



# 2018 Great New England Air & Space Show Special



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

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Commander's words | **pg. 3**

Air and space show | **pgs. 4-18**

STEP II promotions | **pg. 19**

Around Westover | **pg. 20**

Breaking barriers | **pg. 22**

BX restructuring | **pg. 24**

**ON THE COVER >>** The Great New England Air and Space Show brought the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds back to the base -- the first time since 2008. Scroll for photos and articles throughout this special edition.

**I, STATE YOUR NAME >>** The USAF Thunderbird pilots reenlisted four Westover Reserve Citizen Airmen on July 14, 2018. For more air show coverage, scroll to page 4. (photo by Airman 1st Class Hanna Smith)





**W**estover Warriors!

That was a busy UTA! Up at 5:30 a.m. for a 6:30 a.m. show time at the wing building. Wing staff sign-in between 6:30 and 7 a.m. UTA 7:00 to 11 a.m. (lunch) noon-4 p.m. then sign-out. I got home at about 11 p.m. Saturday night after a good cookout between the first sergeants and the Key Spouses held at the pavilion behind the wing building. Now is the time to get our Key Spouse processes down and smoothed out. We roll into the deployment bucket (RCP) in 2020 and I want those communication avenues working well. The best thing we can do for our families is make sure that we have a good support network here on base. I know many of you live at or near home and you have families that are there to help but some may not. Just having that extra backup for the squadron commander -- by having another spouse call to just check up and see if the family has any issues -- might be that thing that saves the day. I've seen it happen before where a Key Spouse was the only conduit that caught a small issue before it became a big ordeal.

Sunday started much the same way at 5:30 a.m. for a 6:30 a.m. sign-in at the Wing. Made it home by 6:30 p.m. Sunday night after trekking over to the change of command at the 104<sup>th</sup> in Westfield. Our Guard

brothers on the other side of the mountain have a new commander. We wish a fond farewell to Col. "Sling" Sur as he rotates back to the Pentagon (he was/is an active duty guy)(the first to be a guard Sq/commander in this state!) and welcome Col. Pete Green as the new commander. F-15s are just cool and by association so is everyone that works with them, in my book! I can make a really cool paper airplane F-15, but that's as close to flying one that I've ever come.

Back to C-5 business, Howard (Col. Clark) put it best on our emphasis to improve what we can effect here on base. Baseball reference: He said we are "legging out singles wherever we can." As you all know the cell reception here on base is not very good. So we are writing a contract to get a carrier (or more) to put antennas here on base. Maybe the water tower is a good place to perch them? More to follow on that.

On the UTAs there is quite a traffic back-up at the front gate. So, in an effort to alleviate that, we will open all lanes at the Westover Road gate to incoming traffic only until about 8 a.m., when the gas station opens. Then it will revert back to normal ops. The James Street gate is also open so folks can use that and it will be the IN-OUT gate from 6 to 8 a.m., subject to slight modifications if we uncover any issues.

If you haven't noticed our two community garden plots are producing fresh vegetables like crazy! I'm very pleased with the participation in this "pilot" program and the results we have seen so far. There is a demand out there for more plots so I am working with CE to have them established. Maybe we can get a few in before the fall planting season so if folks want to plant turnips or collard greens they will have time to make before the first frost. 24 hour gym ops is on the way!

Last month I talked about evals and getting them in on time and signed by the rater. Still focusing on the basics here, but I want/need to remind everyone that UTAs are set in stone. They are two, four-hour periods separated by a one-hour lunch. No commander here has the ability to alter that, to include me. We can adjust the start times but the two four-hour (minimum) blocks and lunch are sacrosanct. Our ability to earn two training days' pay and points for one nine-hour period of time is a benefit I do not want to lose because it was perceived that we were not following the rules. (Air Force Instruction 36-2254V1, #4.9)

I'll throw another plug out there for my action email - 439AWAction@us.af.mil - -- Bull.

**by Col. D. Scott "Bull" Durham**  
**439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing commander**

## BRIEFS

### App is online

The new westover app went live in July. You can add base events to your phone calendar with a single tap. You can look up numbers from the directory and call it with a push of a button. The app also includes the UTA schedule, a fitness calculator, and much more. Search 439AW to download it free from the app store or Google play.

### Air and space show memories

Those who were unable to attend the air and space show can view the work compiled from the Public Affairs office. PA Airmen captured more than 7,000 photos over that July weekend. To view the photos and videos, visit Facebook.com/westover.patriot and click on the photos tab. Videos are also available on YouTube.

### Mobility exercise to take place in September

The 439<sup>th</sup> Logistics Readiness Squadron is leading a mobility exercise Sept. 16 to 20 in Dogpatch and at a former Northern N.Y. base. The exercise, scheduled to include more than 200 Airmen, is geared to assist logistics and medical squadrons in using mobile hospitals and in performing aeromedical evacuations more efficiently. Moving passengers and cargo from one base to the other. Participants with questions should contact their supervisors, unit deployment monitors, or first sergeants.

