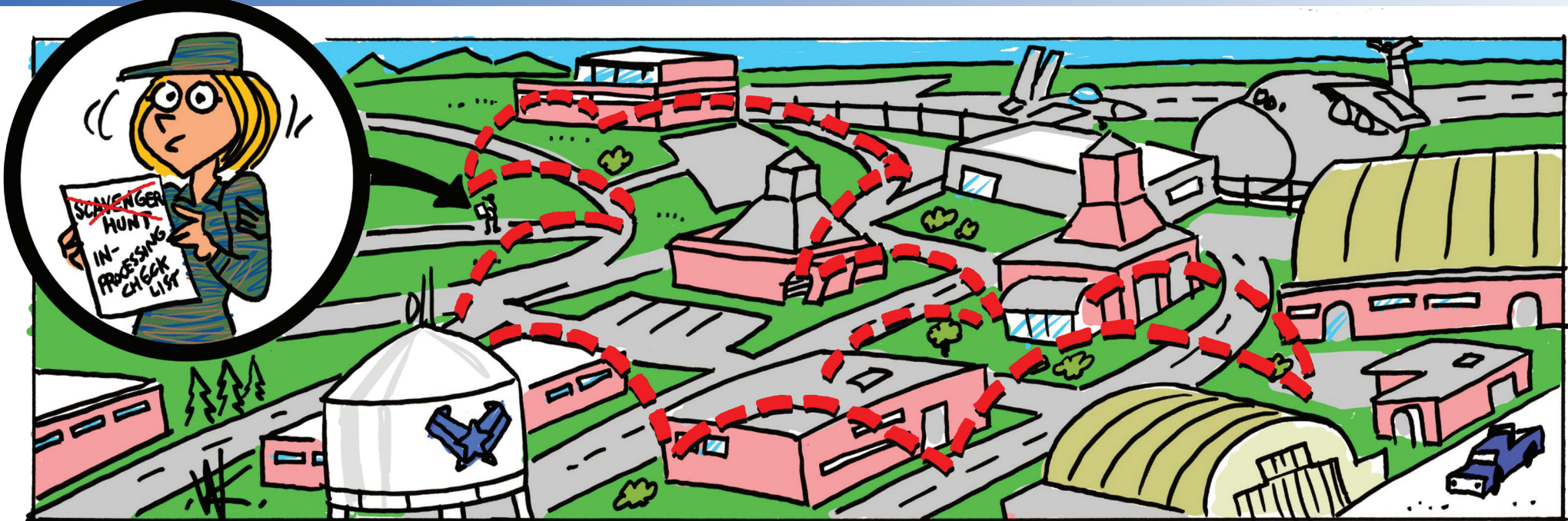
"I'm a crew chief, I work on the planes, I'm just one of the many pieces. We all work together to get the mission done."

**Senior Airman  
Connor Hart,  
439<sup>th</sup> Aircraft  
Maintenance  
Squadron**



## POPE'S PUNS

by W.C. Pope





## PROMOTIONS

### Chief Master Sgt.

Dana Tesorero



### Master Sergeant

Katharine Gilmore  
Peter Stone



### Technical Sergeant

Dominic Dinobile  
Vanessa Emerson  
Sean Genereux  
Noey Guerra  
Kim Nguyen  
Kayla Rice  
Gordon Richards  
Andrew Rooney  
John Taylor  
Melissa Van Gorden  
Matthew Wunschel



### Staff Sergeant

Nicholas Beausoleil  
Andre Campbell  
Ricardo Galvis  
Allyson Holmes  
Leah Kingsley  
Jesse Messier  
Veronica Ojeda  
David Ramrup  
Joe Rodriguez  
Robert Smitherman



### Senior Airman

Gaetano Caico  
Kenia Chavez  
Shamyra Cooke  
Timothy Gilbert  
Kory Girouard  
Ashley Lapriore  
Trung Nguyen  
Toni Odetunde  
William Rivera  
Jayleen Rodriguez



### Airman First Class

Michael Higgins  
Rebekah Howard  
Loidaliz Rivera Santos  
Daniel Sullivan



### Airman

Zachary Mason  
Daniel Murphey



## Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Jeniece Rivera 42<sup>nd</sup> Aerial Port Squadron

Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Jeniece Rivera, an air transportation specialist for the 42<sup>nd</sup> Aerial Port Squadron here, said she is the first female in her family to join the world's greatest Air Force, following in the footsteps of both her husband and her father.

As an air transportation specialist, Rivera is responsible for loading pallets of cargo necessary for mission success on the aircraft and making sure the cargo is secure in its travels.

A native of Florida, Rivera enlisted in 2012 and came to Westover in August 2016 as a traditional reservist when her husband was assigned to Hanscom AFB, Bedford, Mass.

Rivera is currently enrolled in nursing school in Boston and hopes to pursue a career as a nurse when she leaves the Air Force. So far, Rivera is very much enjoying her time working with the members of the 42<sup>nd</sup> APS. "I just got here in August," said Rivera. "Everybody has been very welcoming, it's like a big family here."

