



# PATRIOT

439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing | Westover ARB, Mass. | Volume 49 No. 1

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## Westover C-5M hauls satellite to Florida





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

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## UTA SNAPSHOT

>> Happy New Year, Westover!

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**ON THE COVER >>** Airmen from Westover assisted loading crews with the airlift of a weather satellite Dec. 4. Turn to page 4 for more coverage. (photos by Senior Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe)



**HEAVENLY SUNRISE >>** It was said that Apollo would drive his fiery chariot across the sky giving light to the world. And like Apollo the C-5M Super Galaxy is larger than life, and in this November 2017 photo, seems to be giving light to the Pioneer Valley. The Patriot Wing's flight line is scheduled to have all eight of its remodeled C-5s in place by this summer. (photo by W.C. Pope)



**W**hat an honor it is to be serving -- once again -- with the "Best of the Best," the men and women of the 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, especially those in the maintenance group!

It seems like only yesterday that my family and I were bidding you farewell, not knowing that 16 years later I would return as the maintenance group commander. Since leaving Westover, I have worked at Headquarters AFRC, been a maintenance group commander at Joint Base Andrews, Md., with KC-135s, was Director, AGR Management Office (REAMO) at the Pentagon, the Reserve Advisor to the Commander of the Air Force District of Washington, and most recently the MXG Commander at Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Ohio, with C-130H2s supporting DoD's one and only aerial spray mission.

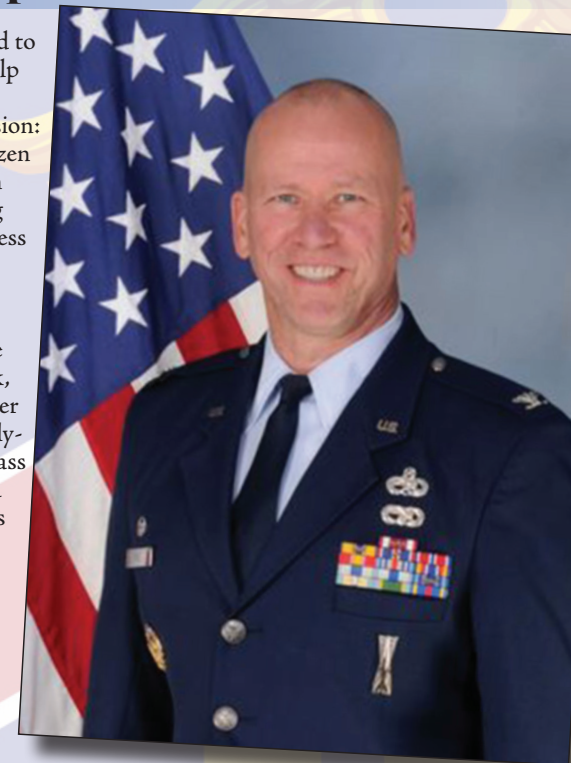
During these endeavors, I had the privilege to work alongside a variety of mentors, leaders, and subordinates. This forged my aspects of persona and leadership style, many of which began here in 1997. As a leader, my perspective is one that fosters teamwork, values empowerment, ensures communication both up, down and across the chain of command, expects job proficiency, and holds members accountable for their actions -- all of which are vital to ensuring a strong Total Force. I am vested in continuous improvement, as I value making every organization better than when I received it. All things can be improved, no matter how respectable the organization is performing. When we stop improving is when we have stopped learning.

As I said during my assumption of command, no one part of our wing can function without the other. All of our jobs are important and I will take every opportunity to "Thank You!" for what you do to ensure that our mission is accomplished, our members are the most highly qualified, and our aircraft are the safest, best maintained C-5s in the country. My expectations are simple, founded in our values of Integrity First, Excellence in All we do, to ensure we are Ready to Serve our Nation's Call! I realize that this command is only

entrusted to me for a short period of time, but I am committed to ensure this organization is the best it can be, and with your help and input we will accomplish this task.

I ask you to personally recommit yourselves to our wing mission: To Provide Global-Reach capabilities with mission ready Citizen Airmen and ask you to set the bar high, because standards can easily slip away. I challenge that we should decide that nothing less than the best (your best) is acceptable and that every process no matter how embedded can be continually improved. I'll be the first to admit that it will not always be easy - that there will be rough waters to navigate at times -- but nothing worth accomplishing ever comes easy, and together, we will overcome every challenge that comes our way. Thanks to your hard work, the 439<sup>th</sup> is well on its way to be the Air Force Reserve's premier C-5M maintenance organization, comprised of the most highly-qualified and deployment-ready personnel delivering world-class quality aircraft...safely! And we will continue to do so! I am a strong supporter of our maintenance family. Not only the ones that wear the uniform and have a common calling, but your spouses, children, parents and significant others are also the fabric that makes this wing what it is. We need to ensure we balance that part of our lives.

Thank you for embracing Regina and I as members of your team. I am honored to command the maintenance group. Thank you for your service. God Bless you, the 439<sup>th</sup>, and the United States of America!



**Col. David Post**  
**439<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Group commander**

## BRIEFS

### Base cable channel 50

The Westover News Network is broadcasted throughout various locations on base including the fitness center, billeting, and the Westover Club. Channel 50 programming is also provided to 10 communities as far out as Worcester, Mass. Link: [YouTube.com/439Westover](https://www.youtube.com/439Westover)

### Base Snow Line

The wing command post's snowline provides the latest weather information. Call 413-557-3444 to be updated with any weather delays that may affect operations at the base.

### Martin Luther King Day

Jan. 15 is Martin Luther King Day, honoring what would have been the civil rights leader's 89<sup>th</sup> birthday. He was assassinated in 1968 at the age of 39. The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. was also a Baptist minister and Nobel Peace Prize winner who championed justice and equality. His powerful words resonate with us today, "our lives begin to end the day that we become silent about things that matter."