### Fitness center pumps up to 24 hours

The fitness center began 24-hour operations Sept. 10. For more information, call 557-3958. or visit westover services.com

### Chiefs' Council scholarships

The Council is accepting applications for a \$500 college scholarship award paid to a wing enlisted member E-1 to E-8, and a \$500 scholarship award paid to an E-1 to E-8 family member, for the 2018 fall semester. Submission deadline is Nov. 3. The winner will be notified by the December UTA. For more info, call Chief Master Sgt. Justin Thurber at 557-2378.

# 2018 Great New England **Air and Space Show**

## *Wing chalks another safe, successful air show*

by Senior Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

From the drone of propeller-driven World War II aircraft to the roar of the Thunderbirds' arrival for the 2018 Great New England Air and Space Show, Patriot Wing team spirit got its mettle tested as the base hosted thousands of visitors during the weekend of July 14-15.

The Thunderbirds' return to Westover marked the first time in 10 years that the Air Force's elite demonstration team soared above Westover. Several other major events included an air show kickoff breakfast, a former astronaut as a guest speaker, and a naming ceremony for the 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing's first assigned C-5M Super Galaxy.

Anticipation with the show began to mount right after the breakfast and naming ceremony. Static aircraft began arriving on the flightline. Two F-35s from Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, and several F-16s flew some approaches, and larger aircraft like the B-52 and a KC-10 loomed – bookended by Patriot Wing C-5s on either end of the ramp.

July's air show dates brought typically warm summer weather, with Sunday's temperatures climbing into the upper 80s, with moderate humidity. By the end of the weekend, officials estimated 70,000 people had visited.

"This one had way more variables than one can imagine," said Col. D. Scott Durham, 439<sup>th</sup> AW commander during a July 23 hotwash in the Westover Conference Center. "It was a lot to ask of you."

While the most visible hallmark of an air show is what thunders above the crowd, the behind-the-scenes effort between scores of people and base organizations was months in the making.

Organizers made good on plans to honor Westover's history too. The Galaxy Community Council assisted the Patriot Wing with ensuring publicity of a B-17 Flying Fortress that took off from the base the morning of July 14 and overflew nearby Mt. Tom. The aircraft's flight, covered by local media, honored the 72<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of a B-17 that crashed into the mountain in July 1946, killing all those aboard.

The staff at the Westover Club held festive gatherings throughout the weekend for performers and reservists, and with live bands each night.

Besides reservists and civilians within the Patriot Wing and Galaxy Council members, other organizations that assisted with the air show included the Civil Air Patrol, Massachusetts State Police, and a new parking contractor company that brought a new plan to the table and managed traffic flow through as many as five gates to the base.

The wing commander and senior air show leadership reviewed some procedures during the hotwash as a way to improve shows in the future. The next Westover air show is slated for 2023. It's scheduled to follow the 2021 event planned at Barnes Air National Guard Base in Westfield.

In the mean time, with this air show in the rear view mirror, Durham thanked all those seated in the conference center.

"Everybody did a great job," Durham said, as he wrapped up the hotwash. "Give yourselves a hand."

### **Great New England Air and Space Show by the numbers**

- More than **600** tickets sold for kickoff breakfast.
- Static aircraft: **35** (27 different models)
- Estimated crowd from weekend: **70,000**
- Military performers: **200** (excluding Thunderbirds)
- Westover Club flightline sales: **\$54,000**
- Club staff served **3,900** meals at troop feedings. Three live bands also entertained.
- Overall MWR revenue: **\$94,714**
- Golf cart rentals: **120**
- Buses: **19** (six Westover and 13 borrowed from other units)
- Rental cars: **65**
- Galaxy Community Council rented **42** golf carts
- Tents - GCC rented **18** tents of varying sizes
- Manning (Saturday) **320**, parking; **90**, standby manpower; **50** bus escorts
- (Sunday): **320** for parking; **90**, standby manpower; **50** bus escorts
- Portapotties: **270** units plus 1 executive trailer.



# Meet your Patriot Wing PA staff

by W.C. Pope

The next few pages tell our story -- as we told the air and space show story through our lenses and words.

The public affairs job is to tell Westover's story to our internal and external audiences -- be it good or bad news. Good news is what we always hope for -- like during the airshow. We escorted more than 50 journalists and photographers on Friday to and from the front gate to the DC Hangar, where the kickoff breakfast was held. We did this while setting up interviews with Westover leaders like Col. D. Scott Durham. We also worked with Thunderbird pilots and support staff, Golden Knights jumpers, and several others. Our staff also were interviewed for broadcast or print. You may have gotten a chance to see them in action.

We were also collecting content for the *Patriot* and Channel 50, the base cable television channel. We were putting photos, words and video up on our Facebook and website pages and handling phone calls with questions on the air show and a noise complaint here and there.

