



PATRIOT

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WESTOVER storms HOMESTEAD!

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 places

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ON THE COVER >> Airmen from Westover deployed to Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla., in early September to assist with Hurricane Irma relief efforts. Scroll to page 4. (photos by Airman Hanna Smith)



LAST AIR SHOW >> It seems that 70-0461, the last C-5A in the Air Force, had a bucket list it wanted to complete before it was retired to the boneyard at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. One of those items on the list was a last air show and lo and behold, it happened to be at the nearby Barnes Municipal Airport. More than 50,000 people who attended the Westfield International Air Show Aug. 12 and 13 got the last chance to walk through the last legacy model Galaxy.

(photo by Senior Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe)

Many people may not be aware of what a command chief's responsibilities are. Here's my opportunity to give you my vision and a few of my moving-forward priorities.

Although not all-inclusive, I am responsible for leading the enlisted force, advising our commander on matters impacting the enlisted force, and making sure the commander's priorities are not only publicized, but understood by the masses. Ultimately, I need to make sure your voice is heard by senior leadership so they can make the best decisions for you when following Air Force instructions.

We have about 2,200 personnel assigned to Westover. It's impossible to "hear" 2,200 voices and be effective in understanding and communicating the needs of all -- when given in the form of individual feedback. That is why we have created organizations such as the Rising Six (technical sergeant and below), the Top 3 (master sergeant and above) and the Company Grade Officer (second lieutenant through captain) groups. These organizations are your avenues to communicate your concerns/needs to senior leadership.

Yes, these groups plan and conduct morale events, sometimes raise funds (that go directly back to supporting our Airmen) along with other fun events, but their primary purpose is to solicit information from the wing and relay that information to me, as a group, so I can in-turn work with senior leadership to ensure we are providing the professional development, quality of life concerns/suggestions etc. that is needed to mold "tomorrow's leaders". This is also a way for me to relay our commander's intent, priorities and the way forward.

While I'm diligently relaying both yours and our commanders needs/wants, there is still a certain amount of responsibility that we need from each and every individual person that puts the uniform on. If you have ever heard me speak in a public forum you have heard me say "BE READY". It is every individual's

responsibility to ensure they have all of their PME complete and to stay on top of their individual requirements (medical, PT, dental, etc). You need to be forward-thinking your own career development. Its not always easy juggling additional training like distant learning courses, civilian jobs and families, all while being a reservist. Please know that we recognize your efforts and appreciate your due diligence to continue to strive to be the best that you can be! Sometimes its easier to knock the PME portion out by going in-residence. If that is the case, let your first sergeants know. We have numerous Airman Leadership School, Noncommissioned Officer Academy and Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy in-residence seats available, along with the NCO Leadership Development Course and SNCOLD classes given right here on station a couple of times a year.

Although its senior leadership's responsibility to remove unnecessary hurdles, our front line supervisors need to understand just how important their jobs are. Get involved, get your Airmen involved! Among many other responsibilities, as a supervisor its your place to make our Airmen recognize opportunities outside of their comfort zones ... and mentor them to just do it! Times are changing on how we make our Airmen competitive (reserve development plans, record boards etc). My challenge to every service member that is privileged to wear a uniform and defend our AWESOME Nation is ... BE READY!

I am honored, privileged and humbled to be not only a command chief, but to be YOUR command chief! Your drive, desire to serve and tenacity in these trying times, never goes unnoticed!

Chief Master Sgt. Shana Cullum
439th Airlift Wing Command Chief Master Sergeant



BRIEFS

Capstone

The Capstone inspection was held over the duration of the September UTA weekend. Airmen accommodated inspectors from Air Force Headquarters, Robins Air Force Base, Georgia. See the article on Westover's website: www.westover.afrc.af.mil

National Hispanic Heritage Month

National Hispanic Heritage Month runs through Oct. 15. Six percent of Westover's population identifies as Hispanic.

The wing would like to thank our Hispanic brothers and sisters in arms for their hard work and sacrifice.

Diversity amongst the troops is what makes our military so strong. Its a pleasure to serve by your side.

Member Planet Card

A new planet membership card is available to Airmen interested in becoming members of the Westover Consolidated Club -- even if they don't want to sign up for a credit card with the club.

With the new member planet card, Airmen can receive \$1-off daily lunch buffets, 10 percent off catered functions and free membership through the year at all Air Force clubs.

The membership card comes with a \$5 monthly fee. Visit the website at: myairforcelife.com

If Airmen would like assistance signing up or transferring to the new card they should contact club manager Erin Lagares at 557-2039 ext. 103 or erin.lagares@us.af.mil.

Force Support Squadron Element Line

The Force Support Squadron Element line is available to any Airman seeking a direct line up the chain of command. This service allows airmen to speak with General Officers, Wing Commanders, squadron commanders and executive officers in an effort to address urgent mission-affecting or benefit-affecting issues.

The FSSE phone number is 720-847-3771. Hours of operation are Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The phone is meant to work on Airmen's behalf to facilitate timely, effective responses to urgent matters.

Westover Contingency Response

Westover Airmen worked alongside members of the 512th Contingency Response Flight to support Sabre Guardian, an active duty army exercise that took place in Hungary. Collectively, they moved close to 2,000 personnel, including over 1,000 combat jumpers, and supported over 150 total sorties over the 10-day operation.

Over 40,000 military personnel from 23 participating nations trained across seven countries throughout the exercise. This is a yearly exercise and Westover has been selected to be the lead unit in Hungary in 2018.

WESTOVER storms in after Irma



IRMA MISSION >> Airmen from across the Reserve pitch in to help their brothers and sister reservists at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla. after the devastation of Hurricane Irma Sept. 16, and went on to help the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the humanitarian mission. Multiple missions flew in and out of Homestead ARB, which became a hub for Hurricane Irma relief efforts just hours after the massive storm moved through the Florida Keys and southwest Florida. (U.S. Air Force photos by Senior Airman Monica Ricci)



WESTOVER storms in after Irma



IRMA MISSION

>> Clockwise; A Westover aerial porter loads bags onto a Wisconsin Air National Guard KC-135 at Homestead ARB, Fla. Sept. 16. About 600 Wisconsin National Guard Soldiers and their baggage were moved through Homestead on their way back home from supporting Hurricane Irma relief efforts in southwest Florida. Civil engineers from Westover, Grissom ARB and Homestead pickup tree limbs after the Irma's high winds, Lt. Col. Gregory Kuzma from Travis AFB and Chief Master Sgt. Patrick Burke, 42nd Aerial Port Squadron hold a combined unit morale banner. (photos by Senior Airman Monica Ricci)

