

PATRIOT

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1948 - 2018
RESERVE
WINGS OF HERITAGE, SHAPING THE FUTURE

Provide global reach capabilities with mission-ready Citizen Airmen

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ON THE COVER >> Members of the 439th Contingency Response Flight participated in the Patriot Sands exercise in Florida. (photo by Airman 1st Class Hanna Smith)



NIGHT FLIGHT >> Loading proceeds on a C-5 for a flight to Patrick Air Force Base, Florida for the Patriot Sands exercise held in March, which brought together five government organizations. The aircraft was flown by the 337th Airlift Squadron, loaded by the 42nd Aerial Port Squadron and maintained by the members of the 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, making this an exercise for Westover Airmen from a number of career fields. Scroll to page 4 for more photos and a story. (photo by Airman 1st Class Hanna Smith)

Ever since arriving at Westover, I've heard about the challenges that stack up against Patriot Wing Reserve Citizen Airmen, and I've seen how this wing responds to these challenges -- time and time again.

During my assumption of command ceremony, I spoke at length about readiness. Little did I know at that time how ready the Patriot Wing was and continues to be. At the senior leadership level, my arrival here from Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, in January, marked Col. Durham's relief that he finally had his three group commanders in place. Then our commander got tasked to deploy overseas in February. This all while our wing continues its transition to the C-5M Super Galaxy. We're the fourth and final Air Force flying unit to convert to this modernized aircraft. Our aircrews are working hard to keep up their training amid ongoing operational demands with the Air Force's largest aircraft. Without skipping a beat, the Airmen of the Patriot Wing showed that they are ready for any challenge.

Within my operations team are the air traffic control tower and base operations staffs which manage a huge airfield and busy drop zone that our Air National Guard C-130 and Army National Guard helicopter crews often use.

Even with these demands, our people still take time to show off the C-5's unmatched airlift capability. Most recently, a 337th aircrew hosted more than 180 high school students under the towering C-5's nose visor during Westover's ninth annual Youth Outreach. These students got a first-hand look at the military that many of their peers might never get. They learned more about the names and faces behind those huge jets they see flying over western Massachusetts. The students saw the character and integrity of our Airmen.

Our Air Force's strength isn't just its equipment like the C-5; it's about the strength and dedication of the men and women who volunteer to serve their country. The 439th AW, one of the largest reserve units in the nation, pulls in Reserve Citizen Airmen from more than 30 states across America. Our reach with the C-5 is worldwide. I'm proud to work with the Airmen who represent our wing across the globe; they are the faces of the Patriot Wing.

Our upcoming Great New England Air and Space Show will showcase all of what I've written about in this article. We'll celebrate the Air Force Reserve's 70th anniversary with the theme, "Wings of Heritage, Shaping the Future." Westover has been open for almost 80 years -- and more than half of that time, the Air Force Reserve has been here, from the time the Strategic Air Command handed over the keys for the nation's first Air Force Reserve base, back in April 1974.

I'm proud to lead our operations group in this chapter of Patriot Wing history, and to be part of our wing's response to the challenges! Bring them! We're ready!!!



by Col. Neil Hede
439th Operations Group commander

BRIEFS

Westover App reimaged and restart in July

The westover app is in the final testing phases and will be released in early July, just in time for the airshow! It will have some great features, including a calendar of events, alerts, groups, common access card access, and many other airman and family readiness features. Make sure to download it when it goes live in July.

Command chief to join 433rd AW at Lackland

Lt. Gen. Maryanne Miller, Chief of Air Force Reserve, announced the following senior leader action in May:

Chief Master Sgt. Shana Cullum, Command Chief Master Sergeant, 439th Airlift Wing, Westover Air Reserve Base, will be heading to the 433rd AW, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas to serve as the command chief.

Summer Safety 101

As we roll into these warm summer months, it's important to remember some basic safety tips. Use all required protective equipment when engaging in physical activities and drink plenty of water. Motorcyclists, be sure to contact your unit motorcycle safety representative to complete the motorcycle unit safety tracking tool.