PA doesn't often seem to mean what it abbreviates -- it sometimes stands for "practically anything." During the air show we were spread throughout the flightline. Most of the time we tell your story while we remain in the background. You might see our names on the pages of the *Patriot*, or at an event with a camera. Our job is to put Airman in the story -- for the sake of the mission and esprit de corps.

It's our pleasure take the opportunity to highlight our Airmen in our photos on the following pages!



**Senior Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe, acting chief and superintendent >>** He's served for 22 years, which includes a six-month deployment to Southwest Asia in 2016, and four years on active duty with Strategic Air Command public affairs, at the former Wurtsmith AFB, Michigan. Following a nine-year break in service, he joined the reserve in September 2001. He earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 1987.





**Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Randy Burlingame, photojournalist >>** Burlingame comes to us from our neighbors at the 104<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing at Barnes ANGB. He was at the PA tech school with a few of our newbies and they gave good recommendations so we had him join us for the air show. He lived up to expectations and more! He even did a couple of on-camera video safety briefings.







**Master Sgt. Stephen Caruso, NCOIC >>** Caruso recently came over to the PA office from wing intelligence. He's served 12 years in the Air Force Reserve and graduated from the PA tech school in December 2017.







**Senior Airman Max Goldberg, photojournalist >>** Goldberg comes to us right from tech school not too long ago. At the age of 24 he's jumped right in and seems like a much more experienced photojournalist. Although the future Air Force will combine photography and broadcasting, Goldberg -- with no broadcast experience -- has done an excellent job as anchor of the Channel 50 monthly news briefs!







**Staff Sgt. Monica Ricci, photojournalist >>**  
 Ricci grew up in Connecticut and found her way to Westover after going to Texas for college and to be near the Dallas Cowboys. In civilian life she works for 22 News in Chicopee as a social media producer and she loves her dogs.







**Senior Airman Hanna Smith, photojournalist >>** Although she is the youngest of our staff at 20, she's a spitfire and jumps into anything that is thrown at her. Within weeks of graduating from the PA tech school in the summer of 2017, she volunteered to cover a Team Yankee exercise with the 439<sup>th</sup> Contingency Response Flight. Not easy because she had to be in many different places at once, while getting photos, conducting interviews, and shooting video for Westover News Network (base cable channel 50).







**Senior Airman Sadie Hewes, photojournalist >>** Hewes is a PA guardsman from the 103<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing, Bradley Air National Guard Base, Conn. Last year the guard arranged for her to pull her seasoning tour here. Her work ethic resulted in PA inviting her back for the air show. Hewes singlehandedly took enough photos and wrote enough copy to fill an entire issue of the Patriot! She was a champ during the air show when she took on a much bigger role in escorting media than anticipated. She came through with flying colors and continued on cranking out photos, words and answered airshow phone questions for the rest of the weekend.





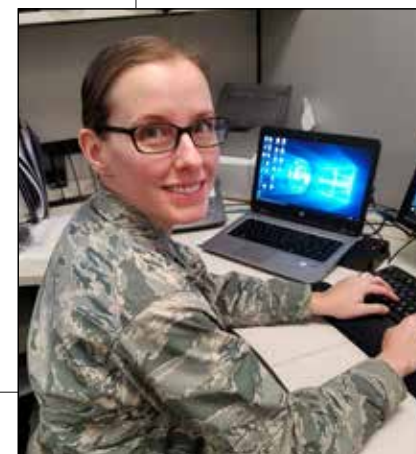
**Retired Lt. Col. James Bishop >>** For Bishop, this is his third time at Westover. The first was in the 1990s when he joined us as a captain. He left the 439th to be the public affairs director down at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland. He then taught English at the Air Force Academy for seven years before returning to the 439th in 2010 as the chief of PA. He led a winning team that earned an unprecedented 11 PA awards in 2015. He had to retire in 2017 but returned in June 2018 to work part-time and help cover the vacant PAO position. His expertise was timely and invaluable with PA's media operations during the air and space show.

**Tech. Sgt. Kyle King, broadcaster >>** King directs most of the video products for the commander's access channel 50. He is a newcomer to the career field and just returned from tech school in July. King replaced Tech. Sgt. Stephen Winn, who is a now a first sergeant. In his civilian job, King works on the production side of video, which is an asset.



**Retired Master Sgt. W.C. Pope, visual producer >>** Since 1982, Pope has been associated with the Air Force on active duty, the reserve and now as a civilian employee. He has been an aircraft electrician, carpenter, CE production controller, and photo-journalist. He is best known for his "Pope's Puns" cartoons that have been published for 26 years in Citizen Airman and the Patriot. He joined the staff in 1995 and since that time has won over 30 awards for his art and photos.

**Capt. Meghan Smith, officer in charge >>** Among the most dedicated members of our staff, Smith is a traditional reservist but puts in enough time to be a full-timer. She came to us from the Army where she was an attache officer during a deployment to Iraq. Smith put the Westover App into high gear and ran with it doing all the background work putting it all together. She also shows her dedication by travelling from Vermont where she, her husband and their four children reside, when he isn't deployed with the U.S. Army as a civilian contractor.