### The Westover iRest Yoga course

Westover people looking for psychological, physical and spiritual healing can find it in Bldg. 1100 on UTA Saturdays and Sundays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Airmen may also visit the fitness center and participate in a free iRest yoga course. Participants will be able to relax deeply, release stress and take control over their lives.

For more information please contact Lisa Delgado at 557-2456.

### Annual awards banquet

The Patriot Wing's annual awards banquet is scheduled for Jan. 6 at 6 p.m. at the Westover Club. The event honors the 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing's annual winners in both the military and civilian workforces of the wing. Look for coverage of this event to be featured on the base's Facebook page at [facebook.com/westover.patriot](https://facebook.com/westover.patriot)



# PATRIOT WING TEAMWORK SOARS IN TOTAL FORCE MISSION

## C-5 delivers weather satellite from Colorado to Florida



by Senior Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

A Patriot Wing crew teamed up Dec. 2 to criss-cross America while delivering a weather satellite to Florida during a four-day Total Force mission.

The GOES-S satellite, which weighed 6,000 pounds, was a light load for the C-5M, but Lockheed-Martin -- the satellite's manufacturer -- had to transport it safely for its Dec. 4 trip from Buckley Air Force Base, Colo., to the Kennedy Space Center landing strip at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida. Crews nestled the satellite in a tractor-

trailer that weighed 90,000 pounds.

"It feels good to contribute to a Total Force mission," said Tech. Sgt. Brent Read, 439<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief. "And to be working with all these different people from Lockheed, NASA, and the loadmasters."

Loading at Buckley took about five hours, which began very early Dec. 4. Read and one other crew chief and loadmasters arrived first, starting the pre-flight and securing and preparing the cargo compartment for the payload. Westover Airmen and Lockheed crew members faced chilling winds that blew across the flight line at Buckley as they carefully moved the satellite into the belly of the Super Galaxy.

"It was extremely cold, so it was challenging to maintain a temperature in the aircraft to keep the integrity of the satellite," Read said.

Crews constantly measured the distance between the C-5's floor and the trailer's body. Powerful winches from inside the aircraft gingerly pulled the satellite into the C-5's 121-foot long cargo bay.

With the upload complete, the C-5M weighed in at 650,000 pounds on takeoff out of Buckley.

The Total Force comprises Air Mobility Command's fleet of active-duty, reserve and guard airlifters. AMC tasked the Westover crew with this mission.

"This sounded like a neat opportunity," said Senior Airman Ashley Kostka, a 337<sup>th</sup> AS loadmaster, as she met with several southern Florida media outlets for interviews Dec. 4 near the C-5.

Three media members were also along for the mission from Buckley to Cape Canaveral. They included Meredith Garofalo and Benjamin Strauss with the WeatherNation network.

"These people are so hospitable," Garofalo said of the aircrew, during an in-flight visit to the C-5M cockpit.

"This makes me want to join the military," Strauss added.

The mission originated Dec. 2 at Westover, with a near-four hour flight to Buckley, an Air Force Space Command base. Westover and Lockheed crews off-

loaded the satellite Dec. 5. Five more Patriot Wing Airmen joined the effort Dec. 5 to assist with the off-load. GOES-S, part of the next generation of weather satellites operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, is expected to launch into space some time in early 2018. It traveled Dec. 5 from Kennedy Space Center to Astro-tech Space Operations, its final home. For additional photos and videos, visit Westover's Facebook page at [facebook.com/westover.patriot](https://facebook.com/westover.patriot)

### Crew members:

Maj. Jeff Cavaoli, aircraft commander  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Ryan Manning and  
Terrance McKenna, pilots  
Senior Master sergeants:  
Shawn Harris, loadmaster  
Andrew Biscoe, public affairs  
Master sergeants:  
Chris Hellyar, loadmaster  
Scott Blais, flight engineer instructor  
Richard DeSousa, flight engineer  
instructor  
Jeff Gilbert, loadmaster

### Technical sergeants:

Sean Bartley, loadmaster  
Epi Lopez, loadmaster  
Chris Martyn, loadmaster  
Staff sergeants:  
Gabriel Mendez, flight engineer  
Brent Read, crew chief  
Senior Airmen:  
Steven D'Annolfo, loadmaster  
Cody Ferro, loadmaster  
Kory Girouard, flight engineer trainee  
Ashley Kostka, loadmaster  
Jonathan Reed, crew chief  
Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Adrianna Genovese





# WESTOVER'S INTERACTIVE NOVEMBER 2017 COMMANDER'S CALL

by Airman 1st Class Hanna Smith

Col. D. Scott Durham, 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing commander, conducted two commander's calls November 4, 2017, at both 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. in Hangar 3.

Commander's calls are an avenue for the base commander to reach out and connect with the base's Airmen.

The first call that took place at 8:30 a.m. was sectioned out to the operations group and mission support group. The second call was held with the maintenance group, airlift wing staff, the aeromedical staging support and aerospace medicine squadrons.

Durham began the events by greeting the 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Airmen audience and played a Veteran's Day message provided by Lt. Gen. Maryanne Miller, Commander of the Air Force Reserve Command. The message expressed the importance of Veteran's Day and thanked members for their service to their country.

From there, the 2017 Chief's Council Scholarship was awarded to Tech. Sgt. Mathieu Toczek, of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Aerial Port Squadron.

The commander then dove into addressing key topics such as the base's readiness, Capstone results, upcoming exercises, and the Key Spouses organization. "I have not gotten the opportunity to congratulate everyone yet," Durham said. "Thank you, we were excellent, we were effective."

The director of psychological health, Lisa Delgado, introduced herself to the attendees, informed them of the importance of their mental health and advised them to reach out when they need assistance.

Durham followed up her comments with an emphasis on interaction. He climbed down from the stage to literally be at the same level as the Airmen. He took questions from the audience and gave on-the-spot answers to the questions and issues that arose. Topics ranged from physical fitness training to the base infrastructure. Durham then gave closing remarks. The next commander's call is scheduled to take place in June 2018.



