

THE **End of a Patriot Era**

The stories of Westover for 44 years



Beginning a new Patriot Era

Final upgraded C-5M lands at Westover, makes USAF history

PATRIOT

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Provide global reach capabilities with mission-ready Citizen Airmen

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ON THE COVER >> The *Patriot* enters the history books with this final commemorative edition, which includes historic firsts and lasts of Westover's 44 years as a major Air Force Reserve Command installation.



AIR SUPPORT >> F-15E Strike Eagles from Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, stopped at Westover for a refueling layover in early October. (above photo by W.C. Pope; photo to right by Senior Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe)



As we surge further into this 21st century with all its high technology surrounding our society, it's time for the *Patriot* to take its last exit off the information superhighway. After 44 years, the award-winning newsletter's end is marked with this commemorative edition.

Those years include a remarkable chain of events highlighting Westover's reserve era (at 44 years and counting, the longest of any Air Force command's tenure here).

Here's a look back at some of those events:

-- The *Patriot* got its start shortly after Westover became the nation's first stand-alone Air Force Reserve base in the spring of 1974, when ownership changed to the reserve from the Strategic Air Command. The first *Patriot* newsletter, printed in November, is featured on page 4. It took the place of SAC's weekly *Yankee Flyer* newspaper. Betty O'Connell became one of the first full-time civilian public affairs officers at Westover. A staff of traditional reservists, including Tech. Sgt. Larry Lentz, handled office operations on the unit training assembly weekends. Lentz was the *Patriot's* first editor.

-- In the summer of 1981, a massive Air Force Reserve mobility exercise, dubbed Condor Redoubt, was held at the base. Additional photographers and staff writers augmented the *Patriot* staff to cover the exercise.

-- The first C-5A Galaxy to be assigned to Westover

arrived in October 1987, signaling the first major change to Westover's landscape since SAC departed in 1974. Old SAC hangars were demolished on the ramp to make room for the giant aircraft. A huge new hangar rose next to the DC Hangar. Public affairs was on hand to capture the arrival of what was then the world's largest aircraft. By 1988, the 439th Military Airlift Wing was flying 16 C-5s.

--The *Patriot* evolved into a bi-weekly *Patriot Express* newsletter from February to July 2003, during an Air Force-wide C-5 surge. The Air Force designated Westover as the C-5 maintenance hub for all missions going to and from Europe in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. More than 2,000 C-5 flights took place at Westover throughout those five months.

--Between 2016 and 2018, the PA staff highlighted the C-5 conversion. Budget cuts in 2014 reduced the fleet from 16 to eight aircraft, and maintenance and operations Airmen handled aircraft swapouts to keep the mission airborne, flying legacy A-model loaners while awaiting the eighth C-5M Super Galaxy. The final M-model to be converted from a C-5B arrived at Westover Sept. 20, 2018, with Maj. Gen. Randall Ogden, 4th Air Force commander, at the controls with the crew.

--Throughout its decades of publication, more than 480 editions of the *Patriot* arrived in mailboxes and offices across the base. The newsletter garnered respect throughout the Air Force for its distinct writing, layout

and photography.

The public affairs staff has compiled decades of these newsletters into an electronic archive available through the base web site. Please visit www.westover.afrc.af.mil/News/The-Patriot/

EDITOR'S NOTE:
Biscoe began his tenure at the base as the wing historian in September 2001. He joined the PA office in December 2001 as an air reserve technician, and since that time assumed several roles to include staff writer, photographer, editor of the Patriot, noncommissioned officer in charge, superintendent, and acting chief. Biscoe is headed to his new assignment in January as MAJCOM functional manager, Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command Public Affairs, Robins Air Force Base, Georgia.



**by Senior Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe
439th Airlift Wing Public Affairs**

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.

Latest OCP guidance OKs current subdued patches

Airmen wearing OCP uniforms are authorized to add their former BDU subdued patches until the mandatory brown subdued ones go into effect.

Highlights from Air Force Instruction 36-2903, which will be mandatory wear April 1, 2021:

-- The U.S. flag patch is mandatory and will be subdued using the Spice Brown color criteria (cloth) centered at the top of velcro and worn while in--garrison and deployed. NOTE: Current subdued black and green (cloth) U.S. flags may be worn until June 1, 2020, then spice brown will be the only accepted version. Infra-red U.S. flags are not authorized.