**Tech. Sgt. Malcolm Tevanian, photojournalist >>** Our "Downeaster" Airman hails from southern central Maine, and came to the 439th AW from the Maine Air National Guard in late 2016. Tevanian is a previous safety NCO with the Maine Air National Guard and before that, served in the U.S. Navy. And he's a newlywed!



# Spirit of Chicopee



**CHICOPEE SPIRIT** >> Brig. Gen. Jay Jensen hands Senior Airman Austin Berneche, 439<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, the "key" to the "Spirit of Chicopee," during the Great New England Air and Space Show kickoff breakfast. Jensen commanded the 439<sup>th</sup> AW from March 2016-June 2017. Berneche grew up and went to school in Chicopee. (photos by W.C.Pope)



**M CREW** >> The Patriot Wing aircrew that flew the first M-model to the base in June 2017 takes a break for a photo. From the top: Col. Les "Anchor" Bradfield, Lt. Col. Scott Kuhr, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Terrence McKenna, Senior Master Sgt. Steven Bryant, Master Sgts. John Lyons, Eric Ciborowski, and Carlton House, and Senior Airman Ashley Kostka. This crew is also featured on the front cover of the Westover 2018 base guide. You can pick up a copy of the new base guide at the Public Affairs Office, the Express shoppette, and the Flyers Inn. The last and eighth 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing C-5M is scheduled to arrive Sept. 20 and will park in front of the Base Hangar as part of the arrival ceremony for media and dignitaries.



# CHIEFS VISIT OLD STOMPING GROUND



**LINK TO THE PAST >>** Retired Chief Master Sgt. Hank Lapa spans the generations, as a maintainer he worked on the C-119, C-124, C-130, and C-5. He served at Westover from 1960 to 1980. (photos by W.C. Pope)



**HERITAGE RESERVISTS >>** These retired Air Force Reserve senior noncommissioned officers attended the 2018 Great New England Air and Space Show breakfast. They are, from left, Master Sgts. Fred Lavertue and Stanley Svec, Chief Master Sgt. Fred Allard, Chief Master Sgt. Hank Lapa (seated), Senior Master Sgt. Dick Rehnberg, Chief Master Sgt. Mike Lapa (in back), and Chief Master Sgt. Roland Allen. Also pictured is Chief Master Sgt. Patrick Burke, 439<sup>th</sup> AW interim command chief.



## Crew chief/pilot on same A-10

by Senior Airman Max Goldberg

Maj. Tom Silkowski, an Air National Guard A-10 Thunderbolt II pilot with the 190<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron, has a unique connection to his aircraft. Silkowski's story with the A-10 began when he enlisted and served with the 103<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Wing at Bradley Air National Guard Base, Connecticut. After working on the A-10 as a crew chief from 2002 to 2008, Silkowski



graduated from the University of Connecticut and earned a commission. Silkowski said he knew he wanted to be a pilot and he only ever wanted to fly the A-10.

"The Bradley Hogs flew over my house as a kid," said Silkowski, a Connecticut native. "I loved the look of the jet. She was green, tough-looking, and did the down-and-dirty hard work without getting the glory... America's blue collar fighter! I literally cannot remember a time when I wasn't in love with the A-10."

Silkowski, call sign "Worm," now flies aircraft number 084, the very aircraft he worked on as a crew chief. Silkowski and his A-10 were one of the many storied features of this year's Great New England Air and Space Show.



### T-BIRD FLIES HOME >>

Thunderbirds public affairs officer finds himself mere miles from home town.

He took to the airwaves and spoke with local press, part of his job with the elite Thunderbirds demonstration team, and a pleasure for Maj. Raymond Geoffroy.

Geoffroy,

originally from Amherst, Mass., arrived at Westover July 12 aboard a C-17 Globemaster III with most of the team's maintenance crews. During his visit here, Geoffroy assisted Westover's public affairs staff with interviews with some of the team's pilots, shortly after their arrival show. He also assumed the duties as team narrator for the July 13 practice show and the weekend's aerial demonstrations.

(photos by Senior Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe)





## around the air show



### AIR SHOW FINAL FRONTIER

>> Former astronaut and retired Col. Cady Coleman was the keynote speaker at the July 13 kick-off breakfast. The retired former Air Force officer logged 159 days in space with two space shuttle missions to the International Space Station. Coleman gave an inspirational speech and said she was proud to be from the local area. Coleman lives in Shelburne Falls, Mass. (photos by W.C. Pope)





# ARMY GOLDEN KNIGHTS RETURN HOME TO PERFORM AT WESTOVER

by Airman 1st Class Randy Burlingame

## 104<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The sounds of clapping and cheering filled the air as the United States Army Golden Knights parachute team performed at the 2018 Great New England Air and Space Show on July 14.