(photos by Senior Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe)



# Colonel returns to Westover, assumes command of 439<sup>th</sup> MXG

by Capt. Meghan Smith

Col David Post assumed command of the 439<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Group Nov. 5, during a ceremony held in Hangar 3.

Hundreds of maintenance group Airmen stood attention, and after the color guard presented the colors, Post's daughter, Bethany, sang the National Anthem.

Post is no stranger to Westover, having been assigned to the Patriot Wing in the late 1990s. Col. D. Scott Durham, 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing commander and presiding officer at the ceremony, welcomed Post back to Westover and mentioned that he had "cut his teeth" at Westover when Post was a captain here 20 years earlier.

He expressed how he was pleased to be back at Westover, and recalled the earlier days of his career as an air reserve technician in maintenance and logistics roles – while blending in some humor too.

"So now is the point where I had planned to present my five-page dissertation," Post said, as he looked out at the formation of Airmen. "But I'll instead spend just a few minutes up here telling you how glad I am to be back here at Westover, and to have the opportunity to lead this fine

organization."

Post began his Air Force career as a traditional reservist in 1986 after graduating from Wilkes College in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, with a degree in electrical engineering.

Following his first tour at Westover, Post held a variety of positions at Air Force Reserve Command headquarters, the Pentagon (as Director, Office of Air Force Reserve Active Guard and Reserve Management Office), Joint Base Andrews, Maryland; and most recently as the 910<sup>th</sup> MXG commander at Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Ohio.

"I have always lived by the principle to prepare and lead an organization better than when I received it by making sound, informed, fact-based decisions for the next generation," Post said, as he gestured to the formation of Airmen. "And with your help and your input, we will accomplish this task."

The 439<sup>th</sup> AW is the fourth and final Air Force unit to convert to the C-5M Super Galaxy. The wing is scheduled to have its full complement of eight aircraft by next summer. Post oversees the training and equipping of more than 600 aircraft maintenance and support personnel in 13 different functional skill areas.



photo by Senior Master Sgt.  
Andrew Biscoe



**NEW CHIEFS INDUCTED >>** The Annual Chiefs Induction Ceremony was held Nov. 4 at the Westover Consolidated Club. The yearly event honors those Airmen that have earned the rank of chief master sergeant -- just 1 percent of the Air Force. Pictured from left to right: Senior Master Sgt. Lee Henry (inducted as Honorary Chief Master Sergeant), Chief Master Sgts. Dana Tesorero and Alexander Sullivan, and Command Chief Master Sgt. Shana Cullum. (photo by Tech. Sgt. Malcolm Tevanian)



# Holiday fun at Westover



Upper left photo features Col. D. Scott Durham, 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing commander, and Col. James Schaaf, 439<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron commander, as they prepare to serve the holiday meal at the Westover Club. Remaining photos feature Santa and Mrs. Claus highlighting the Dec. 2 Children's Holiday Party festivities. The Airmen and Family Readiness Center staff held the annual event for reservists and their families.

# Westover Celebrating with the Westover Family Yuletide greetings



# Caroling with the Westover family

## Westover tree lighting



**HO HO HO >>** A tree lighting ceremony on the base ellipse and large children's Holiday party with Santa held at the fire station highlighted the December UTA's Yuletide spirit.



**CHIEF CHECKS >>** The Chiefs' Council annually gives out \$500 scholarship checks to a spouse and Airman. Pictured to the right are Chief Master Sgt. Patrick Burke and Tech. Sgt. Mathieu Toczek, 42<sup>nd</sup> Aerial Port Squadron. Below left are Chief Master Sgts. Gary Hebert and Lee Hareld, presenting a check to Marisa Nogas, daughter of Master Sgt. Steven Nogas, 439<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.





# Father and son's memorial trek to B-52 crash site



**LIVING MEMORIAL >>** It was something Senior Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe and his father had wanted to do for years -- make the trek to Elephant Mountain in northwestern Maine -- the site of a Westover B-52 crash took place back on Jan. 24, 1963. Its call sign was Frosh 10, and its crew was assigned to the Strategic Air Command's 99<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing. A group of Westover Airmen also make an annual trip to the crash site and will be doing so again in January. (photos by Biscoe, and his father, Mark)



# Blended Retirement is coming, Jan. 1

The Blended Retirement System (BRS) is a modernized retirement plan for the Uniformed Services that is available to eligible service members starting Jan. 1, 2018. Features of the BRS includes a defined benefit (monthly retired pay for life) after at least 20 years of service, a defined benefit (consisting of government automatic and matching contributions) to a member's Thrift Savings Plan (TSP)

account, a bonus called continuation pay and a new lump sum option at retirement.


BRS eligibility depends on when you joined or plan to join the Uniformed Services:

- If you enter the Uniformed Service on or before Dec. 31, 2017, you are grandfathered into the legacy high-3 retirement system.
- If you are an active-duty service member with fewer than 12 years of service as of Dec. 31, 2017, or a member of the National Guard or Reserve in a paid status who has accrued fewer than 4,320 retirement points as of Dec. 31, 2017, you are grandfathered under the legacy retirement system, but may choose to opt into the BRS.

How can I figure out which system will work for me? One of the most important things you'll need to do in making a decision of whether or not to opt into the BRS, is to assess the likelihood that you will serve for at least 20 years, bearing in mind that if you do not serve that long and do not join BRS, you will get neither a lifetime monthly annuity nor service contributions to your Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) account.

If you think it's likely that you will make it to 20 years, then you have other factors to consider:

- How many years of making contributions and receiving service contributions



*Just the Facts*

## Continuation Pay


**RESERVE COMPONENT**

### What is Continuation Pay (CP)?

?

- A mid-career financial incentive paid to Airmen who are enrolled in the Blended Retirement System (BRS).
- It is in addition to any career-field-specific incentives or retention bonuses.
- You must elect to receive it before starting your 12th year of service.