-- The HHQ patch is mandatory and will be subdued using the Spice Brown color criteria (cloth) centered under the U.S. flag patch. NOTE: Current subdued version of HHQ patch may be worn until the patch color conversion has been completed or until April 1, 2021, whichever is sooner.

-- Right Sleeve. A maximum of two patches may be worn.

Wing announces quarterly awards

On behalf of the Westover Warrior Team, the Patriot Wing congratulates its quarterly winners for the fourth quarter:

Airman: Senior Airman Jean-Pierre Canel, 439th Contingency Response Flight

NCO: Tech. Sgt. Daniel O'Donnell, 439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

SNCO: Master Sgt. Michael Kaminsky, 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Civilian: Jennifer Casey, 439th Logistics Readiness Squadron.



THE PATRIOT



439TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING
WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE, MASSACHUSETTS

Vol. 1, No. 1

November 1974



WORKMEN BUSILY put the last-minute touches on Westover's new Consolidated Open Mess. The facility will open officially on 30 Nov. 74 and will service active and reserve officers and enlisted men, retirees, and the base's civilian personnel.

The first event at the club was the Air Force Sergeants' Association dinner dance on Saturday evening, 16 November. The beautiful club has bookings right up through the holidays. (See story on page 6.)

IN THE BEGINNING >> The cover of the first Patriot issue, printed in November 1974.

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

This is my first opportunity to address the members of this wing via this publication and it is a welcomed one.



Colonel Billy M. Knowles proudly displays new unit flag embroidered with 439th emblem. (See story page 2)

As you notice we are together involved in a wide range of activities: preparations for inspections/reinspections (ORI/MEI/DEC/UTA), staff assistance visits, training towards mobilization mission requirements, direct support for the national defense effort, Westover AFB Open House (30 Nov. 74), accelerated

recruiting/retention programs, in some instance basic mission conversion, etc., etc., etc. But isn't it refreshing and exciting to realize the President's total force policy is not a play on words but a definition of the reliance upon reserves in today's force structure.

You are not only unusual people but vital to the needs of the times; unusual in that unlike many of your neighbors you must chew gum and walk upstairs at the same time — you're the better parts of both the civilian community and the military community and vital to the needs of the times in that reliance upon the reserves is an expedient resulting from very real economic pressures to reduce overall defense dollars. In regards to the latter, the Air Reserve Forces make up 75 percent of the total strength of the Tactical Air Command (TAC) and 38 percent of the surge capability of the Military Airlift Command (MAC). Instead of force structure comprised of 100 cent dollar standing active forces, we have a force mix of active and reserve who do the same job for 65 cent dollars.

Because you and your mission are so important, I am confident that together we will measure up in every way. We will meet our mission commitments, we stand ready when needed, and we can assure our fellow taxpayers that their defense investments are rewarded in kind.

**BILLY M. KNOWLES, Colonel,
USAFR
Commander**

(SPECIAL NOTE: We intend to recognize and pay proper tribute to our many unsung heroes, the unit administrators, in the next issue of this publication.)

PATRIOT

439TH MILITARY AIRLIFT WING • AIR FORCE RESERVE • WESTOVER AFB

VOLUME XIV NUMBER 22

NOVEMBER 1987



THE PATRIOT — Westover's first C-5A, over Springfield

(Union-News photo by Mark Murray)

439th MAW dedicates first C-5, new mission

By Maj. Rick Dyer

The wing got a new name, a new mission and "The Patriot," the first of 16 C-5A Galaxies, during a formal military ceremony Oct. 3 at Westover AFB.

"Today marks the beginning of a new chapter in the life of this facility," said U.S. Rep. Edward P. Boland, D-Mass., to the nearly 2,500 reservists, dignitaries and guests on hand to mark the unit's redesignation as the 439th Military Airlift Wing.

"This is a new chapter," said Con-

gressman Boland, "but not a new story."

Pointing to the hulking, green and gray cargo transport, he noted how Westover has "been linked to the national defense effort for nearly 50 years."

"The C-5A represents a different type of involvement in that effort, but it does not represent a departure from the purpose for which Westover was established and for which it has been maintained," the congressman said.

"The C-5A is a reminder — a strik-

ingly visible reminder — of the means necessary to secure freedom in the late 20th Century."

The ceremony, which was held 971 days after Congressman Boland first announced that C-5s might be stationed at the base, marked the beginning of the 439th MAW's new strategic airlift role.