You can find Rivera loading an aircraft on the flight line with her wingmen or working diligently at her desk as she lives up to her family's history of military service.

## RETIREMENTS

### Lieutenant Colonel

Mark Brule  
Donald Gomes

### Senior Master Sergeant

Randy Bates  
Richard Copithorne  
Matthew Fairman

### Master Sergeant

Michael Carey  
David Dutton  
Heriberto Ortiz

### Chief Master Sergeant

Glenn Flynn

## SERVICES CALENDAR

**CLUB >>** Club Membership Drive, Aug. 5, 7 to 11 p.m. enjoy live music, enroll or transfer your club membership and receive a ticket good for one appetizer buffet in the lounge: wings, quesadillas, mozzarella sticks and more. In addition there will be give aways for sports memorabilia and gift cards. There will also be a drawing for two Red Sox game tickets. The membership drive will continue on Aug. 15, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. enroll or transfer your club membership and receive a free Taco Tuesday Buffet and your name will be entered into the Red Sox game giveaway! Visit [www.MyAirForceLife.com](http://www.MyAirForceLife.com) to sign up.

**BOWLING CENTER >>** Sign up for the Fall Bowling Leagues. Friday night all-you-can-bowl in three hours for \$29.95. Shoe Rental included. Kids Bowl Free, go to [www.kidsbowlfree.com/airforce](http://www.kidsbowlfree.com/airforce) enroll and receive free bowling passes every week by email.

**FITNESS CENTER >>** Intramural Flag Football Aug. 1 through 31. Frisbee tournament sign up at the Fitness Center Aug. 23 through 25. the tournament will be played Aug. 29, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fitness Challenge: sign up Aug. 23 through 25, complete the challenge anytime on Aug. 29, must be done in order: one mile at .5 incline (walk/jog/run/sprint) on treadmill, pull ups: 10 reps, body weight squats: 150 lbs., bike 2 minutes any speed/pace, no stopping, sit ups: 60 reps, body weight rows: 20 reps, jump rope two minutes any speed/pace, no stopping, push Ups: 50 reps, half-mile at 10% incline (walk/jog/run/sprint) on the treadmill, 1,500 meters on the rowing machine, sunrise broomball sign up Aug. 1 through 4, and the games will be played Aug. 8 and Aug. 17, 6:30 to 8 a.m.

**OUTDOOR REC >>** Fishing equipment, campers, lawn care equipment, party supplies and so much more! Visit [www.westoverservices.com](http://www.westoverservices.com) for a full price list and call 557-2192 to reserve!



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Published monthly for Patriots like Master Sgt. Chris Lane, 439<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Group and more than 4,700 people assigned to Westover Air Reserve Base.

### Air Force EPME 21 frequently asked questions

- When do I have to complete required EPME, if the TIS gates are no longer a consideration?
- ALS is required for promotion to SSgt, NCOA required for promotion to MSgt, SNCOA for promotion to CMSgt, and CLC required for new CMSgts.
- Are all DL courses mandatory and when?
- NCO DLC is a prerequisite to NCOA and SNCO DLC is a prerequisite to SNCOA.
- What are the consequences for not completing DL EPME?
- Failure to complete NCO DLC or SNCO DLC renders Airmen ineligible for attendance at resident EPME.
- When are all these changes going to stop?
- The AF continues to seek the best ways to develop Airmen. Thus, we must continue to evolve as technology and our dynamic environment evolve in order to maintain our cutting edge in developing Airmen.
- Why are we changing again?

-- The 2017 EPME Triennial Review Committee determined that changes were needed to the existing EPME structure to align EPME with CJCS policy that requires rank-based educational opportunities and enable 100% resident EPME opportunity for all enlisted Airmen.

-- How are the enlisted promotion boards going to weigh/view PME completion?

-- The panel members will only see PME completion, not whether it was completed via DL or resident PME.

-- If I fail to complete EPME DL, can I still reenlist?

-- DL completion status currently does not impact reenlistment eligibility.

-- As a SSgt enrolled in SNCO-DLC, I am almost complete. Can I finish the course?

-- Yes, you can still complete the course and will be awarded the appropriate level of CCAF credit.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Reservists with questions about EPME 21 should speak with the base education and training office at 557-3440. The office is located in the military personnel flight in Bldg. 1800.



### C-5 SKILLS >>

Some people enjoy their job so much they take it home with them. Master Sgt. Daniel LaBelle, a sheet metal specialist with the 439<sup>th</sup> MXS, takes this literally and combines the love of his job with model building and lifts it to an art form. The C-5 he holds is only one of the many that LaBelle has created, some smaller and some even larger. In fact he was the master mind behind the fifteen foot C-5 model by the Westover Road Gate. He creates his models using sheet metal, wood, fiberglass, and bondo. (photos by W.C.Pope)