Homestead ARB, Fla. Sept. 16. About 600 Wisconsin National Guard Soldiers and their baggage were moved through Homestead on their way back home from supporting Hurricane Irma relief efforts in southwest Florida. Civil engineers from Westover, Grissom ARB and Homestead pickup tree limbs after the Irma's high winds, Lt. Col. Gregory Kuzma from Travis AFB and Chief Master Sgt. Patrick Burke, 42nd Aerial Port Squadron hold a combined unit morale banner. (photos by Senior Airman Monica Ricci)

WESTOVER storms in after Irma



IRMA >> clockwise; Aerial porters upload baggage onto a KC-135, two services Airmen from Grissom ARB, Indiana, prep the day's meal, Wisconsin National Guard Soldiers load an Air National Guard KC-135 going on their trip home; Matt Donovan, undersecretary of the Air Force and Gen. Stephen Wilson, vice chief of staff of the Air Force speak to the local Homestead, Fla. media; and civil engineers from Westover, Grissom ARB and Homestead clear downed trees and debris at Homestead. (photo by Senior Airman Monica Ricci)

Sister aerial port squadrons load up for FEMA response

by Senior Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

As Hurricane Irma's ferocious momentum ravaged parts of the Caribbean Islands Sept. 8, reservists with Westover's two aerial port squadrons led the Patriot Wing's response to the huge storm.

More than 20 Reserve Citizen Airmen with the 58th and 42nd Aerial Port Squadrons answered the Sept. 8 tasking from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The reservists loaded more than 120 tons of FEMA supplies aboard three C-17 Globemaster III airlifters. The C-17s began arriving at Westover early in the morning of Sept. 9. All three aircraft, which left Westover early Sept. 10, were scheduled to airlift the FEMA supplies to San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The third C-17, ready for loading as darkness fell on the Westover flight line Sept. 9, backdropped a spectacle as local news media and base public affairs cameras rolled. FEMA vehicles and trailers streamed out of Hangar 3 and formed a procession of flashing lights as drivers made their way across Westover's spacious flight line.

C-17 loadmasters, aerial porters, and FEMA officials huddled under the towering tail of the aircraft to discuss final loading preparations. They eventually unloaded 50,000 pounds of cargo, which included a FEMA fuel truck and various supplies.

Tech. Sgt. Peter Alicia-Correa, 42nd APS aircraft services supervisor, was among the first of the aerial porters to coordinate the major FEMA tasking. He credited the performance of his fellow Airmen amid the sudden and major FEMA tasking.

"Senior Airman (Alex) Church was very helpful on the flightline and worked extremely hard," Alicia-Correa said.

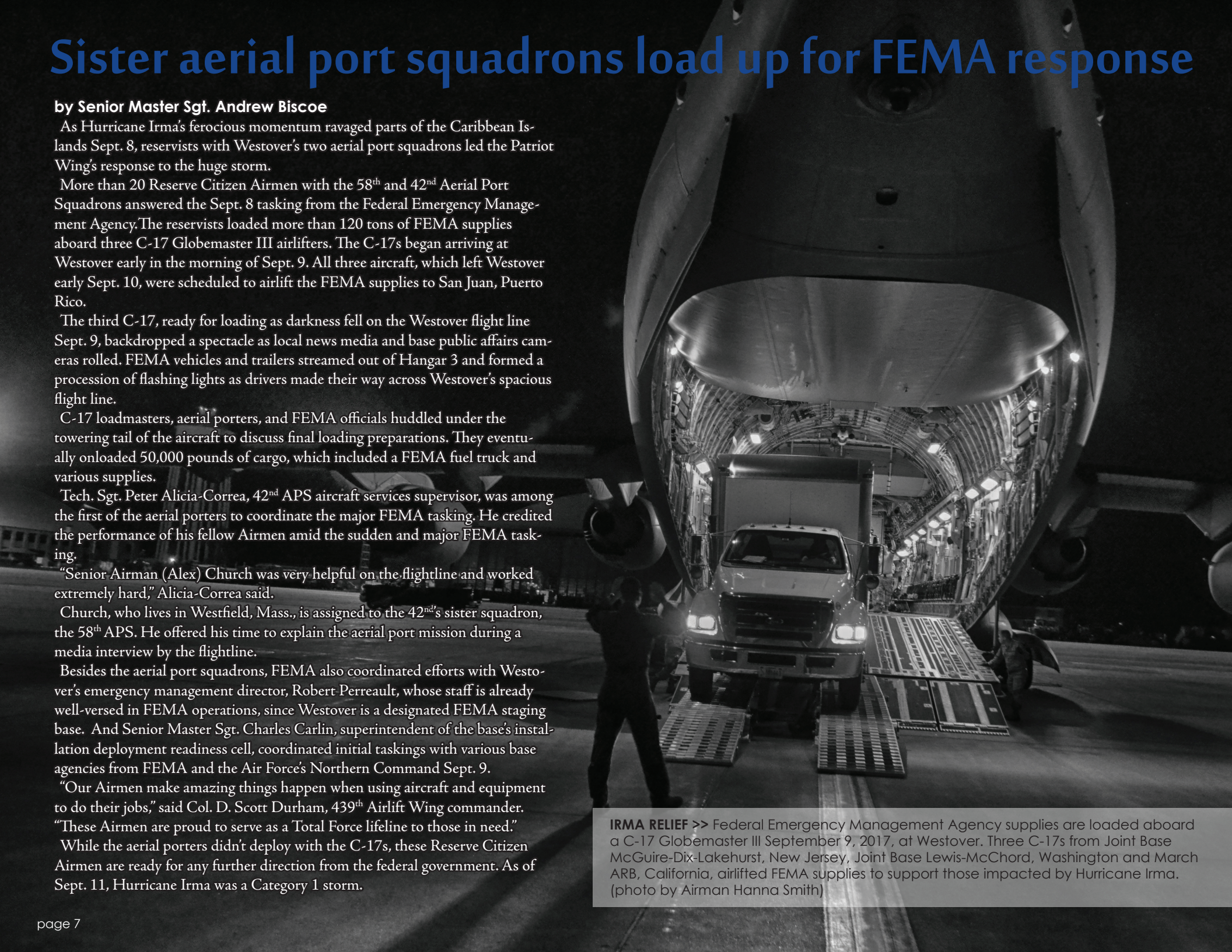
Church, who lives in Westfield, Mass., is assigned to the 42nd's sister squadron, the 58th APS. He offered his time to explain the aerial port mission during a media interview by the flightline.

Besides the aerial port squadrons, FEMA also coordinated efforts with Westover's emergency management director, Robert Perreault, whose staff is already well-versed in FEMA operations, since Westover is a designated FEMA staging base. And Senior Master Sgt. Charles Carlin, superintendent of the base's installation deployment readiness cell, coordinated initial taskings with various base agencies from FEMA and the Air Force's Northern Command Sept. 9.