Brig. Gen. Frederick D. Walker, wing commander, reminded the gathering that the new mission was in keeping with the region's long history of

(continued on page 8)



(USAF photo by T Sgt. Sandra Michon)

REFLECTIVE NOTE—A1C Jack Irvin, of USAF Band of New England, Pease AFB, N.H., contributes to the band music in the base hangar. Below, 439th MAW reservists stand formation on awaiting arrival of dignitaries for the C-5 ceremony.



(USAF photo by Nora MacKer)

C-5 dedication

(continued from page 1)

voluntary military service.

"Our dedicated members of 439th Military Airlift Wing — we term the "Patriot Wing" — serve in the 350-year-old tradition of the Massachusetts militia," the general said.

"These modern-day patriots, who live in the cities, suburbs and quaint hamlets of New England, muster here today in the same spirit as those early Massachusetts militia regiments did way back in 1637," said General Walker.

Maj. Gen. Roger Scheer, commander of the Air Force Reserve, noted that the unit's selection for the C-5 mission was a "tribute to the outstanding track record which the 439th has compiled over the years."

"You've come a long way to get to where you are today," General Scheer said, "and I have no doubt but that you will continue to perform in an absolutely superior manner."

Other dignitaries on hand for the dedication included John McElwee, the new national chairman of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve program, Maj. Gen. Donald Logeais, commander of 21st Air Force; Maj. Gen. James McAdoo, commander of 14th Air Force; Maj. Charles Parrott, individual mobilization augmentee to the commander of the Military Airlift Command; Chicopee Mayor Richard S. Lak and Robert Christopher, director of C-5 programs for the Lockheed Aeronautical systems Corporation of Georgia.

GALAXY ARRIVES >> In November 1987, the mission of Westover Changed in a "big" way.

PATRIOT

439TH MILITARY AIRLIFT WING • AIR FORCE RESERVE • WESTOVER AFB

VOLUME XVII, NUMBER 10

JANUARY 1991



(photo by SrA. Christine Mora)

DUTY CALLS -- Members of the 439th Military Airlift Wing process into active duty Dec. 3 through a mobilization line in the Base Hangar. The 841 reservists will serve at Westover to support Desert Shield.

841 members of 439th MAW called to active duty

by Maj. Rick Dyer

Like their colonial ancestors more than 200 years ago, 841 reservists from Westover's "Patriot Wing" have heeded the call to active duty.

The reservists--members of the 439th Military Airlift Wing and 439th Combat Support group--were mobilized Dec. 3 for up to 180 days. Most of

them will serve at Westover, operating the base around the clock in support of Operation Desert Shield.

For the past three months, the base has served as the northeast stage area for transport aircraft carrying troops and equipment to the Persian Gulf. With the base expecting up to 20 flights a day during December and January, Air Force officials decided to call-up key

support personnel to support the Desert Shield operations.

"This just legitimizes our role here," said Brig. Gen. Frederick D. Walker, 439th MAW commander. "We were no longer able to continue running the base with the volunteer services of our reservists."

General Walker was mobilized and (Continued on page 12)



(photo by SrA. Christine Mora)

IN PROCESSING -- Reservists from the 439th Military Airlift Wing process through the mobilization line Dec. 3.

Transformation to active duty involved many steps, including a review of military, medical and financial records.

became the first Air Force Reserve flag officer called to active duty for Desert Shield service.

On Dec. 3-4, reporting reservists streamed through mobility lines and completed the processing which trans-

formed them from "citizen-airmen" into active duty Air Force members.

The 841 reservists who were mobilized in December joined 204 members of Westover's 337th Military Airlift Squadron and approximately 40 reservists from the 74th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron who were already on active-duty status.

The 337th MAS was activated by President Bush Aug. 22, and its aircrews have flown hundreds of Desert Shield missions to the Middle East since then.

The latest call-up meant that almost half of the 2,313-member 439th MAW is now on active-duty status. Those activated have plenty of work to do.

The base is operated around-the-clock, seven days a week. Most personnel here are working twelve-hour shifts to provide services for the massive airlift.

Through Dec. 27, Westover has processed 1,329 aircraft, 20,093 passengers and 48,352 tons of cargo. The base has also pumped 24,302,206 gallons of JP-4 jet fuel into desert-bound aircraft.

Military Airlift Command officials said recently that Operation Desert Shield is the world's largest airlift effort and that more than 2.18 billion ton miles have been flown since the operation began.