Air and Space Show, July 14 and 15

The Great New England Air and Space Show is almost here! The weekend of July 14 and 15 will bring a number of displays such as the Geico Skytypers, the Army Golden Knights and of course, the Air Force Thunderbirds. The theme for this year's show is "Wings of Heritage, Shaping the Future." This parallels the 70th anniversary of the Air Force Reserve. Additionally, there will be a naming ceremony for the first C-5M to join the Patriot Wing, and an air and space show kickoff breakfast featuring guest speaker, retired Air Force colonel and astronaut Catherine Coleman. Information can be found at greatnewenglandairshow.com and westover.afrc.af.mil.

Patriot Sands: Good training is not a mirage



by Airman 1st Class Hanna Smith
PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla.—

A brilliant blue sky and a relatively mild winter morning greeted the 439th Contingency Response Flight as they made their way across the flightline to an awaiting C-17 Globemaster III which would be transporting them and their gear away from the New England winter to sunny Florida for a mobility exercise.

The 439th CRF participated in the Air Force Reserve Command's 2018 Patriot Sands exercise February 27 through March 3, at Patrick Air Force Base, Florida.

This exercise took place between Patrick AFB, MacDill AFB, and Homestead ARB (also in Florida). The exercise trained Airmen to be able to deploy within 72 hours of a tasking as a Contingency Response Element.



"A CRE is the front-line of command and control, comprising experienced airlift and operations personnel to manage, coordinate and control air mobility assets," said Maj. Mickael Lewis, 439th CRF. Once the C-17 chocked its tires, two CRF command post operators jumped out and established contact with the AFR Command Center and Tanker and Airlift Control Center to affirm the unit had gotten to the location safely.

Patriot Wing Airmen made quick work of unloading the equipment from the C-17 and proceeded to set up the Hard-sided Expandable Lightweight Air Mobile Shelter (HELAMS) which served as a command post for this exercise.

Throughout the exercise the HELAMS was used to keep communications flowing between CRF personnel, the aircraft and AFRCC and TACC so that training could be conducted safely and effectively for both affiliates and Airmen alike.

"Contingency Response, Aerial Port, and Aircraft Maintenance personnel train affiliates for rapid airlift, air mobility and air worthiness skills," said Lewis.

Affiliates for this exercise included FBI units, the Coast Guard, a Florida Advanced Surgical Transport Team, a Federal Emergency Management Agency Task Force unit and an Air Force Reserve Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron.

"Patriot Sands is excellent training for the affiliates and aircrew," said Staff Sgt. Michael Muise, a loadmaster assigned to the 439th



CRF. "This serves as a great opportunity to slow down operations so the participants understand the why and how behind what they are doing and understand how to perform it safely."

As the exercise came to a close, the Airmen from the 439th CRF worked seamlessly together as they packed and prepared their equipment for the flight back north to Westover. With the training the Airmen received they will be better able to fulfill the mission of global reach capabilities with mission-ready Citizen Airmen.



IN THE FLORIDA SUN >> Staff Sgt. Kristine Thomas, C-5 loadmaster with the 433rd Contingency Response Flight at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, directs the onload of a FEMA trailer for transport in the joint Patriot Sands exercise. Staff Sgt. Amy Leigh, a 439th CRF communications specialist rolls out cable for the RF transmitters. Master Sgts. Jason Girvin and Brian Hadix construct a dish antenna, using the exercise.



Youth Outreach builds airplanes and community outreach



Forecasted rain held off May 16 for the ninth annual Youth Outreach.

Col. Howard Clark, acting 439th Airlift Wing commander, welcomed the 186 young adults from local schools including Springfield Central School, Chicopee High School junior ROTC, Worcester South High School, and Westover Job Corps.

"Many agencies on-base participated including recruiters, security forces, and firefighters," said Staff Sgt. David Murphy, 439th Maintenance Squadron, one of the event's coordinators. "We had the most support of any year with 30 volunteers making this year's event very successful."

According to Murphy, the feedback from last year's event indicated that the activities could have been more challenging and that they wanted to keep busier.

"So we wanted to change it and focus on team-building and style it around the military, keeping them busy and competitive," he said.