A smiling young boy sitting on a middle-aged man's shoulders pointed at the precision parachutists as they were overhead.

According to Army Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Keith Pierce, Army Golden Knights demonstration parachutist, part of their Knights mission is to act as Army Ambassadors, and being able to do that in his home state of Massachusetts brought the experience to another level.

"Our job and mission statement is to connect the American public with America's Army," said Pierce. "Really, to be able to do that with our own family just amplifies the mission we already have."

In addition to the bond with the crowd, Pierce said there is a strong bond of trust between the members of the demonstration team as well.

"Part of the selection process, that's one of the things we look for," said Pierce. "How well of a teammate are these people and how well can we trust the guys. In free fall parachuting, basically there's three things; You have to trust yourself, trust your equipment, and you have to trust the people around you. If you have those three things then you're really putting yourself in a good position for success."

Army Sgt. Luke Olk, Army Golden Knights demonstration parachutist, also spoke about the importance of their equipment when it comes to executing a performance.

He explained the use of different altimeters, which allow the jumpers to look at their surroundings and still be altitude aware.

"We wear two altimeters," said Olk, originally from Vernon, Conn. "We have the visual, which we wear on our wrists, and on the helmets is the audible altimeter. You set it to go off at certain altitudes so you don't have to look at your wrist. You can look around and see where everyone is, because things go quick at 120 mph."

Jane Pierce, Pierce's mother, said she was thrilled to see her son perform and that she feels like the team is more than capable of performing safely no matter



the circumstances.

"I just love it," said Jane. "The whole group is just amazing. It's all about the training and they're just ready for their tasks. I'm just very, very proud."

The Golden Knights put some of that training to the test when they were forced to make adjustments during their first full performance of the air show.

"We had to adjust a little bit for the clouds," said Pierce. "We were able to adjust. If there's anything better than executing the plan perfectly, it's executing a change perfectly. It feels even better."

For Pierce, being able to connect with his team and the local community is what really mattered during his time back home.

"What I'd really like to say is thank you to all the people from the area," said Pierce. "It feels really good being from here and seeing my hometown area come out for something like this to support the military and see what we're all about."

## Port Dawg knighted at air show

by Staff Sgt. Monica Ricci

An Airman with the 58<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron received sky-high recognition over the air show weekend in July.

Staff Sgt. Randy Smith was presented with a wooden baton from members of the U.S. Army Golden Knights parachute team moments after it had been exchanged during free fall. It's a tradition dating back to the late 1950s that the Golden Knights continue to carry on today to honor superior performers.

"I'd like to thank my chiefs and commander for the nomination, and Master Sgt. (John) Cody and the Golden Knights for allowing me the amazing opportunity to go for a ride along with them to watch them jump," Smith said. "They are an incredibly friendly and talented group."

Smith was nominated to receive such recognition after multiple heroic efforts, including performing life-saving CPR on a fellow Airman while TDY.

"I know he would have done the same for me or any other Airman," Smith said. "It made me happy to know that he was able to be with his family again."

Smith also participated in both Hurricane Irma and Maria relief missions, deploying within hours notice on September 11 to Homestead ARB in South Florida. His work there contributed to the movement of supplies and troops to some of the hardest-hit areas.



# Navy pilot inspired by 104<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, comes back to Westover Air show

by Airman 1st Class Randy Burlingame  
104<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing Public Affairs

"Playing high school lacrosse next to an Air Force base, every day we had the A-10s, and then later F-15s, going over," said Navy Lt. Frank "Sweet Francis" Ascioti, Electronic Attack Squadron 130 naval flight officer. "Every single game, no matter what was going on, I couldn't help but to catch a glimpse of them. No matter what, every time I see a jet I have to stop and take a look."

Years later, Ascioti flew his VAQ-130 to the Westover air show.

"I've been coming to these air shows almost every year," the pilot remembered. "Every time they had one, either at Westover or at Barnes, I was there."

Located close to the 104<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing in Westfield, Massachusetts, Westfield High School has had Air National Guard aircraft flying over its athletic fields for over 70 years.

The roaring engines might be something some of the athletes have gotten used to, but one former lacrosse captain remembers being captivated by the sight of the jets during games.

Everyday exposure to the sights and sounds of the aircraft, along with a father that was a tier one Top Gun fan, instilled an interest in aviation that lacrosse captain would never lose.

Ascioti said he initially was interested in becoming a pilot for the Air Force but realized he wanted to join the Navy while away on a Boy Scout trip.

"I was on a Boy Scout trip down in Key West and we were on a sailboat," said Ascioti. "I remember waking up from a nap, looking out over the water, and seeing nothing. That was my 'I like the Navy' moment. At that time I saw two F-18s going over us. The fact that it was open water with two F-18s coming over it was

like, 'that's it, that's what I'm doing.' I put my nose to the grindstone and made it happen."

Ascioti decided to take the Reserve Officers Training Corps route towards flying, and entered a program at Worcester Polytechnic Institute and was selected to be a naval flight officer upon graduating.