### How Much CP Will I Get?



$\text{Monthly Basic Pay}^1 \times 0.5^2 \text{ or } 2.5^3 = \text{Gross CP} - \text{Tax Withholding}^4 = \text{Net CP}^5$

<sup>1</sup>Amount over 12 years; <sup>2</sup>RC. Airmen serving on man-day orders or Voluntary Limited Period of Duty (VLPAD) receive the RC amount; <sup>3</sup>AC or AGR. Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) Airmen receive the Active Component (AC) amount for CP; <sup>4</sup>CP is eligible for Combat Zone Tax Exclusion (CZTE); <sup>5</sup>What you take home.

### What Must I Do to Receive CP?

1. You must elect to receive CP before you start your 12th year of service (according to your Pay Entry Base Date).
2. You must commit to serve an additional 48 months (concurrent with other service commitments). If you do not complete the obligation, you must repay all or part of your CP.\*


### How Will My CP Be Paid?

You can choose to receive a one-time payment or spread your payments to potentially save on taxes.

**One Installment**  
Paid the first pay period after you start your 12th year of service

**Two Equal Installments**  
First installment is paid the first pay period after you start your 12th year of service and the next installment is paid the following year

**Four Equal Installments**  
First installment is paid the first pay period after you start your 12th year of service and the remainder in three equal annual installments



**Which installment plan is right for YOU?**  
How much will you potentially pay in taxes on your CP? Remember, CP is subject to tax withholding!

### When Do I Need to Make My CP Election?

**CP Eligibility Notification**

180 days before you begin your 12th year of service.

You **MUST** elect to receive CP **BEFORE** your 12th year of service begins.

**12th Year of Service Begins**

Complete ADSC forms within 30 days of starting your 12th year.

**CP Received**

First pay period **AFTER** your 12th year of service begins.

\*Title 37 USC, Sec. 373 and DoD Financial Management Regulations, Vol. 7A, Chap. 2.



## What Should I Do with My CP?

### Your Airman and Family Readiness Center (A&FRC) Can Help You Plan!

The choice is yours and should be based on your current financial situation. Get a financial check up as part of the decision-making process. You can do one or more of the following:



#### Pay Down Debt!

Do you have credit card debt, student loan debt, or other kinds of debt? Are you paying more in interest than you can expect from savings or investments? Pay as many debts as you can, starting with those that cost you the most in interest.

**TIP** Add extra money to payments you make for a quicker payoff.



#### Save It!

Do you have an emergency or reserve fund in a savings or money market account? Set one up ... or top yours up.

**TIP** Check the annual percentage rate (APR) and terms of agreement before placing money into any account.



#### Invest It!

Are you looking toward a more prosperous future? Consider putting your CP to work in your Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) account, in an IRA or in a 529 college savings plan.

**TIP** Be aware of annual contribution limits on retirement accounts. Review your spending plan and talk to an investment professional before investing.



#### Spend It!

Will your CP fund a vacation, a vehicle, a big project, or the down payment on a house?

**TIP** Before you spend your CP, review your spending plan to ensure your savings goals are on track and your debt-to-income ratio is reasonable.



#### Gift It!

You can choose to gift or donate some or all of your CP. Depending on where you donate it, you may be eligible for a tax deduction.

**TIP** Review your spending plan to ensure your finances are in good order before you donate your CP.



Stop by your A&FRC and talk to a Personal Financial Manager (PFM) about your financial situation.



will I have before retirement?

•Is it likely that these contributions and their earnings—along with any benefit I might get from continuation pay or the lump sum—will ultimately outweigh the amount I'd give up as a result of the reduced monthly annuity?

•What is my tolerance for risk? Will I be willing to follow a long-term strategy with potential for substantial earnings?

Get the facts. Those eligible to opt into the BRS must take the mandatory BRS OptIn Course. Training courses are available on Joint Knowledge Online (JKO), your service's learning management system or publically available on Military One Source. All service members joining on or after Jan. 1, 2018, are required to complete the BRS new accessions training course.

Calculate  
your  
options.  
Calculate,  
compare,  
and contrast  
retirement



systems using the DoD BRS Comparison Calculator at <http://militarypay.defense.gov/Calculators/BRS/>.

Make a decision. If you're an eligible current service member you have an important decision to make between January 1 and December 31, 2018: You must decide whether to stay with your current retirement system or move to the new BRS. Once you make your choice, you won't be able to take it back, even if you change your mind before the Dec. 31, 2018 deadline.

--Learn more about BRS at <http://militarypay.defense.gov/BlendedRetirement>

--Explore Military OneSource and other financial resources at <http://www.militaryonesource.mil>.

--Locate an accredited personal financial manager or counselor at your installation's Military and Family Support Center, or search at <http://militaryinstallations.dod.mil>.

The DoD does not take a position on which retirement system a service member should choose.





# Chiefs' Heritage bricks



**HERITAGE BRICKS >>** The Chiefs Council Heritage Park Brick circle, begun in 2016 near the base ellipse, features the Air Force logo in gray in a field of red. Each group in the 439th Airlift Wing will have a bench that is donated to the structure. Donations for red bricks are \$50 each and \$100 each for the gray. Those interested in purchasing a brick should contact any Westover chief on the council. Questions may be directed to Chief Master Sgt. Gary Hebert at (413)557-2379.



## THE NEW USAF SAFETY APP

KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. -- The evolution of the Air Force Safety Center's Airman Safety App reached an important milestone with recent software updates on Dec. 1.

This simple web-based tool, provides a streamlined process for all Airmen, their families and anyone accessing the base to report safety issues as they encounter them.

"The Air Force wants to utilize every Airman as a sensor to identify hazards in their workplace and throughout the installation," said Col. William Culver, Air Force chief of Aviation Safety, "The aviation community, both commercial and military, has been doing this for many years and now we can take those best practices across all safety disciplines."