(photo by TSgt. Sandi Michon)

PAPERWORK -- Waiting their turn in the mobilization line are, from left, MSgt. Paul LaRochelle, aircrew life support supervisor, Lt. Col. Gale French, chief of safety, Lt. Col. Paul Torpey, aircraft flight instructor and Capt. John Welch, command and control officer.

DESERT SHIELD >> Westover became the hub for troops and equipment mobilized to the Middle East to free Kuwait.

WESTOVER'S FIRST C-5M RETURNS WITH A HERO'S WELCOME

7037 made history on June 2

by Airman 1st Class Sadie Hewes

Excitement buzzed on the Westover flight line June 2 as media, Airmen, and plane fanatics alike stood waiting for the arrival of the military's largest aircraft. Everything was in perfect place for its landing. A static C-5 loomed next to the control tower, awaiting retirement, and the fire engines were in place to christen the new C-5 as it landed.

Suddenly, a low-pitched sound came from the distance. As it approached, it was hard to believe the quiet behemoth in the sky was the first C-5M Super Galaxy to be assigned to Westover. As it swooped over the heads of its onlookers and circled back to make its landing, another aviation milestone was in the books.

The aircraft, which had been stationed at Westover in 2016 as a C-5B, was recently renovated and



upgraded into a C-5M. It is the first of a fleet of eight, with the rest of the new models scheduled to arrive here by summer of 2018.

Designed by Lockheed-Georgia Co., the Super Galaxy lacks the distinctive white known to the legacy cargo aircraft. However, it certainly isn't lacking in its lifting capabilities. It has the capacity to carry 36 standard pallets and 81 troops simultaneously.

"This aircraft was built with a performance increase in mind and it delivers," Lt. Col. Scott Kuhrt, instructor and C-5 aircraft commander, told reporters and public affairs staff, during a planeside interview. Indeed, with a maximum cargo weight of 270,000 pounds, the C-5M's performance is unmatched by any other cargo aircraft. Additionally, the M-model consumes about 20 percent less fuel than previous models, and has the ability to fly up to 5,000 nautical miles without aerial refueling.

With the assistance of aerial refueling, the new model aircraft can travel worldwide.

"We can travel further, without making stops for fuel from the east coast to as far as Central Asia

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firsts and lasts



HISTORIC CREW >>

The crew that flew 7037 up from Stewart Air National Guard Base, N.Y., from top to bottom consisted of Col. Les Bradfield, Lt. Col. Scott Kuhrt, 2nd Lt. Terrance McKenna, Senior Master Sgt. Steven Bryant, Master Sgt. John Lyons, Tech Sgt. Eric Ciborowski, Master Sgt. Carlton House, and Senior Airman Ashley Kostka.



C-5M, SUPER HERO WELCOME

>> Tail number 7037 lands at Westover to become the unit's first of eight C-5Ms of eight on June 2, 2017. This year's base guide features the photo of the crew that flew it.



direct," said Master Sgt. John Lyons, a loadmaster assigned to the 439th.

As the newest addition to the Westover family landed, it was taxied through towering arches of water, courtesy of the Westover fire department, before parking. As the crew departed the aircraft, they were greeted by their aircrew and maintenance wingmen line to congratulate them on their safe arrival.

"I feel lucky, I'm one of the few maintenance people here left that has actively worked on the old model aircraft," said Master Sgt. Kevin Bowen, a crew chief assigned to the 439th Maintenance Squadron, during an interview with local media. "To be a part of this transition is a big deal."

The Super Galaxy is sure to enhance mission readiness and performance at Westover as a new aviation chapter has been written for the base.

"What's happening today is one of the most significant aviation milestones in the 77-year history of this base," said Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe, acting chief of the 439th Public Affairs office.

With a red tail stripe and Patriot logo freshly painted proudly on the tail of the aircraft, there's no doubt the C-5M will live up to its expectations. Westover's C-5M will soon be formally named "The Spirit of Chicopee" during a dedication ceremony on base.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Photos provided by Chief Master Sgt. Justin Thurber, Master Sgt. Todd Panico, Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe, Airman 1st Class Sadie Hewes, and W.C. Pope.

Please visit Westover's Facebook page for photos of the C-5M's arrival: <https://www.facebook.com/westover.patriot>

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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 Tommlia, and Tech. Sgt. William Buckout. (photo provided by Lt. Col. Jordan Murphy)

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LAST C-5A >> On a clear day in September of 2017, the last C-5A departed Westover Air Reserve Base for the "boneyard" at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Arizona. There aircraft 0461 will be dismantled, parts stored and eventually the air frame will be cut up and recycled.