The next step for the recent college graduate was an 18-month flight school, which led to him being selected to fly the EA-18G Growler and attend a basic warfighting course that took another 20 months to complete.

"The Growler is what I wanted," said Ascioti. "I used to do projects on it in college. It's got some cool capabilities. I got the luck of the draw. Now I get to fly them."

The naval flight officer's next objective was to bring a Growler to an air show.

Ascioti achieved this goal by flying home to Western Massachusetts to display a Growler at the 2018 Great New England Air and Space Show in July.

Navy Lt. Troy "Chump" Horrigan, VAQ-130 pilot and a native of Con-

necticut, flew in with Ascioti and echoed his sentiment on how good it was to return home.

"This is a dream come true, especially having my parents here, and my uncle," said Horrigan. "He actually brought me to this air show when I was in seventh grade. We flew a biplane in together. That's when I first saw all of this."

Ascioti and Horrigan said they had a great experience at the air show and are excited to see what happens next in their careers.

"For me, I'm getting all of my qualifications so I can deploy as a very qualified crewmember," said Ascioti. "I have a lot of long-term goals but the biggest shark to the boat is making sure we have a good deployment. This is honestly the best thing that's ever happened to me."







**SPOUSE FOCUS GROUP >>** A first-ever Spouse Focus Group meeting was held in June at the Westover Club. (photos by Senior Airman Max Goldberg)



## Eleven earn STEP promotions

The following Patriot Wing Airman will pin on their new ranks Oct. 1, following the recent STEP II promotion board results:

Michael Russo, 439<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Group, senior master sergeant

Master sergeant:

Daniel Lucia, 439<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Carl Reed, 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Safety Office

Franklin Rose, 439<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron

Technical sergeant:

Ryan Bator, 439<sup>th</sup> Logistics Readiness Squadron

Kyle Chase, AMXS

Nathan Ladlee, AMXS

Bryan Maclure, AMXS

Thomas Mancarella, AMXS

David Murphy, 439<sup>th</sup> MXS

Grayson Winn, AMXS



**SPOUSE/FIRST SHIRT PICNIC >>** During the August UTA the Key Spouses and first sergeants from each squadron got together for a meet and greet held Aug. 4 under the pavilion behind wing headquarters. Col. D. Scott Durham, 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing commander, left, hosted the event and provided the barbecue. (photos by Tech. Sgt. Kyle King)



## James Street Gate to become 24-hour entry point

The James Street Gate will soon be the 24-hour entry location for the base. Plans call for the gate change to take place by early fall. More information will be provided as soon as it becomes available.

## BRIEFS

### Wing plans Octoberfest

The Patriot Wing is planning its second annual Octoberfest to take place at the Westover Club Oct. 13. The event will include German food, games, refreshments, and much more.

### Employer/Educator Day

The 439<sup>th</sup> AW Public Affairs Office is teaming with senior leadership, the Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve, and wing recruiters to plan an Employer/Educator Day for Nov. 2 (the Friday before the UTA). More information will be provided as soon as it becomes available.

### SMSgt may be called "senior"

There has been a recent change with how Airmen address senior master sergeants. Official terms of address now include "Senior," in addition to "Senior Master Sergeant" or "Sergeant." For more information on addressing all ranks, review the Air Force Handbook 36-2618, Enlisted Force Structure.



**WELCOME ABOARD >>** Senior leadership announced the selection of the 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing's new command chief master sergeant in mid-August. She is Chief Master Sgt. Chin Cox, who replaces Chief Master Sgt. Shana Cullum, who left Westover in June to be command chief with the 433<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. The new command chief is scheduled to be in place at Westover by October.

### PLANET OF THE APP >>

Westover's new APP can be downloaded from the Apple APP Store or Google Play.

## Around Westover



**BEST WISHES >>** Command Chief Master Sgt. Shana Cullum addresses Airmen in May at the Westover Club. She headed to Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas in June, to become command chief of the reserve's 433<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing. (photo by Senior Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe)

**Type: 439 AW**

Find numbers quickly, dial directly from App.

Add Westover events to your phone calendar with one click.

Read latest Westover news.

Message the Commander's Action line directly from App.

**Public Affairs 557-2020**

Stay connected on social media.

Receive base wide announcements.

Receive emergency alerts.

Access CAC websites from your phone (w/ external CAC reader).

Is there content or a function you don't see that you would like? Please let us know!



# Operation Swift Response



**EUROPE OPS >>** On June 3, Westover's 42<sup>nd</sup> Aerial Port Squadron, 439<sup>th</sup> Contingency Response Flight and many other Airmen participated in Operation Swift Response, a joint U.S. Army/U.S. Air Force exercise designed to train the U.S. Global Response Force. The exercise featured high-readiness airborne forces from nine nations to include Israel, and NATO allies; Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States. (photos by Staff Sgt. Monica Ricci)







# Breaking barriers: AF Reserve's first four-star

Lt. Gen. Maryanne Miller will become the first Citizen Airman in the history of the Air Force Reserve to pin on a 4<sup>th</sup> star. In 2016, she became the first female in the history of the Air Force Reserve to be chief of the Air Force Reserve and commander of the Air Force Reserve Command.