With this update, the Air Force will use the Airman Safety App to leverage the expanding Aviation Safety Action Program voluntary reporting capability. This includes aircrew operations and logistics/maintenance safety issues and events. The transformation – "Aviation" is expanding to "Airman" ASAP.

Airmen will also have access to the latest hazard reports through active messaging and an ASAP Scoreboard located in the Air Force Safety Automated System database.

Another improvement links the Airman Safety App with a new hazard management module in AFSAS enabling safety professionals to track and mitigate reported hazards.

"Supporting features were upgraded in AFSAS to increase the application's capability," said Douglas MacCurdy, acting chief information officer and chief of Information Technology & Cyberspace Operations, "Air Force safety professionals now have a hazard management tool capable of cradle-to-grave identification and risk mitigation of safety issues."

The Airman Safety App opened the door to a new way of limiting and eliminating safety hazards, like exposed electrical wires in the workplace and road hazards around each and every installation while providing a substantial amount of data essential to proactive mishap prevention and effective risk management.

The application is accessible anytime, anywhere, and with almost any device – desktop, laptop, tablet or smart phone – and focuses on minimizing the most common obstacles, making reporting quicker and easier to accomplish.

Initiating the reporting process is easy, just access the Airman Safety App online at <https://asap.safety.af.mil> and select the Airman Safety Action Report icon.



## Tricare Update for 2018

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. -- A significant change will be made to the Tricare Reserve Select policy regarding re-enrollment, beginning January 1, 2018.

Those TRS Reserve Citizen Airmen who lose their TRS coverage and are dis-enrolled for failure to pay monthly premiums due to financial reasons within their control, will no longer have the second option of seeking a new TRS enrollment.

For reinstatement requests received by the contractor beyond 90 days from last paid-through-date/dis-enrollment will be locked out from purchasing new TRS coverage for 12 months.

TRS coverage re-instatements are handled directly by the regional contractor and approved based on the following obligations being met: the request being received by the contractor or postmarked no later than the referenced 90 days, payment of all premiums from the last paid-through-date through the current month, plus the amount for the following two months is included, and information is provided to establish recurring electronic premium payments or electronic funds transfer. Failure to meet any of these three requirements results in coverage not being re-instated for the Reserve Citizen Airman for 12 months.

When Reserve Citizen Airmen's premium payment is not made at the beginning of a month, contractors attempt to contact them before the end of the month that the premium payment is due; to inform them their payment was not received. These attempts are made by phone and notification by regular mail and email. At the end of a month and still no premium payment is received by the contractor, that TRS coverage is dis-enrolled to the last date of the previous month of coverage. Upon a dis-enrollment, notification is sent to the Reserve Citizen Airman, informing them a change has been made to their TRS coverage and to take immediate action.

Reserve Citizen Airmen can update their contact information by:

--Logging into MilConnect at: [//milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/](http://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/)

--Call 1-800-538-9552 (TTY/TDD: 1-866-363-2883)

--Visit any RAPIDS site at [www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/appj/site](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/appj/site)

Costs for TRICARE benefits will now be charged by the calendar year instead of the fiscal year. And, payments that would normally count toward catastrophic caps and deductibles until Oct. 1, 2017, will continue to count until Jan. 1, 2018.

New TRICARE disenrollment rules are a part of the changes taking effect on Jan. 1.

## Around Westover



**IRMA MISSION'S END >>** Senior Airman Chris Vechinsky, an aerial porter from Westover positions a generator on a C-17 Globemaster III at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga., Oct. 1, 2017. Air Force and Federal Emergency Management Agency contracted aircraft continue to arrive at Dobbins to pick up medical and infrastructure equipment, and relief supplies.



### LOAD OF EXPERIENCE >>

Fifteen Citizen Airmen of the 42<sup>nd</sup> and 58<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadrons stayed on at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga. until Oct. 21, 2017. At one point during their move from Homestead ARB, Fla. to Dobbins, the Westover crew was helping out the Homestead aerial ports by phone. (photos by Tech. Sgt. Kelly Goonan, 94th AW Public Affairs)



# A dollar-for-dollar accounting of what you need to know about finance

How many times have you -- or someone you've known -- when your pay didn't appear in your account as expected or appeared as an incorrect amount?

Some people might think military pay is fully automated in this day and age, with no place for error, but these are inaccurate assumptions. Some information does flow from certain systems, but finance staff members perform many updates manually.

It is critical to understand that some Air Force systems do NOT talk to each other. If a member changes information in one system such as personnel records or DEERS, it does not necessarily mean that military pay system will also be automatically updated.

This article focuses on a few recurring questions that should assist our customers in narrowing down where to start checking to help resolve what appears to be a military or travel pay issue.

Airman should use MyPay on DFAS's web site to update the following information:

Tax withholdings, TSP contributions, changing address and bank account information while in case of significant events in your life, such as marriage, divorce, having a baby, changing state of legal residency, getting on/off long orders, and others. Changes have to be done through the finance office. Keeping this information current is critical in preventing under/over payments, which results in the member incurring a debt.

Milpay and travel are NOT linked together in our office in Bldg. 1800. Updating information on the milpay side is not automatically updating information on the travel side. For filing travel vouchers, Airmen use Defense Travel System or Reserve Travel System -- according to the order. Members that change their addresses and banking information (to include the government travel card) are required to update their profile in DTS. DTS does not update RTS. Airmen should provide this information to the travel pay section so RTS can be updated. It is each Airman's responsibility to provide timely and proper documentation to the finance office.

Here are some common questions/problems with solutions/next steps one can take to resolve these issues. Please remember this list is not all inclusive. It includes the most frequently asked

## **Problem: "I was not paid for the last UTA."**

### **Possible cause/solution/next step**

-- Not signed in/out of UTAPS. 40A not submitted.

Check with UTAPS monitor

-- Confirm 40A provided to FM.