Westover brings in nearly \$195 million to area economy

by Airman 1st Class Chanhda Ly

The 439th Airlift Wing added almost \$195 million to the community in fiscal year 2018. The number represents a decrease of \$18 million from the previous year, due in part to a decrease in military payroll and construction at Westover.

The wing impacted communities within a 50-mile radius with an economic impact of \$194,541,415 from Oct. 1, 2017 to Sept. 30, 2018. In 2017, the base's economic impact was \$212,534,218.

"Despite declining military budgets, it is important to remember that Westover's operations with the Air Force Reserve and our joint partners continue to be a major contributor to the Western Massachusetts economy," said Col. Scott Durham, 439th Airlift Wing commander.

Previous years' economic impacts were

2016 – \$197,254,006

2015 – \$221,175,721

2014 - \$220,856,889

2013 - \$224,946,752.

Construction and related expenditures decreased \$5.8 million last year, according to Deborah Heady, Westover cost and management analyst. Westover received \$13.1 million in construction funding, a decrease of \$8.2 million from 2017. A large portion of the construction funding was used to renovate the Base Hangar. Additional construction funds were also received for the Avionics Building, DC Hangar and the Security Forces parking lots.

The total base payroll was nearly \$120 million in 2018, which was an overall decrease of \$6.4 million from last year, due to a \$7.1 million decrease in military funding, offset by an approximate \$1.5 million increase in civilian payroll and a \$700,000 decrease in contractor and non-appropriated fund salaries.

Westover's presence created an estimated 812 indirect jobs at an average salary of more than \$50,000 per year. The value of estimated indirect jobs created decreased by about \$5.8 million, primarily as a result of decreases in military funding and construction, Heady said.

The total number of base Air Force employees – active duty, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard and civilians - decreased from 3,284 in 2017 to 2,898 in 2018.

The economic figures and personnel counts do not include the base's 28 tenant units, which include ten Army units and three Marine units, which together employ about 1,700 people, mainly reservists.

The total impact also doesn't include the numbers from the 2018 Great New England Air and Space Show. In 2015, a UMass study concluded that the air show generated \$11.6 million in local spending.

Around Westover

COMMAND BRASS >> Brig. Gen. Stan Sheley, Special Assistant to the Deputy Commander, Air Force Reserve Command, visited Westover Oct. 13. Sheley toured the base to see what improvements needed to be made to the base. (photos by Staff Sgt. Tamara Williams)





4th Air Force commander, command chief visit Patriot Wing

by Senior Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

Two senior Air Force Reserve Command leaders visited with the Patriot Wing for two days, first arriving in a C-5M Super Galaxy, and completing their visit with tours through the base's landmark arched hangars.

Maj. Gen. Randall Ogden, 4th Air Force commander, and 4th AF Command Chief Master Sgt. Timothy White flew in on the eighth and final C-5M to be delivered to the Patriot Wing Sept. 20. Ogden was at the controls of the airlifter during its flight to Westover, and took part in a flightline arrival ceremony. Following that, the general and chief visited the Dogpatch training area to be briefed on a major readiness exercise that took place throughout the week.

The next day, the two visited most of the hangars along the flightline, meeting Reserve Citizen Airmen in aerial port squadrons, the contingency response flight. transportation, maintenance, and civil engineering.

The general and chief also spent lunch with some of the wing staff and senior leadership, before wrapping up their visit with a briefing from Col. David Post, 439th Maintenance Group commander.

To view coverage of the C-5M arrival ceremony and this visit, please log onto the Westover Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Westover.Patriot



SEEING STARS >> Maj. Gen. Randall Ogden, 4th Air Force commander, and 4th AF Command Chief Master Sgt. pose in by C-5M 7043 with Master Sgt. Alfred Chagnon, 439th Operations Support Squadron. On the right, Maj. Gen. Ogden has an open conversation with Westover aircraft maintainers. (photo by Senior Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe)



The final updated C-5 lands at Westover, marking the end of the 20-year modernization



by Senior Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

Sept. 20, Major Gen. Randall Ogden, commander, 4th Air Force, flew the last C-5M to be placed back into active service at Westover Air Reserve Base. The Westover Fire Dept

welcomed it back with the ceremonial water arch.

A crowd of about 50 people watched as the base's final C-5M, tail number 7043, landed and a ceremony was held in its honor. Speeches were given by Major Gen. Ogden, Col. Scott Durham, and Richard Kos, mayor of Chicopee.