"Our Airmen make amazing things happen when using aircraft and equipment to do their jobs," said Col. D. Scott Durham, 439th Airlift Wing commander.

"These Airmen are proud to serve as a Total Force lifeline to those in need."

While the aerial porters didn't deploy with the C-17s, these Reserve Citizen Airmen are ready for any further direction from the federal government. As of Sept. 11, Hurricane Irma was a Category 1 storm.



IRMA RELIEF >> Federal Emergency Management Agency supplies are loaded aboard a C-17 Globemaster III September 9, 2017, at Westover. Three C-17s from Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington and March ARB, California, airlifted FEMA supplies to support those impacted by Hurricane Irma. (photo by Airman Hanna Smith)

C-5A 0451 departs for museum at Travis; just one A-model remains

by Airman Hanna Smith

The sun was bright and the sky was a clear blue at high-noon as C-5A 0451 taxied onto the runway and soared off into the wild blue yonder on its final flight July 26 from Westover.

This aircraft, destined for the Heritage Center at Travis Air Force Base, California, is retiring from service and being placed at the aircraft museum on-base. It's just one two A-model's in the Air Force nationwide.

"Our museum curator, Mr. Rich Shea, is really excited," said Ellen L. Hatfield, chief of community relations at the 349th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs at Travis. "0451 was a Travis tail that was in consecutive service at Travis for 20 years, before going to serve with the Reserve. So it's coming home."

Capt. Joshua P. Harris, 337th Airlift Squadron aircraft commander, led the crew that took the 47-year-old airlifter on its final journey to northern California.

The aircraft is retiring with over 24,500 flying hours on the airframe, said Master Sgt. Timothy MacDonald of the 439th Maintenance Group.

The C-5 A-models are the oldest of the four existing models of the Galaxy. Lockheed-Martin workers built the legacy A-models between 1966 and 1970. In the mid-1980s, 50 more C-5s were built. The B-models incorporated the modifications of improved wings, simplified landings gear, upgraded engines and upgraded avionics. The B-models were modernized to Super Galaxy M-models. These jets feature new engines, which are both quieter and more powerful than the previous versions, and new and improved avionics system.

The aircraft was assigned to Westover ARB September 15, 2016 from Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

C-5A 0451 performed 6,082 full-stop landings and 19,441 total landings, said MacDonald.

This particular aircraft was one of the last two in the Air Force's fleet. The last remaining C-5A – 0461 – also housed at Westover, departed Westover in early September.



AND THEN THERE WERE NONE, THE FINAL C-5A DEPARTS WESTOVER ARB FOR RETIREMENT

by Airman
Hanna Smith

A dreary, overcast morning gave way to patches of blue sky as the loud, lumbering, giant C-5A Galaxy 70-0461 taxied onto the runway.

September 7, 2017, is a day to go down in Air Force history. It marked the departure of Westover Air Reserve Base's and the Air Force's final C-5A Galaxy to the boneyard in Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona, where it retired.

Since the late 1980s, the shrill whine of the C-5 engines have been commonplace over Western Massachusetts. But since the modification of the fleet's C-5 B-models to M-models, making the engines more efficient and noticeably quieter, the whine is no longer heard after C-5A 0461's departure.

The aircraft's original destination was supposed to be the Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. But the museum was unable to support the aircraft, so it was re-routed to the boneyard at Davis-Monthan. The boneyard, a portion of the huge Air Combat Command base, is dedicated to the storage of former operational Air Force aircraft.

This aircraft's last few weeks were quite eventful. Some of the events included the stand-down on of the fleet due to mechanical issues in the nose-gear; its appearance at the 2017 Westfield International Air Show held at Barnes Air National Guard Base, Massachusetts, and as a static display for a 'Babylift crash' survivor visit.

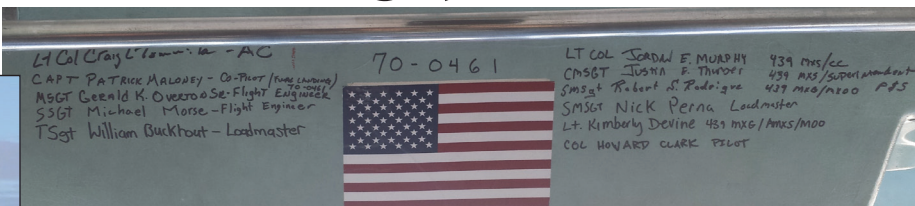
It retired after more than 45 years of service to America transporting cargo all over the globe.

One of the 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron's crew chiefs had special ties to 0461.

"0461 was the first C-5 I was assigned to when I entered the Air Force in 1999," said Tech. Sgt. Chris Boutin, a C-5 crew chief assigned to the 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. "I was glad to see it off and that it took off safely."

With a height of over 65 feet, a wingspan of over 222 feet and a length of over 247 feet, this man-made marvel of an aircraft transported seemingly countless tons of cargo all over the world for the Air Force with pride and honor.

This is truly the end of an era for not only Westover, but the Air Force's strategic airlift fleet as a whole.



LAST A LIFTOFF >> The final C-5A departs Westover ARB for retirement C-5A Galaxy 70-0461 departs from the runway September 7, 2017, at Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass. 0461 is the last C-5A in the Air Force and flew to the boneyard at Davis-Monthan. (photo by W.C. Pope)



THE FINAL CREW >> Maintenance and aircrew members take a break for a photo after landing at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., Sept. 7. From left to right, Senior Master Sgt. Nick Perna, 1st Lt. Kimberly Devine, Lt. Col. Jordan Murphy, Chief Master Sgt. Justin Thurber, Capt. Patrick Maloney, Col. Howard Clark, Staff Sgt. Michael Morse, Master Sgt. Gerald Overton, Senior Master Sgt. Robert Rodriguez, Lt. Col. Craig Tommilia, and Tech. Sgt. William Buckout. (photo provided by Lt. Col. Jordan Murphy)

Last C-5A flight brings nostalgia back for crew



by Senior Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

An unmistakable sound echoed across the sky above Westover Sept. 7 -- for the last time.

With a growl and whine so familiar to residents and the base populace here for 30 years, it was the final takeoff for C-5A Galaxy 70-0461, the last remaining A-model built 47 years ago and delivered to the Air Force from Lockheed.

Aboard the Air Force's sole remaining Galaxy were Lt. Col. Craig Tommila, a C-5 veteran aircraft commander, and Col. Howard Clark, 439th Airlift Wing vice commander.