-- Member was paid, but did not notice it. Check MyPay and LESes. Remarks section explains what you were paid for and what amount was transferred to your bank account.

-- In some cases debt could be taken from the pay and received amount is lower than normal.

-- Transaction went through, but money were never deposited to member's account. It could happen when you change your bank account information and close the old one immediately.

-- Or when you change your bank account information and made a typo.

-- In these cases contact Finance office, we will file CMS case and provide you tracking number for the funds. As soon as funds will be returned from your bank, we will submit transaction again.

-- Transaction was inputted, but got rejected. It could be a "bug" in the system. Contact your UTAPS monitor.

-- Member possibly not fully gained yet. In this case transaction simply has to be inputted again.

-- It could be inconsistency with existing file/history. Please contact the finance office.

Member should not be paid for this UTA because:

1) Is in active duty status (on order)

2) Reached maximum allowed number of UTAs for the fiscal year N/A

"I've got wrong amount/type of BAH"

Cause/solution/next step

Your address in the system is incorrect

1. Check your LES,

2. Change your address in MyPay,

3. Contact Mil Pay for back pay/collections

Your dependency status in the system is wrong 1.

Check your LES.

2. Provide documentation to Mil Pay: AF form 594 and proof of your dependency status (marriage certificate, birth certificate, adoption decree, divorce decree, etc.)

Received BAH type II when on long order Admin error/Received BAH partial when on short order Admin error. Please contact mil pay

## **"I didn't get Family Separation Allowance."**

### **Cause/solution/next step**

You aren't qualified.

Qualifying factors:

1) Order 30+ days; 2) have dependent (spouse, child); 3) physically separated from your family

-- DD Form 1561 may not have been completed during out-processing Submit DD Form 1561 to Mil Pay

-- You have a child as dependent and did not submit supporting documentation. You need to provide proof that child lives with you at least 50% of time.

-- You have submitted DD form 1561 and supporting documentation, but some time in past DD form 1561 and supporting documentation has to be submitted every time you are qualified for Family Separation.

Where is my bonus?

Cause/solution/next step

-- You are not entitled to it. Only members in critical AFSCs could be entitled to bonuses.

-- Bonus request was not submitted to finance office. Contact military personnel flight and ask them to submit bonus request to Finance office.

-- Bonus request was submitted, was not authorized in the system. Finance would need to initiate a CMS case for you

-- Processing time Allow 3-4 weeks processing after the due date.

"What is the debt on my LES?" Check your LES Remarks. Explanation is there.

Cause/solution/next step

-- Is it \$29? Monthly SGLI for \$400k coverage. If you did not perform any duty or were not paid in previous month - \$29 debt will appear on your next LES

MOD was not submitted timely and you got overpaid. In most cases debt will be suspended for 90 days. FM will then start to collect it in the amount of 2/3 of your pay with every paycheck till it is gone.

-- We are collecting erroneous overpayment. The typically debt collection is when Mil Pay must collect BAH type II back and paying regular BAH (better one). You were paid,



but had debt and it took all your pay. Read LES remarks at the bottom of LES. If remarks are not clear, call or stop by mil pay.

“I did not get incentive pay.”

Cause/solution/next step

-- Your unit did not submit a request. Contact your unit.

“I was not paid since (XXXX month).”

Cause/Solution/next step

-- You/your supervisor did not certify your short tour order in AROWS Check AROWS for order certification

-- Long tour certified order not submitted to Mil Pay Submit your certified long tour order to Mil Pay

-- You did not submit MOD Submit MOD to Mil Pay

-- The only thing you have submitted to finance office is your travel voucher together with the order. Travel and milpay are two separate entities. You need to submit your completed certified order to both sections.

“My base pay isn’t correct.”

Cause/solution/next step

-- You were promoted, but mil Pay did not receive promotion order

-- Check LES to see what grade is listed there

-- Ask your unit to submit your promotion order to finance

“I moved and am still paying state taxes.”

Cause/solution/next step

-- You changed your address only in MyPay. Mil pay needs a DD form 2058 updating your state of legal residence

“When will I get paid?”

-- For UTA weekend 8-10 days after UTA

-- Short tour (less than 30 days) Within 8-10 days after the short tour completion

-- Long tour (30 and more days) On 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>

“I never received my leave pay.”

Cause/solution/next step

-- You have not requested leave Submit AF form 988 (Part I and Part III) to Y drive and inform

Finance Office

-- You have not uploaded leave slips to Y drive or hand delivered to Finance Office Submit AF form 988 (Part I and Part III) to Y drive and inform Finance Office

“My travel voucher was kicked back/rejected.”

Cause/solution/next step

-- It wasn’t signed. Supporting documentation not submitted with voucher. Mandatory receipts are airline, rental car and lodging, as well as expenses over \$75. You submitted it in RTS, when it should be DTS

-- Check your order. Remarks stipulate how you should submit your travel voucher

-- DTS problems can be resolved through contacting your unit’s DTS specialist. If they can’t help – contact DTS at travel pay

If you have questions about your pay, please, check your LES first. In 90% of cases the answer is right there. Second step would be your orderly room and ODTA.

Please keep in mind that most transactions are done by civilians during the week. They have access to all systems and will be able to better assist you.

Contact information:

Reserve Pay Office: Westover ARB, Building 1800.