HALLOWEEN TREAT >> A children's Halloween Trunk or Treat party was held at the Westover Consolidated Club Oct. 27. (photo by Senior Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe)



SOUND OF MUSIC >> October being Hispanic Heritage Month, at the club on Oct. 14 performers played traditional music and dance. (photo by Senior Airman Max Goldberg)



MOMENT OF SILENCE >> Westover firefighters and Airmen remembered the terrorist attacks that took place on September 11, 2001 at the base flag. The firefighters rang a bell at the time the first aircraft hit the first twin tower in NYC. (photo by Senior Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe)

VETERAN'S HONOR >> Airmen, Marines, and Soldiers joined together for a military appreciation night to salute their fellow veterans Sept. 28 in South Hadley, Mass.



FORMATION SALUTES >>

Westover held its annual Veteran's Remembrance on the base ellipse, Nov. 4. (photos by Master Sgt. Stephen Caruso)



CONTROLLED BURN >> The base conducted a controlled burn of grasses and weeds Oct. 26 near Westover's taxiways and runways. (photos by Airman 1st Class Chanhda Ly)

USO PREZ VISIT >>

Dr. J.D. Crouch, national president and chief executive officer of the USO, visited Westover Oct. 30, and toured a Patriot Wing C-5M Super Galaxy. Also pictured is Tech. Sgt. Joseph Dulong, 337th Airlift Squadron flight engineer. (photo by Senior Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe)



DAY OF THE ZOMBIE RUN

Westover hosts first Zombie Apocalypse Run

by Airman 1st Class Chanhda Ly

The Westover Fitness Center staff hosted the first Zombie Apocalypse Run Oct. 30, at the Dogpatch training area.

The fun run was scheduled for 4:30 p.m. and volunteers from various units on base were dressed as zombies chasing runners throughout an obstacle course.

"It makes for good comradery," said Janice Wheeler, manager of the base fitness center. The event brings all branches of service closer together.

Members of the U.S. Air Force, the Marine Corps, MEPS, the base fire department, the civil engineering squadron, security forces, and outdoor recreation were all out on the field participating.

This run differs from the previous ones hosted by the fitness center as it contains an obstacle course. The obstacle course included a tire maze, an over-under hurdle, a haunted house, a low crawl, balance beams, and buildings to weave in and out of.

"We always do a 5k and it usually runs from the fitness center out to dog patch," said Wheeler. "But my staff and I brainstormed and came up with the zombie run."

Over two dozen participants came out to Dog Patch, where half were volunteers and half were runners. Lt. Col. Rodney Furr, commander of 439th Force Support Squadron was also on site to oversee the event.

"I believe fitness is the key to healthy living," said Lt. Col. Furr. "I think we should offer as many opportunities to our personnel to get out do something and enjoy themselves."

The run was open to all base personnel and their families.

"Different branches have different fitness standards," said Furr. "I think it's great that they can exchange how their fitness test differ and can possibly help each other out."

The Fitness Center center's next event, the Turkey 5k, was held for Nov. 15, 2018.

HEALTHY LIVING ZOMBIES >>

A group photo of runners and zombies met at this fun event to promote healthy living through fitness. (photos by Airman 1st Class Chanhda Ly)





Good Neighbors

by W.C. Pope

If you were near the North Ramp, Oct. 10, you would have seen something unique.

Base civil engineers found themselves stuck 100 feet above the tarmac while trying to change a bulb in the flight line lighting.

Westover's Fire Department doesn't have a ladder truck, so when one is needed, they call on local departments to lend a hand.

The City of Chicopee fire department came to the rescue with their 100-foot-plus ladder truck.

"We have a Mutual Aid

Agreement with Chicopee, Holyoke, Hadley and Ludlow. What equipment and man power we don't have, they can provide and vice versa," said Westover Fire Chief Charles VanGorden.

"Recently we backfilled Chicopee Fire Station One on Church Street while they were responding to a fire," he added.

One mission of the base is to be a good neighbor to the local communities; when needed the Westover Fire Department provides assistance with equipment and fire fighters to back-fill fire stations.