The aircraft was among several A-models brought to Westover as the 439th AW began converting to the C-5M Super Galaxy, which includes newer, more powerful, and quieter engines. This particular C-5A was originally assigned to the 433rd Airlift Wing at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

Loadmaster for this final flight was Senior Master Sgt. Nicholas Perna, 337th Airlift Squadron.

"It was an honor to be a part of the very last crew," said Perna. "All of us on that flight knew that we were closing a chapter of Air Force history."

Public affairs staff escorted local media from Western Massachusetts onto the flight line Sept. 7, for the historic departure. As the Galaxy taxied from its spot to Westover's 11,600-foot runway, the cameras quickly trained on the aging airlifter's General Electric TF-39 engines. The last spool-up of the four engines sent the giant aircraft forward, with a recent rainfall that blew across the 300-foot-wide runway.

Capt. Patrick Maloney, C-5 pilot, and Lt. Col. Craig Tommila, aircraft commander, eased the Galaxy into the air after about 6,000 feet of takeoff space, and the first notes of its swan song began as the jet climbed into the air above neighboring Chicopee.

"This flight concluded 30 years of TF-39 engine operations at Westover....a sound heard routinely and distinctly since C-5A (and subsequently C-5B) operations began in October 1987," said Lt. Col. Jordan Murphy, 439th Maintenance Squadron commander, and a passenger on the historic flight. "While some may miss the 'roar' of these old powerplants, the new CF-6-80C2 engines on the converted C-5Ms are far quieter and projected to improve reliability significantly."

The final flight of this C-5A concluded 22,512 hours in the air. The jet was among 81 C-5A models built between 1966 and 1970.

"This was another chapter of aviation history that Westover was fortunate enough to be a part of. Westover's A-models were always the envy of the C-5 fleet," Tommila said. "Our maintenance personnel were, and are, second to none and we are very proud of that."

Perna was nostalgic as he realized an era in the Air Force ended on that mission.

"The majority of my flying time has been on these A-models, they have taken me all over the world," said Perna. "I always enjoyed flying on them more than the newer models -- you could feel the history that they had been a part of, dating back to the Vietnam era, and every U.S. operation since then."

AROUND WESTOVER



UN-WRECKING

CREW >> Firefighters from all over Massachusetts participated in a Structural Collapse Technician Certificate Course the week of Oct. 2 at the Westover Fire Departments smoke house on Patriot Ave. This course prepares participants to respond to several types of structural collapse scenarios they may encounter throughout their careers. (photos by Airman Hanna Smith)



WESTOVER PROTOCOL: REVEILLE, RETREAT, TAPS

by Airman Hanna Smith

Across the Air Force, reveille and retreat are sounded over the base voice systems each morning and each evening to signal the raising and lowering of our nation's flag and to signal the beginning and end of the duty day.

Historically, reveille was originally designed to muster a unit for roll call. As time passed however, it evolved into announcing when the flag is raised on an installation and the honors paid to it.

Nestled within the ellipse, standing high and proud above the 50 state flags that encircle the track, Westover flies a 24-hour, stationary, American flag.

Since Westover flies the flag continuously, no courtesies are required in the morning when reveille sounds. Reveille instead just signals the beginning of the duty day. Which for Westover, is at 8 a.m. daily. Reveille also sounds on weekends, both UTAs and non-UTAs, at 8 a.m. as well.

Traditionally, retreat is seen as a time to secure the flag and pay respect to what it stands for.

For Westover, retreat is played as a prelude to the National Anthem. This is played daily at 5 p.m. to signal the end of the duty day. Retreat also sounds on weekends at 5 p.m., both UTAs and non-UTAs, as well. Considering the anthem is being played, proper customs and courtesies are required.

These customs and courtesies include:

- Service members in uniform should stand at attention and salute.

- Service members out of uniform should stand at attention and place their right hand over their heart or may also render a salute.

- Service members performing physical training and wearing a PT uniform outdoors should stop, stand at attention and render salute.

- Civilians should place their right hand, with a hat (if applicable) over their heart.

- Vehicles in motion should pull over safely and stop.

Originally, taps began as a signal to extinguish lights at the end of the day.

Many Air Force installations play taps to signal lights out or to begin quiet hours. Considering the song is played for those purposes, saluting is not required.

Seeing Westover is an Air Reserve base and does not accommodate any on-base housing, taps is not played daily to signal lights out or quiet hours.

However, if taps is being played at a military ceremony (military funeral, memorial ceremony, wreath laying, etc.) proper protocol should be followed.

Protocol for taps at military ceremonies include:

- Service members in uniform and outdoors should stand at attention and salute for the duration of Taps.

- If indoors and uncovered, service members in uniform should stand at attention for the duration of the song.

- Civilians should remove their headgear (if applicable) and place their hands over their hearts during that time.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Additional information regarding U.S. Flag customs and courtesies can be found in Air Force Instruction 34-1201 Protocol.

What is the Galaxy Community Council?

by Bud Shuback

The Galaxy Community Council has supported Westover since 1988. Under the leadership of then-wing commander, Brig. Gen. Frederick "Mike" Walker, and members of the Chicopee Chamber of Commerce, the GCC was formed to find ways to keep it operational and enhance the ties between the base and local communities. A charter was written and the GCC was established as a non-profit corporation in the state of Massachusetts. Today, it is an all-volunteer 5012c3 charitable corporation.

The GCC has evolved to not only advocate for Westover's existence, but to also support the units and activities at Westover.

The mission of the GCC is to:

- Support the military men, women and mission of Westover.

- Promote interaction between Westover and its surrounding communities.

- Increase public awareness about what Westover means to everyone in the surrounding communities.

- Co-produce the Great New England Air and Space Show.

To carry out this mission, the GCC officers, board of directors and volunteers put much of their focus on the air show. They raise over \$300,000 to support and help guarantee its success.

- In non-airshow years, the GCC supports the annual Westover Family Day. GCC volunteers enable over 3,000 military personnel and their families to have an enjoyable day at Westover by providing manpower and financial support.

- Within Department of Defense guidelines, the GCC raises funds to contribute to events and special needs at Westover. The GCC works with and contributes to the Pioneer Valley USO and other activities such as the Airman and Family Readiness Center, Westover Young Marines, the Civil Air Patrol, and the annual Youth Outreach.

- GCC members work with our local, state and federal elected officials for the mutual benefit of our communities and Westover. We endeavor to provide input to advocate for the base and its place in western Massachusetts.

The GCC has approximately 140 members. Its board of directors meet monthly with Westover leadership. After that, the full membership meets at the Westover Club for dinner and to plan activities. We arrange for guest speakers and we interact with Westover personnel to find better ways to support the base's men, women and mission.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article, written by Bud Shuback, is the first in a periodic series that informs Patriot readers about organizations that support the Westover mission. Shuback was the Westover Honorary Commander for 2016 and is the outgoing GCC president.