800 Ellipse Dr., Chicopee, MA, 01022; 1-800-367-1110;

Fax 413-557-2948; <https://mypay.dfas.mil>

Military Pay Office: [reservepay@us.af.mil](mailto:reservepay@us.af.mil) Chief of

Reserve Pay - Thomas Jourdan; [thomas.jourdan.1@](mailto:thomas.jourdan.1@us.af.mil)

[us.af.mil](mailto:us.af.mil) 413-557-3880, DSN 589-3880

Travel Pay Office: [439travelpay@us.af.mil](mailto:439travelpay@us.af.mil)

Chief of Travel Pay – Jennifer [Serricchio; jennifer.](mailto:Serricchio;jennifer.serricchio@us.af.mil)

[serricchio@us.af.mil](mailto:serricchio@us.af.mil) 413-557-3461, DSN 589-3461

*EDITOR’S NOTE: Stuart-Rockefeller is a reservist in the base finance office. She thanks the finance office’s military and civilian leadership for their advice and recommendations during production of this article. The Airmen and civilians include Maj. David Bulman, Chief Master Sgt. Steven Wilkinson, Master Sgt. Christopher Houde, Tom Jourdan and Jennifer Hearn.*



# Westover Winners

Four 439<sup>th</sup> Communications Squadron Airman took the Air Force Reserve Command’s 2017 Information Dominance Award winners:

Outstanding Administration SNCO - Senior Master Sgt. Danita Thibeault; Outstanding Cyber Operations Airman - Senior Airman Joshua P. Slyman; Outstanding Cyber Operations NCO - Staff Sgt. Nikki L. McWhirt;

Outstanding Cyber Systems Airman - Senior Airman Sean M. Gmachowski.

AFRC announced the Public Affairs Communication Excellence Awards for 2017:

Outstanding Communication Airman Award - Senior Airman Monica C. Ricci, and Outstanding Communication Senior Noncommissioned Officer Award - Master Sgt. Andrew S. Biscoe.

Congratulations to all of the winners who will go on to represent the Air Force Reserve Command in the Air Force-level competition.

The 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter award winners were announced for 2017:

Airman of the Quarter - Senior Airman Carl Nestor, 439<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Noncommissioned Officer - Staff Sgt. Christopher Girolamo, 439<sup>th</sup> Aerospace Medicine Squadron; Senior NCO - Master Sgt. Orlando Severino, 439<sup>th</sup> Logistics Readiness Squadron; Company Grade Officer - 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Kimberly Devine, 439<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Group; and Civilian - Joshua Gallien, 439<sup>th</sup> LRS.



## TROOP TALK "What's your New Year's resolution?"



"To be a great example for my son to follow."

**Staff Sgt. Nicklaus Tzimas**  
42<sup>nd</sup> Aerial Port Squadron



"To get more organized so I can further my career."

**Senior Airman Andrew Trottier**  
42<sup>nd</sup> Aerial Port Squadron

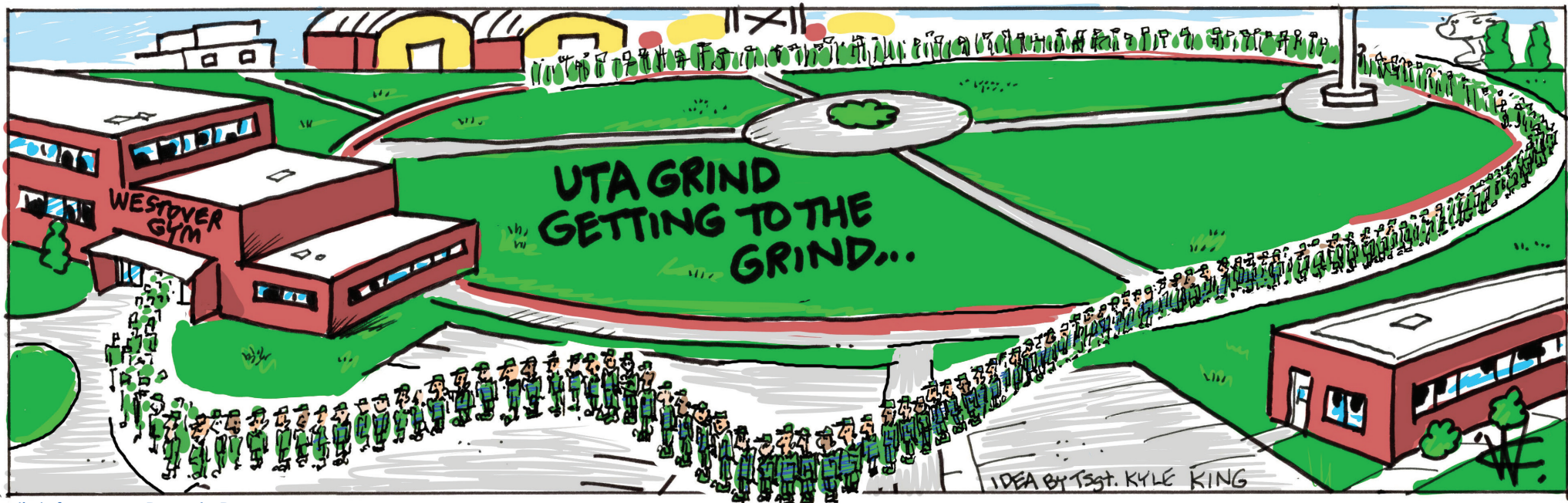
"My New Year's resolution is to run more."

**Senior Airman Michael O'Connor**  
439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing



## POPE'S PUNS

by W.C. Pope



[click for more Pope's Puns](#)



## PROMOTIONS

**Senior Master Sgt.**  
Sharon Pittman  
Robert Serricchio



**Master Sergeant**  
Peter Aliceacorrea  
Anthony Authier  
Jillian Chapin  
Cassandra Delisle  
Victoria Hill  
Raphael Marrero  
Daniel Orcutt  
Mauricio Pino  
Michael Powell  
Ralph Simeone  
Carlos Tirado Dejesus  
Donald Tonge  
Ronald Tyson  
Stephen Winn  
Steven Zalimas



**Technical Sergeant**  
Angel Alexander  
Alan Ash  
Michael Buchanan  
Marc Brueshaber  
Kenneth Chinjen  
Michelle Davis  
Sary Gomez  
Pamela Hubyk  
Bryan Laudano  
Rachael Miller  
Glenda Nathaniel  
Sarah Lacasse  
Stephany Montes  
Joseph Musiak  
Devan Stamborski  
Christopher Thom  
Samantha Thomas  
Walter Varey  
Johnny Williams