She joined the Air Force in 1981, a distinguished graduate of the ROTC program at Ohio State University. She is a command pilot with more than 4,800 flying hours in numerous aircraft. Prior to her current assignment, she was the deputy to the chief of the Air Force Reserve in Washington D.C., commanded two wings and held numerous staff positions at the unit, Air Staff and Joint Staff levels.

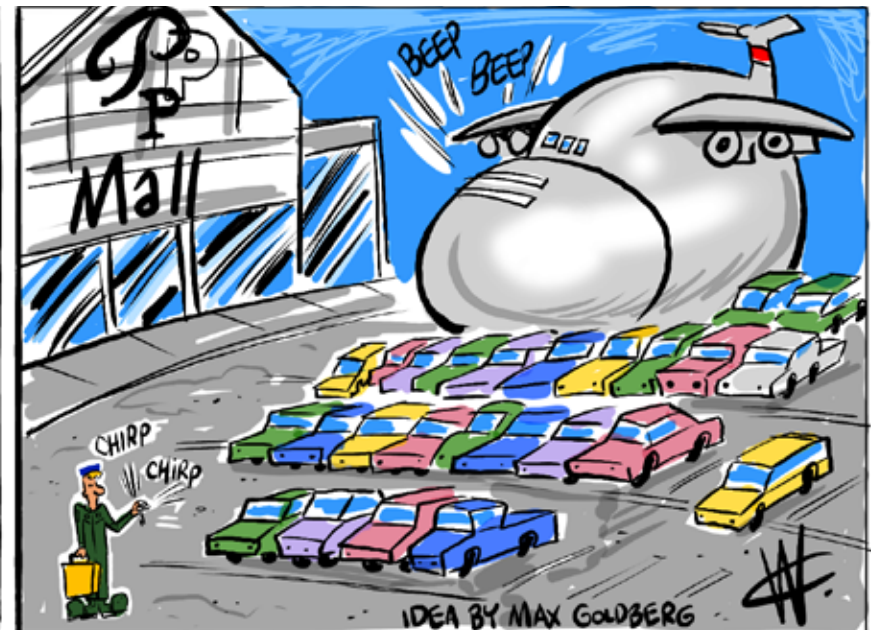
Miller will become the first Reserve Citizen Airman to lead Air Mobility Command, a Total Force mission supported by the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve.



**MILLER TESTIFIES ON AFR BUDGET >>** Lt. Gen. Maryanne Miller, chief of Air Force Reserve, and commander, Air Force Reserve Command, testifies with fellow Guard and Reserve component chiefs during the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations hearing at the Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington D.C., April 17, 2018. The chiefs met with the committee to discuss fiscal year 2019 budgeting for the Guard and Reserve. (photo by Tech. Sgt. Kat Justen)

## POPE'S PUNS

by W.C. Pope



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



## PROMOTIONS

### Chief Master Sgt.

Kara Stackpole



### Senior Master Sgt.

Kevin Bowen  
Paul Brandt  
Ronald Sarnelli



### Master Sergeant

Joseph Ackley  
Abdul Rahman Addy  
William Buckhout  
John Kuczynski  
Scott Maher  
Nichole Murphy  
Gary Rich  
Angel Romero



### Technical Sergeant

Chayanne Acevedo  
David Babcock  
Stephen Bartlett  
Sarah Buelow  
Jennifer Casey  
Dillon Childs  
Dylan Collins  
Stephan Dacosta  
Jason Dunn  
Keith Germain  
Grayson Grantham  
Colleen Hutcheson  
Brian Jenkins  
Stephanie McKenna  
Eric Mailloux  
Darwin Najera  
Craig Nealon  
Leslie Palmer  
Christopher Poppalardo  
Adam Roach  
Christopher Titus  
Stephen Williams  
Oscar Weke  
Jonathan Zelisko



### Staff Sergeant

Alysia Bator  
Angela Bergeron  
Matthew Bergeron  
Sheree Biggs  
Christopher Bubniak  
Matthew Brotherton  
Nirva Driscoll  
Sean Gmachowski  
Thomas Griffin



Bradley Harder  
Craig Henderson  
Mark Jones  
Alyssa Lynch  
Corey Malaquias  
Andrew Norris  
Juan Picazo  
Benjamin Poirier  
Frank Schaustal  
David Stephens  
Ralph Toribio  
Francis Westleigh

### Senior Airman

Josephine Agyen  
Jazmyn Anderson  
Derrick Cabral  
Faustino Colon  
Raymond Cheung  
Melissa Cyr  
Kiana Eaton  
Michael Fortis  
Rebekah Howard  
Michael Higgins  
Sean McCusker  
Joselyn Monzon  
Caleb Perez  
Jacob Ribeiro  
Hunter Russell  
Christian Sears  
Hanna Smith  
Daniel Sullivan  
Zachariah Sylvester