Honoring **SEPT 11** Through Service and Deployment

by Capt. Meghan Smith

For one Westover firefighter, his first deployment holds a deeper meaning than most. "It was hard not to get a little emotional when I saw the aircraft take off," said Tech. Sgt. Mark McKunes, a 439th Civil Engineering Squadron firefighter who's on his first deployment to Southwest Asia.

"Being deployed during 9/11 was very moving—that's the reason I joined the Air Force," he said. Although the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 inspired McKunes to fight for his country, he stayed in the service for opportunities like the deployment he's currently on with the 386th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron. "It's a big deal to me to be here during the anniversary -- I participated in the First Responder Silent March to honor 9/11 (victims), which was very powerful."

McKunes, a 15-year Air Force veteran who volunteered for this deployment, said he is making the most of every day there. In addition to completing courses and taking CLEP tests for his CCAF degree, McKunes is also working on career progression and is a volunteer with the Honor Guard.

"I try to keep busy in lots of different ways," McKunes said. "Running was my enemy and I want to challenge myself to conquer it." To that end, McKunes completed a 10K and plans to complete one each month of the deployment. "If there is another half-marathon while I'm here, I will complete that too," McKunes said. "That is my goal."

The transition from being a traditional reservist to being full-time deployed has been easy, he said.

"Prior to deploying, I trained full-time with the Westover Fire Department for six months. That training at Westover

refreshed my skills and prepared me well."

McKunes also credits his leadership at Westover for the smooth transition and his ability to function capably in a deployed environment.

"Everything here is very fast paced, but we work well as a team," McKunes said. "We

all come from different locations and bases, but because we all train the same way at home, we came together as a perfect team. It's as if we've been working together for years."

As part of his firefighting mission, McKunes is hosting a firefighter PT challenge during October's fire prevention week.

"The competition will be open to all units, but firefighters can't compete," McKunes said. "It's a fun way to bring fire prevention awareness to the base."

The diversity of mission opportunities while deployed also keep McKunes on his toes.

"I love being able to step out of firefighting sometimes and work alongside EOD and Security Forces for UXO missions," McKunes said. "We also work on different aircraft here than at home, so that expands my knowledge and ability."

McKunes embodies Westover's Mission Statement of providing global reach capabilities with mission-ready Citizen Airmen, "While deployed I know I am a small, but very important part of a big mission," he said. (Courtesy photos by Tech. Sgt. Mark McKunes)



Closing two chapters: **Operation Babylift crash survivor tours last C-5A**



Contented Karen Keshura, a Vietnamese orphan, fondles a music box with her new parents, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Keshura. It doesn't seem possible that she nearly escaped death recently in an air disaster near Saigon. Her sister Christine looks on proudly at her new sister.

by Senior Airman Monica Ricci

The last time Karen Keshura was in a C-5A Galaxy, the long war in Vietnam was coming to an end. It was a different kind of homecoming flight—at just seven months old, Keshura was one among hundreds of orphan Vietnamese children aboard the aircraft heading to meet their new families in America.

Keshura's flight was the first of several under what would later become known as President Gerald Ford's Operation Babylift. Just minutes after take-off, a malfunction caused the cargo doors to blow out and the rapid decompression inside the aircraft. Ultimately, the pilot was forced to crash land the plane filled with passengers.

"I don't know if it is necessarily survivor's guilt, but I just never liked to talk about it," Keshura said. "A lot of lives were lost. A lot of babies were lost."

Keshura was traveling in the upper troop compartment, which remained largely intact despite the rest of the plane's devastation after the crash landing. She and more than 150 children, Air Force personnel, and civilians survived the crash.

But many did not.

Aside from a binder full of photos and news clippings, Keshura never really dug too deep into



her Vietnamese roots or what happened that day. "I've always just been me, a Keshura, an American," she said. "I didn't know anything different."

She found a renewed interest in her story, however, when an old friend and classmate, Chief Master Sgt. Justin Thurber, invited her to Westover, home to a fleet of C-5s and at the time, the last C-5A in the entire Air Force inventory.

“When I saw a post on her Facebook, I couldn’t believe it,” Thurber said. “Being a maintenance superintendent at a C-5 wing, I thought, ‘what a coincidence!’ and what an amazing story.”

Keshura graciously accepted Thurber's invitation to Westover, despite his hesitation to dive into an aspect of his friend's personal life that she had always kept to herself.

"This visit brought about my desire to know more," Keshura said. "When I came here I didn't just want to be looking at an airplane. I wanted it to be more than that. I wanted to connect with it."

Emotion overcame Keshura as she and a group of family and friends climbed up the ladder to the troop compartment inside the C-5A.

"This closes that chapter for me that has been left hanging open," she said. Keshura said the best part of the experience was seeing one of Westover's C-5s soar through the sky.

“I had an enormous sense of peace seeing the plane take off and fly,” Keshura said.



AMONG THE VICTIMS—These tiny orphans take bottles in the airplane minutes before it crashed.

N.E. Families Await Word from Saigon

The Yul Brynners said yesterday they infant who is with the Brynners in Boston, Brandt of Concord, broke down in tears as she spoke. Her manager, the Colonial

RECOGNIZE YOUR CIVILIAN EMPLOYER

by Airman Hanna Smith

The Freedom Award nomination period is from October 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017. The Freedom Award is the highest civilian employer award presented by the Department of Defense. This award is for the entire organization.

The support of civilian employers for members of the National Guard and Reserve continues to be vital to our Nation's defense. The importance of this support is often overlooked when we think of what is needed to keep us safe and free.

If you have a civilian employer, you can recognize its contribution to your military career by submitting a Freedom Award nomination. To ensure nominees are being compared with other like employers, there are three categories: large, small and non-profit employers.

Approximately 3,000 award nominations are submitted each year with 15 being selected.

For more information, to submit your nomination and show your employer that you appreciate the support you receive, please visit www.FreedomAward.mil.

If you also want to reward an individual supervisor please nominate him/her for the Patriot Award at www.ESGR.org.

Please take advantage of these opportunities to thank your civilian employer and/or individual supervisors. For more information on ESGR operations, contact the Massachusetts State Chair Earl Bonett at 413-267-4037.

Nose gear problem is tackled taken head on by Westover Maintainers

by Airman Hanna Smith

The C-5 - one of the most complex aircraft in the inventory - challenged Westover's renowned aircraft maintainers this summer as Airmen salvaged parts from the former fleet to help with restoring the remaining operational jets.

Tech Sgt. Nathan Staples, a 439th Maintenance Squadron aero repair technician, explained how the two ball-screw drive assemblies in the nose-landing gear operate and how the problem arose.