**Staff Sergeant**  
Kenson Castor  
Thomas Chalmers  
Austin Gove  
Ashley Gonzalez  
Amanda Haledoyle  
Carlos Juarez Garcia  
Steven Jaimangal  
Faizal Kadam  
Ryan Kellerman  
Jonathan Kuhl  
Ashleigh Leete  
Amie Le  
Robert Link  
Richard Moulton  
Branden Obrien  
Timothy Pike  
Geet Rana  
Monica Ricci  
Joseph Romito Carey  
Jung Seo  
Ryan Stager  
Jeremy Stephens  
Jean Tchazou  
Thomas Wright

**Senior Airman**  
Gifty Agyen  
Miguel Aquino  
Ivette Delgado  
Carl Fleurant  
Adriana Genovese  
Orville Henry  
Dominic McIntyre  
Amanda Nathaniel  
Shayla Reyes  
Cristaly Rios  
Jeniece Rivera  
Nobrina Seng  
Jordan Spruielle  
Jean Valerio Reyes  
Kalin Verardi



**Airman 1st Class**  
Connor Arnold  
Sarah Bartlett  
Matthew Bigbie  
Angelica Cruz  
Patrick Kelleher  
Mairym Hernandez  
Zachary Mason  
Jarrett Mazza  
Jeff Montinard  
Tyler Santos  
Hanna Smith  
Zachariah Sylvester  
Christian Torres



**Airman**  
Aboudou Dao  
Cameron Christie  
Nathan Marquez  
Adrian Ramirez Orozco  
Raymond Romero  
Raekwon Thornton



## Senior Airman Kory Girouard 337<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron

by Senior Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

Though he doesn't wear officer's bars, Senior Airman Kory Girouard functions much like the third pilot while huddled in the flight deck of the U.S. military's largest aircraft. Girouard is a flight engineer in training.

He's accrued more than 120 hours on-the-job, and it's his task to help keep the C-5M Super Galaxy flying safely. The 23-year-old Monson, Mass., resident keeps a watchful eye on an array of dials, lights, and switches. Look for more coverage on the role of flight engineers on base cable channel 50 (and on YouTube) and on the base Facebook page.

## RETIREMENTS

**Lt. Colonel**  
Charlene Sylvestre

**Major**  
Scott Theriault

**Chief Master Sgt.**  
James Brady  
Jeffrey McCarthy

**Senior Master Sgt.**  
Adam Black  
Keith Bodley  
Jason Martin  
Derek Ouimette  
David Rodrigues

**Master Sergeant**  
Nancy Donnachie  
Marie Gaudreau  
Jason George  
Carlos Guerra  
Jason Kennedy  
Joaquim Pedro  
Lori St. Louis  
Ronnie Wing  
Jason Young

**Technical Sergeant**  
Robert Doe  
Michael Rocco



FACES OF WESTOVER

## SERVICES CALENDAR

westoverservices.com

**Club >>** Not including UTAs, we are open Sat. and Sun. from 3 p.m. to 12 a.m., closed Mon., and Tues. Fridays: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 12 a.m. Sign up to become a club member, it is no longer a credit card! Unlock rewards today, find out more at [www.myairforcelife.com](http://www.myairforcelife.com). Remember the club specializes in weddings, unit functions, retirement parties, graduations, birthdays, and catering. For more information, call 413-557-2039.

**The Grind >>** If you weren't already aware, the Grind is in the fitness center.

**Bowling center >>** Not including UTAs, the Bowling Center is closed Sundays. Hours: Monday through Friday 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays. from 5 to 10 p.m. Reserve your bowling birthday party by calling 413-557-3990.

**Fitness center >>** For information, call 413-557-3958.

**Outdoor Recreation >>** Ski rental packages available along with all of your work and play needs. We have rental snow throwers, snow tubes, snow shoes, generators and snowboards. We also have a full service tune-up for your skis and snowboards. Come on over to our office and see what we have. Call 413-557-2192 or go to <http://westoverservices.com/OutdoorRec>





Published monthly for Patriots like Senior Airman Melanie Bingham, 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing and more than 4,700 people assigned to Westover Air Reserve Base.

### Base contractor reminds populace of proper parking, clearing snow

Snow removal crews began their jobs at the base in early December. To assist with the snow removal effort, the base contractor asks that all base personnel please review the items below and take these actions as appropriate:

As usual, people need to consolidate any government-owned vehicles and personal vehicles together in parking lots. This will enable snow removal crews to clear parking areas to the maximum extent possible. In order to avoid potential vehicle damage, snow removal crews will not plow areas within one car length of any parked vehicles.

As a reminder, the approved base snow plan requires facility managers/occupants to clear their own walkways, entrances, emergency exits, etc. to a distance of 25 feet from buildings. Ice/snow melt has been provided for all facilities. Contact the snow control desk at 557-2511 to request more.

### PLOWING AHEAD>>

In this view from the control tower, Westover snow removal crews clear out a taxiway March 2017. (photo by Senior Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe)



### A&FR/KEY SPOUSE CALENDAR

**KEY SPOUSE MEETINGS >>** Jan. 9, Feb. 6, and March 6, Chapel Conference Room, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

**KEY SPOUSE REFRESHER >>** April 3, Chapel Conference Room, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**KEY SPOUSE INITIAL TRAINING >>** April 18, Chapel Conference Room, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. or 6 to 9 p.m.; a current Key Spouse appointment letter is required to attend the training.

**AIRMAN & FAMILY READINESS >>** April is the Month of the Military Child. The center staff will be accepting children's names and addresses March 1 through April 8. Certificates will be mailed out before April 27. A Month of the Military Child event is being planned and date will be announced. For more information call Shanna King at 557-3024, or visit the center's Facebook page.