### Airman 1st Class

Aboudou Dao  
Nathan Marquez  
Jeffrey Hayward  
Vicky Nunez  
Jeremia Ortega Espinal  
Shanthi Polanco  
Martinez  
Arun Rambhadrjan  
Adrian Ramirez Orozco  
Raekwon Thornton



### Airman

Andre Paganrios  
Alexander Provoda  
Bianca Vazquez  
Joshua Winters

Although his retirement is right around the corner, Senior Master Sgt. Robert Rodrigue, section supervisor with the 439<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Group, says he's not crossing the days off his calendar. Through his 36 years of service, Rodrigue has served in the active duty, guard and reserve components of the Air Force. Originally from South Hadley, Massachusetts, Rodrigue said he was inspired to join the Air Force at the age of 13 after seeing the Thunderbirds fly over while on his paper route. His Air Force career has taken him around the country, from Alaska to Arizona, then Connecticut and finally back home to Massachusetts.

Rodrigue has served at Westover since 1988.

Rodrigue described himself as a problem-solver, recounting a point of pride in his maintenance career.

"I used to work on jet engines," said Rodrigue. "There was always a strap wrench that we used on the oil filter and it always slipped and busted your knuckles. I came up with a tool to fit over the filter and they did make that tool, it was in the technical order and everything."

Rodrigue said when he retires, he is looking forward to traveling the country with his wife on his new motorcycle, playing sports and spending time with his children.



**Senior Master Sgt.  
Robert Rodrigue**  
439<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Group

## SERVICES CALENDAR

westoverservices.com

**CLUB >>** Not including UTAs, the Westover Club is open Saturdays and Sundays from 3 p.m. to 12 a.m., closed Monday, and Tuesday. On Fridays: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 12 a.m. Become a Club member, by signing up at <https://www.memberplanet.com/account/usaf>. The club card is good at most military installations. Club members can pick up their punch cards at the Grind, fill your cards and get a free coffee. Complimentary Social Hour Snacks are offered in the Lounge Tuesday through Friday from 4 to 6 p.m.

**GRIND >>** If you weren't already aware, the Grind is in the fitness center. Call your order in at 413-557-3418.

**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 >>** 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 Staff Sgt. Nicholas Beausoleil, 337<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron and more than 4,700 people assigned to Westover Air Reserve Base.

## Base Exchange to shift operations to Shoppette

by Staff Sgt. Monica Ricci

The Base Exchange at Westover Air Reserve is restructuring this fall by refocusing its merchandising efforts to the Express store located by the main gate.

The change goes into effect Sept. 22, and is a result of a drop in sales at the main store.

"The Exchange's dual mission to support the communities we are honored to serve while generating needed financial support for critical Air Force Quality-of-Life programs required a reevaluation of operations to ensure we have the right offerings at Westover to fully support the broader Air Force mission," Exchange General Manager Phil Capshaw said. "As a part of that review, a determination was made that closure of the main store was necessary."

The current Base Exchange building will continue to house military clothing, alterations, a barber shop, and dry cleaners.

Military shoppers can still find more than 2 million items online at ShopMyExchange.com, which offers free shipping on orders placed using a MILITARY STAR card and on orders worth more than \$49. Shoppers can also have any item at the Hanscom AFB Exchange transported to Westover ARB free.

## Nine majors promote to lieutenant colonel

The following Patriot Wing officers recently promoted to lieutenant colonel:

Ronald Ball  
Matthew Dunphy  
Thomas Gallagher  
Venice Goodwine  
Emily Koziol  
David Quinn  
Jessica Rose  
Stephen Sherman  
Marcelina Werner



**AIRMEN ON TAKEOFF** >> Airmen take their PT tests on the base ellipse in May. Reservists who are projected for PT tests can visit Westover's new app to set up their goals with attaining scores in their respective age categories. Visit the App store and type in "439<sup>th</sup> AW." (photo by Senior Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe)

## A&FR/KEY SPOUSE CALENDAR

**FACEBOOK PAGE** >> If you are a spouse or significant other of someone stationed at Westover ARB you can join our informational facebook page. Search for Facebook.com/Westover ARB Spouses.

**A&FR HOURS** >> The Airman and Family Readiness Center serves the base populace -- to include Airmen, their families, and members of all four armed services. The center is located at 100 Walker Avenue, near the base ellipse. Center and Computer Lab Customer Hours: Monday-Tuesday and Thursday-Friday: 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; closed Monday-Tuesday and Thursday-Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; open Wednesdays from 1 to 3:30 p.m. For more information, call (413)557-3024, or email 439.Westover.AFRC@us.af.mil

Visit the center on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/WestoverAFRC](http://www.facebook.com/WestoverAFRC).