"The ball screw drive assemblies have two internal bearings and a gear which works in conjunction with a spline shaft, a 90-degree gear box, and a hydraulic motor to drive the gear up and down," Staples said. "The upper most bearing in the ball screw drive, on some aircraft, as well as the two aircraft that had nose-landing-gear malfunctions, wears overtime and breaks up inside the housing. When the bearing breaks, the metal chunks from the bearing get lodged in the gear within the ball screw drive housing. This prevents the internal gear from spinning which prevents the nose-landing-gear from extending and/or retracting."

Here at Westover, our maintenance squadron has been hard at work replacing the parts for several of the fleet's Galaxies.

A portion of the parts were pulled from retired C-5s at Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona. Staples and Master Sgt. Eric Jancaitis, both assigned to the 439th MXS, went to Arizona from August 8-12, to assist in removing the needed parts from some of the boneyard aircraft.

"We prepped for removal and/or removed 22 left-hand ball screw drive assemblies and 21 right-hand ballscrew drive assemblies," Staples said.

While some of the parts were already in the inventory, others came from the boneyard at Davis-Monthan or were refurbished BSD assemblies, which were pulled from other operational aircraft.

Replacement of the parts is no easy feat. It takes about nine to 18 hours to complete the whole process, Staples said. The process includes the removal of the left-hand and right-hand ball screws, ball screw drives and nose-landing gimbals. This is followed by the installation of the new BSD assemblies, the re-installation of the ball screws (which were removed in order to replace the defective BSD assemblies) and the re-installation of the nose-landing gimbals. At the conclusion, an extensive operational checkout is conducted to ensure that the nose-landing gear functions properly in both normal and emergency modes.

The 439th MXS is the largest squadron within the Patriot Wing, with a combined workforce (reservists, civilians, and active duty) of more than 250 men and women including reservists, civilians and active-duty Airmen from Dover Air Force Base, Delaware.



EARTH WIND AND FIRE: RESERVISTS OWN THE SKIES

by Capt. Jeff Kelly

ROBINS AFB, Ga. – For the first time in the nearly 70-year history of the Air Force Reserve, all three special mission units have been called to action simultaneously due to a series of catastrophic events that have effected wide swaths of the U.S.

Reserve Citizen Airmen from across the country are conducting weather reconnaissance, aerial spray and airborne firefighting missions concurrently at different geographic locations. Air Force Reserve Command contributes 100 percent of the weather reconnaissance and aerial spray capabilities and 25 percent of the Modular Airborne Firefighting System capabilities for the Department of Defense. All three capabilities provide significant contributions to our nation's Defense Support to Civil Authorities missions.

Reservists from the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, better known as the Hurricane Hunters, have been flying weather reconnaissance missions nonstop since Aug. 17. The life-saving data they have collected every day has contributed to the National Hurricane Center's ability to determine the intensity of multiple storms and predict where they could go. For a few days, Hurricane hunter crews were flying missions in three different hurricanes in the Atlantic region simultaneously for the first time in seven years.

Each storm mission is flown in a WC-130J Super Hercules aircraft by a crew made up of at least two pilots, a navigator, an aerial reconnaissance weather officer and a loadmaster. Many of these Reserve Citizen Airmen travel from around the country to be a part of the mission and only a small percent of the squadron are full-time air reserve technicians. The rest are traditional reservists who show up when called and put their civilian jobs and their civilian careers on hold to fly into storms.

"The data we collect is essential to the National Hurricane Center," said Maj. Kimberly Spusta, 53rd WRS ARWO. "To venture into the center of the storm and get that data is critical so the National Hurricane Center can have the most accurate forecasts possible. That data will undoubtedly save lives."

While the Hurricane Hunters fly missions into the eye of the storm, AFRC's 302nd Airlift Wing is assisting the National Interagency Fire Center to provide a Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System-equipped C-130H Hercules aircraft and aircrew to support ongoing aerial firefighting efforts in the western U.S.

Multiple geographic areas in the western U.S. are experiencing significant wildfire

incidents requiring aerial firefighting support.

"It's been an active six weeks for our MAFFS crews and support personnel – our Air Force Reservists are trained and ready to provide additional support," said Col. James DeVere, commander of the 302 AW. "MAFFS 2 and its crew will contribute to the overall team efforts and work in support of fire suppression in the Western U.S."

The Colorado Reserve wing has been supporting the U.S. Forest Service requests for assistance with a MAFFS C-130H since July 30, 2017, in response to the U.S. Forest

Service request for assistance, which began the federal activation of three MAFFS-equipped aircraft.

To complete the trifecta of AFRC special mission units providing emergency support currently, AFRC's 910th Airlift Wing has been tasked with providing its unique aerial spray capability to assist with recovery efforts in eastern Texas, following the devastation of Hurricane Harvey.

The 910th operates the Department of Defense's only aerial spray capability to control pest insect populations, eliminate undesired and invasive vegetation and disperse oil spills in large bodies of water.

Due to the large amount of standing,

polluted water, populations of pest insects that can transmit diseases are increasing significantly. This poses a health risk to rescue workers and residents of Houston. Authorities have requested the 910th to treat more than six million affected acres.

This mission will primarily target mosquitoes which are capable of transmitting diseases such as malaria, West Nile virus, Zika and various types of encephalitis. Increased populations of these pest insects can eventually lead to individual cases or widespread outbreak of these diseases. The pest insects can also hinder recovery workers, resulting in less time in the field.

The 910th's customized Modular Aerial Spray System is capable of a wide-variety of applications. For mosquito control, the system uses the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved and regulated material "naled," which is not used in amounts large enough to cause any concern for human health, according to the EPA. The system disperses droplets small enough to land on a mosquito's wing, using less than one ounce of naled per acre. That's less than one shot glass for an area the size of a football field.

The Air Force Reserve is comprised of nearly 70,000 Reserve Citizen Airmen and will continue to innovate new ways in vital areas of defense to protect the United States.