Community garden sprouts near Airmen and Family Readiness Center

People with a valid military ID may use a community garden planted earlier this year. The garden is located by the Airmen and Family Readiness Center (Bldg. 1100). The following rules apply. For more information on the garden, call (413) 557-2434. -- Signup at Outdoor Recreation to obtain the 8' x 5' plot (please call 557-2192 -- open to Authorized ID Card holders only)

(Please note, Outdoor Recreation only maintains the sign-up list, they do not maintain or resolve issues with the garden)

-- One plot per person/family

-- Produce (fruits, vegetables, herbs) only

-- Member responsibilities:

a. Supplying their own seeds/plants

b. Utilize their own gardening tools/implements

(Note: Outdoor Recreation rents garden tools; however,

tools can only be rented during regular business hours)

c. Maintain/upkeep their plot in a clean, safe manner

d. Use of herbicides (weed killer) is prohibited

e. Children and pets must be supervised at all times

f. Ensure plants do not encroach on neighbor's plots or unused plots

g. Harvest in a timely manner (i.e. do not let produce rot)

h. Gardeners must harvest from their plot only

i. At the end of the growing season, gardeners are responsible for clearing their plot of all plant material and leaving the plot as they found it in the spring.

j. Report maintenance issues to 557-2434

k. Failure to follow these rules may result in member and their garden being removed from the community garden and, if necessary, charged for any damages

There are no fees to join; however, members are expected to provide their own tools/supplies.



CHIEF INDUCTION >> On the evening of Nov. 3, five newly promoted Chief Master Sergeants were welcomed to the ranks in a ceremony held at the Westover Club. (photo by Senior Airman Hanna Smith) The Chiefs that were honored were Thomas Beaudry, Steve Bryant, Anthony Geridini, Eric Harris, and Kara Stackpole. (photo by Senior Airman Hanna Smith)



CCAF GRADS >> A large group of Westover Airmen were given Community College of the Air Force diplomas at a graduation ceremony held in the 337th Airlift Squadron conference room during the November UTA. (photos by Senior Airman Max Goldberg)

Turkey Trot



NUMBER ONE >> Senior Airman Kalin Verardi, 439th Force Support Squadron, is this year's Turkey Trot winner in the female category with a time of 27 minutes, 25 seconds. (photos by Senior Airman Daniel Pedretti)



RAINCROSS AWARDS BANQUET >> The Patriot Wing's Senior leadership is seen here at March Air Reserve Base, California, attending the Raincross Award banquet. March is the home of the 4th Air Force, Westover's numbered Air Force headquarters. (courtesy photo)

SMILING WINNER >> Lt. Col. Rodney Furr presents the Smile Program Vacation Prize Check on the November UTA. (courtesy photo)





Fall colors



The origin of the Fini-Flight hose down?

by W.C. Pope

The Air Force has some fascinating traditions; crud, carrier landings, round metal objects, and the fini-flight hosedown. For those who don't know; the fini flight or final flight is the tradition of a pilot or flight crew member who is either leaving the unit or retiring. Upon landing, a large group of people welcomes the member with a fire hose of water after he or she steps off the aircraft.



Splashing departing airmen has been around since the early 1980s when I first experienced it. As an active duty airman it always seemed like it belonged in the Navy. I've always been curious of its origin.

Recently I came across an article in the "Westover Yankee Flyer" from March 28, 1969. This was the former weekly base paper. The story was titled "Splashdown for the 99th". It provided me a possible clue to the history of the tradition.

According to the article, "splashdown" is what the Western Pacific flight crews called it when a crew would arrive back at the base after completing 100 combat missions over Vietnam. The B-52 and KC-135 crews would be greeted by fellow squadron members and splashed with at least "one airborne bucket-measure of water". A 100 mission patch was then presented to the waterlogged airman.