439th Airlift Wing

"Leaders in Excellence"

October 2017

**439th Airlift Wing
Commander**
Col. D. Scott Durham



Vice Wing Commander
Col. Howard Clark



Command Chief
CCMSgt. Shana Cullum

The
Patriot
Wing

Westover
Air Reserve Base



439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron
Col. Stanley Chartoff
MSgt. Brett Connor



439th Aerospace Medicine Squadron
Col. Patrick Carpenter
MSgt. Ellenie Rollins



439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron
Col. James Schaaf
MSgt. Kevin Zullo



439th Operations Support Squadron
Lt. Col. Travis Board
MSgt. Manuel Chavez



337th Airlift Squadron
Lt. Col. Matthew Potter
MSgt. Rachel Garcia-Gosselin



439th Contingency Response Flight
Maj. Shirley Whitney
Vacant



439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
Lt. Col. Nathan Meleo
SMSgt. Alexander Reno



439th Maintenance Squadron
Lt. Col. Jordan Murphy
SMSgt. Albert Raymond



439th Maintenance Group
Col. David Post (pending)
MSgt. Gary Chandler



439th Mission Support Group
Col. Karen Magnus



439th Security Forces Squadron
Maj. Bruce Lawler
SMSgt. Daniel Howard



439th Force Support Squadron
Lt. Col. Rodney Furr
Vacant



42nd Aerial Port Squadron
Lt. Col. Qais Ajalat
SMSgt. Rayanne Emerson



58th Aerial Port Squadron
Lt. Col. John Dugan
SMSgt. Kimberly Kopp



439th Logistics Readiness Squadron
Lt. Col. Trenton Holden
MSgt. Shannon Donnelly



439th Communications Squadron
Maj. Venice Goodwine
MSgt. Reid Sindelar



439th Civil Engineer Squadron
Vacant
SMSgt. Matthew Mynczywor

Senior Leaders UNVEIL New Priorities

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- In a recent letter to the Total Force, Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth Wright released their new priorities and addressed issues Airmen face day to day.

"For more than 70 years, our fellow Americans have asked you to be the sentinels of air and space for the nation, and you continue to deliver unmatched air and space power every day," the leaders said. "Looking forward, our obligations to the country will never change. We will always lead and support the joint force in defending our homeland, owning the high ground and projecting power with our allies."

As the demands for Air Force capabilities continue to increase, the senior leaders established the following priorities to ensure the Air Force is always able to answer the nation's call and win:

Restore readiness ... to win any fight, any time.

Cost-effectively modernize ... to increase the lethality of the force.

Drive innovation ... to secure our future.

Develop exceptional leaders ... to lead the world's most powerful teams.

Strengthen our alliances ... because we are stronger together.

"Everything we do as a team should advance or augment these priorities," they continued. "Each and every one of our Total Force Airmen has a role to play in making us successful in this endeavor. We will prevail through the power of our people. You and your families represent the absolute best of our nation. We are humbled to lead our great Air Force and honored to serve with you every day."



Air Force graduates first female enlisted pilot

story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Ave Young,
502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs

The Air Force's first female enlisted pilot completed Undergraduate Remotely Piloted Aircraft Training Aug. 4, 2017, at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas. Tech. Sgt. Courtney is part of the Enlisted Pilot Initial Class.

In its 70 years as a separate military service the Air Force has relied almost exclusively on commissioned officers to pilot its aircraft. In December 2015, the Air Force announced it would begin including enlisted Airmen in its training to pilot RPAs. Twelve were selected and incorporated in the training program beginning October 2016. The first three EPIC students graduated from training May 5, 2017.

"Tech. Sgt. Courtney doesn't do this because she's a girl, she just gets up every day and puts her uniform on and comes to work and kicks butt because that's what she does," said Maj. Natalie, an instructor pilot with the 558th Flying Training Squadron. "That's who she is. She's not a woman pilot, she's a pilot."



The 558th FTRS is the sole source of undergraduate RPA training in the Air Force. "It's great to fill that role as the first female," Courtney said. "It's awesome and humbling, but our units don't care if you're male or female, they just want you to be a good pilot."

In her 11-year career, the Vacaville, California native has been a part of the intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance career field filling various roles such as imagery analyst and sensor operator for the MQ-1 Predator and the RQ-4 Global Hawk.

Undergraduate remotely piloted aircraft training is six months for RPA pilots, who sit in the left seat of an RPA control center during flight, and six weeks for their sensor operators, who sit in the right seat and control cameras mounted on the RPA.

This accomplishment expands Courtney's opportunities. "I've been sitting in the right seat for a long time, so now I'm ready to sit in the left seat," Courtney said.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Only first names were given for security reasons.)



TROOP TALK "What's the last thing that you want to accomplish for the Summer of 2017?"



"One thing I do want to accomplish is getting back in the gym to lose my baby weight."

Tech. Sgt. Sheinaice Perez
439th Maintenance Squadron



"I've been working on my CCAF, so I want to finish that hopefully before summer ends."

Staff Sgt. Bryan Maclure
439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

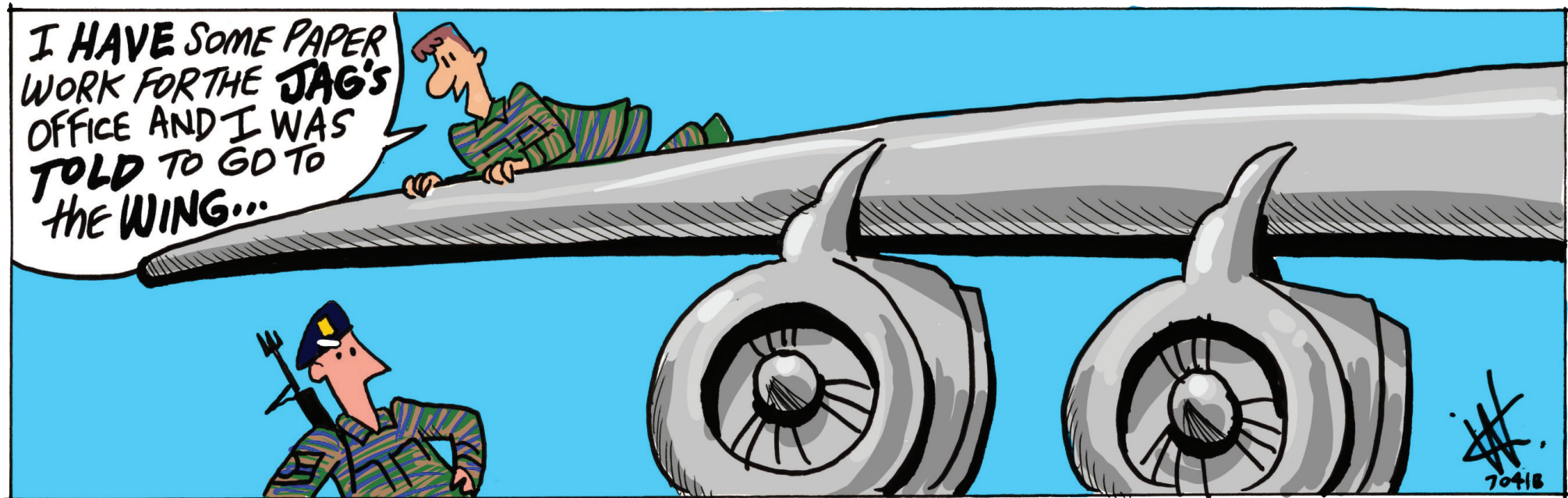
"Becoming a full-fledged coordinator of the Green Dot Training and doing classes right along with Sharon; our lead Greed Dot Trainer."

Staff Sgt. Alicia Chartier
439th Maintenance Squadron



POPE'S PUNS

by W.C. Pope



PROMOTIONS

Chief Master Sgt.
Paul Mcinnis



Master Sergeant
John Crampton
Talia Eaves
Christopher Fox
Margaret Gabriel
Heather Kearns
Sean Robbins



Technical Sergeant
John Alexander
Amanda Collins
Davis Cote
Louise Fletcher
Anthony Gonzalez
Laura Howland
Janet Izquierdo
Monika Muise
Andrew Nelson
Stephanie Palala
Karl Reichenbach
Joshua Szpila
Mathieu Toczek
Adam Tremblay
Jorge Velazquez
Christopher Wasuk



Staff Sergeant
Danielle Barlette
Richard Brisebois
Xandria Budney
Thomas Chisholm
Christopher Girolamo
Amber Hanson
Donald Hatfield
Tiffany Jenkins
Thomas Ferris
Katherine McGinnis
Meghan Obrien
Shannon Riley
Emily Rodrigues
Joseph St Peter
Lillian Turck
Sang Yang



Senior Airman
Joel Attardo
Bryan Bondoc
Shane Brien, Jr.
Jean Pierre Canel

Miguel Chucaralao
Shatoya Dowdell
Jonathan Granville
Ryan Kenney
Sean Masse
Ryan Mcmanus
Paige McNulty
Peter Schneider
Joshua Spellman

Airman First Class



Jazmyn Anderson
Dipesh Bhatt
Derrick Cabral
Faustino Colon, Jr.
Melissa Cyr
Kiana Eaton
Hunter Russell
Christian Sears

Airman



Cameron Cardwell
Deanthony Norales
Vicky Nunez
Martinez Polanco
Arun Rambhadjan

Senior Airman Andrew Collier 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

by Airman Hanna Smith

Senior Airman Andrew Collier, a munitions systems apprentice in the 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron's Munitions shop here, is a native of Westover's home city, Chicopee.

He enlisted in September 2015 and was in the delayed-entry program for almost a year before he went to basic-training at Joint-Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. From there he had a break-in-training before going to technical school at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas.

Collier is currently on seasoning training to become a fully-functional munitions systems specialist. As a munitions systems specialist, he will be responsible for shipping, receiving, assembling, testing, operating, protecting inspecting, storing and maintenance of various types of munitions systems.

With an associate's degree from Springfield Technical Community College and a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Westfield State University, Collier said he hopes to be able to become a part of the Chicopee police force.

In the meantime, you can find Collier learning how to proficiently do his part to support the mission at the Munitions Flight.



FACES OF WESTOVER

RETIREMENTS

Senior Master Sergeant

Lloyd Elliott
Christopher Gaj
Mark Lis

Master Sergeant

Richard Garcia
Jason George
Jason Kennedy
Jerome Tardy
Jason Young
Ronnie Wing

Technical Sergeant

Andrew Sliwa

Staff Sergeant

Gerard Melanson

SERVICES CALENDAR

CLUB >> Sign up to become a club member, it is no longer a credit card! Unlock rewards today, find out more at www.myaairforcelife.com or visit the Westover Club today! Oktoberfest is Oct. 14, 5 to 9 p.m. in the Club Lounge. Sign in for troop feeding and enjoy German fare, beer specials and live entertainment! Participate in Cornhole and KanJam tournaments for a chance to win awesome prizes! Halloween Kiddie Disco, Fri., Oct. 27 in the Club Ballroom from 5 to 7 p.m. There will be a costume contest for the kids. Come out for a SPOOKTACULAR night of fun! The night will include a dinner buffet, bounce house, cookie decorating, kid friendly games and a DJ.

The Grind >> Fall Flavors return; Pumpkin Spice, Salted Caramel, and Cinnamon Macchiato.

Bowling Center >> Bowling Spooktacular; Sat. Oct. 28, 5 to 10 p.m. Sing your favorite songs during scary-oke. Wear a costume and receive discounted bowling. Food and drink specials will make your night ghoulish. Pumpkin Pin; Fri. and Sat. nights in Oct. Get a strike when the head pin is a pumpkin and win a free game.

The Fitness Center >> Racquetball Tournament registration Oct. 2 through 6, games will be held 9 through 23. Indoor Hockey Tournament; Registration Oct. 10 through 13 games will be played Oct. 16 through 20. Lunchtime Wallyball-registration Oct. 16 through 20 games will be played October 23 through 27, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Flag Football games are held every Tues. and Thurs. first game starts at 6 p.m., second game starts at 7:15 p.m. at the ball field by the Bowling Center.

Outdoor Recreation >> Rent all your fall clean up needs, 557-2192 or go to <http://westoverservices.com/OutdoorRec>

westoverservices.com



PATRIOT



Look for WNN50 on local community access channels



Published monthly for Patriots like Tech. Sgt. Lauren Greene, 439th Aerospace Medicine Squadron and more than 4,700 people assigned to Westover Air Reserve Base.

EXCEPTIONAL PROMOTIONS

Westover leadership recently announced that 12 Patriot Wing members earned Stripes for Exceptional Performers promotions. The Patriot Wing's tally was second-highest in the command nationwide. Selectees pinned on their new ranks Oct. 1.

Senior Master Sergeant

Andrew Biscoe

Master Sergeant

Brett Lord
Kevin Pechie Jr.
James Preston
Brooke Rose
Brandon Woodruff

Technical Sergeant

Michael Ahlberg
Margaret Ladue
Matthew Myers
Lui Puga
Brent Read
Edward Stuck

9/11 REMEMBRANCE >>

Westover Fire Chief Charles VanGorden remembers the lives lost on September 11, 2001, in a ceremony September 11, 2017, on the ellipse. 16 years ago today, four passenger airliners were hijacked by Al-Qaeda terrorists. Two of these aircraft, American Airlines Flight 11, and United Airlines Flight 175, were crashed into the North and South towers, respectively, of the World Trade Center complex in New York City. A third aircraft, American Airlines Flight 77, was crashed into the Pentagon in Arlington County, Virginia. And a fourth plane, United Airlines Flight 93, which was initially steered toward Washington D.C., but crashed into a field in Stonycreek Township, Pennsylvania after passengers tried to overcome the hijackers. (photo by Airman Hanna Smith)



RECRUITING RECRUITERS

The Air Force Reserve is now hiring recruiters that are currently traditional reservists with at least a five skill level in their current AFSC. This is a full time AGR position and is a very rewarding career field. If interested call 1-800-257-1212 or email jobs@afreserve.com