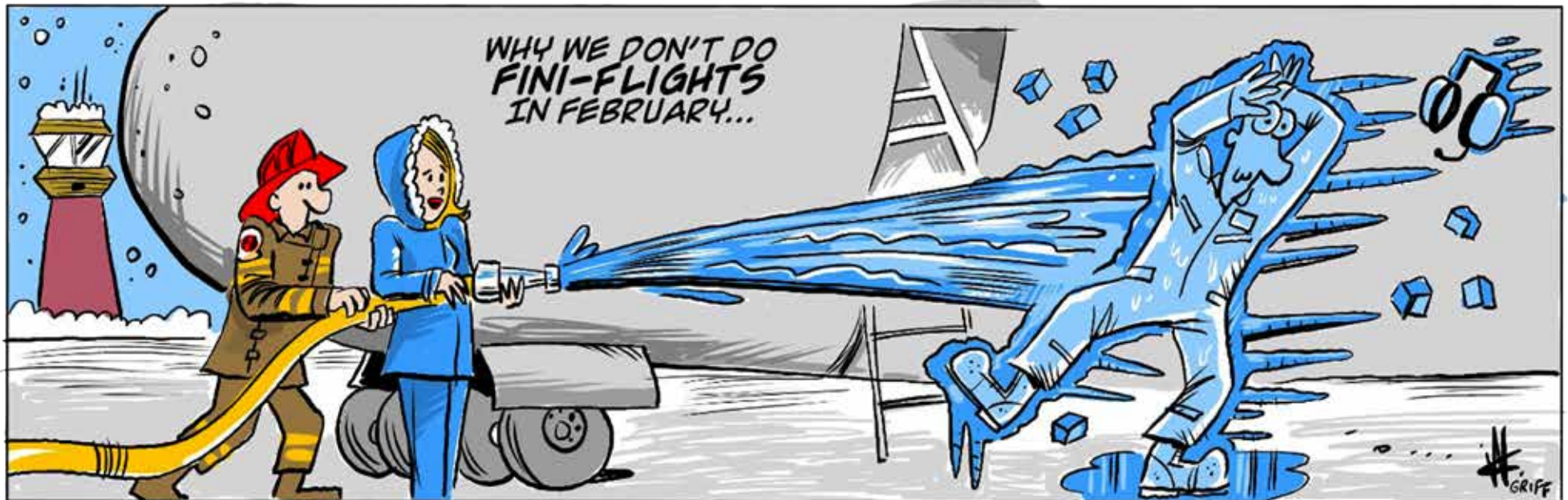
By March 1969, the 99th Bomb Wing had completed its second tour of combat duty for the Arc Light missions. Most crewmembers had completed the 100 missions required to receive the patch and the hosedown. Arc light and Linebaker were bombing campaigns that helped end the Vietnam War.

Although the reason for the tradition and name have changed somewhat over the years, the congratulatory gesture remains the same.



POPE'S PUNS

by W.C. Pope



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

PROMOTIONS and RETIREMENTS



Look for promotions and retirements on our facebook page

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.



Chief Master Sgt. Daniel Witt

42nd Aerial Port Squadron

by Airman 1st Class Chanhda Ly

Pushing hundreds of pounds of cargo during a career which spans over 20 years, Chief Master Sgt. Daniel Witt, can reflect positively on his impact here.

Chief Witt, who is the transportation Manager for the 42nd Aerial Port Squadron here, started his Air Force career in 1983, leaving his hometown of Ware, Massachusetts, and like many airmen, graduated basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

In March 1988, Chief Witt became an Air Force Reservist here at Westover ARB. Since then, Chief

Witt has risen through the ranks but continued to lead not only at the helm but by example.

"It didn't matter what rank I was," said Chief Witt. "I was always trying to help people, no matter what their rank was."

Chief Witt's helping philosophy also translates into his work ethic as he can be seen quite frequently on the flightline alongside his airmen.

"If you're leading by example, you're out there doing the same thing as them or you wouldn't ask them something you wouldn't have done yourself," said Witt. "I love being able to go out there showing them up and challenging them to stuff when it comes to the airplane."



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>.



Westover Top 3 donates Dining-In proceeds to USO

by Staff Sgt. Monica Ricci

The Westover Top 3 presented a check to representatives of the Pioneer Valley USO during the August UTA. Senior Master Sgt. Skip Zona, Top 3 President, gathered with fellow Top 3 members in front of the USO building Aug. 4. Zona presented a \$1,500 check to the USO. The Top 3 raised the money from proceeds gathered at the Third Annual Senior NCO Dining-In held in April. The money raised will help the USO continue its mission of supporting the men and women of all four branches at Westover, here at home and on worldwide deployments.



Published monthly for Patriots like Staff Sgt. Jesse Messier, 337th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and more than 4,700 people assigned to Westover Air Reserve Base.

AIRMEN ON TAKEOFF >> Chief Master Sgt. Dan Witt, right, and Master Sgt. Peter Alicia-Correa, 42nd Aerial Port Squadron air reserve technicians, prepare a K-loader for cargo Oct. 30. The 42nd and 58th APS Reserve Citizen Airmen specialize in loading and unloading cargo on Westover's C-5s and many other types of airlifters. (photo by Senior Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe)



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- >Archived Patriots: westover.afrc.af.mil/news/the-patriot
- >The Westover App: search 439AW in the Google or Apple app store
- >Future App will be on USAF Connect

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!