The icing on the cake for the last couple of years has been the tug-of-war, and teams participated in securing an egg in a glider's cockpit so that it survives the flight. The new competition this year was the chem-gear-run, wearing a sandbag in a backback.

"This year's event was successful because we had the freedom to design the program," said Murphy. "Myself and the other coordinators (Master Sgt. Brooke Rose, Tech. Sgt. Zaki Robinson) are already planning for next year's event and hoping to bring in more schools." (photos by Senior Airman Max Goldberg)



NEW CE COMMANDER >>

Lt. Col. Trenton Holden took command of the 439th Civil Engineering Squadron on Apr. 8 in an assumption of command ceremony held in Bldg. 2450. Col. Howard Clark, acting 439th Airlift Wing commander, led the ceremony handing over the squadron banner to Holden as the squadron stood in formation. (photos by Tech. Sgt. Malcolm Tevanian)



Tablets; the new T.O.

by Senior Airman Max Goldberg

In an effort to maintain air superiority and increase efficiency and productivity, Westover's 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron has adopted tablet technology in place of bulky technical orders and volumes of manuals.

Staff Sgt. Joe St. Peter, a crew chief with the 439th AMXS, uses a tablet during a pre-flight inspection of a C-5.



"Having all the checklists and information in one place is much easier than the 15 binders previously used for preflight checks" said St. Peter.

In the past, technical orders could only be used one at a time by an individual during maintenance on the flightline. Now with the tablets, each crew chief has every technical order at their fingertips.

"This access has significantly decreased the time it takes to perform pre-flight inspections" said St. Peter.

St. Peter and Tech. Sgt. Robert Smyth, also an AMXS crew chief, are able to accomplish individual tasks simultaneously using this technology.

"I don't have to worry about using one binder to work while someone else has to wait for me to finish before they can do what they need to do," said Smyth. "We each have the tablet and can get the job done at the same time."

Master Sgt. Mike Jaczyk, the support flight chief with the 439th AMXS said using this new technology allows for faster updates and quicker resolution of any issues.

"The system automatically updates every week," said Jaczyk. "It's great because before we had to wait for someone to send us a piece of paper with the new information and then distribute it to everyone who needs it."

The squadron has 50 tablets that have become used regularly in daily maintenance operations. This use of a new technology is one of the many ways the Air Force works to increase its capabilities in air, space, and cyberspace.

Around Westover



PANEL DISCUSSION

>> Michael Bolton, President and CEO of Westover Metropolitan Airport, speaks to 35 local business leaders about the contribution of the base to the local economy. The business leaders were given a tour of a C-5 in the ISO Hangar. Many leaders of the tenant units on base got a chance to speak including Col. David Post, Maintenance Group commander. (photos by Tech. Sgt. Malcolm Tevanian)



UK C-17, T-TAIL TIME >> No. 99 Squadron RAF makes a royal entrance at Westover in March, flying in from RAF Brize Norton, Oxfordshire in England, 65 miles west of London. The base is the home to a number of cargo and refueling aircraft that include this C-17 Globemaster III. Tail number ZZ176 sports the puma salient tail artwork that harkens back to the units first aircraft the de Havilland DH.9 that had a single puma named engine. The No. 99 Squadron RAF got it's start in World War I were it flew missions out of France along the Western front. (photos by Tech. Sgt. Malcolm Tevanian)



Thirteen and counting



**by Tech. Sgt.
Malcolm Tevanian**

Step through the threshold of the conference room in Bldg. 1875, and pass the stars and stripes positioned against the wall to the right. There is an open door of the office occupied by a man who has effectively removed the term “career field stagnation” from his vocabulary by eagerly serving in 13 different Air Force Specialty Codes.

“Opportunities came up and I never said no,” said Lt. Col. Rodney Furr, 439th Force Support Squadron operations officer.

Once inside Furr’s office, there’s a canine companion to behold. He’s Apollo, a 13-year-old rescue Labrador retriever relaxing under one of the office tables. Straight away the atmosphere shifts from official to inviting.

Furr’s build is that of a marathon runner, his eyes friendly but observing, something that would be expected of a man with experience obtained in 13 career fields. This wisdom was further evidenced with each subtle gray hair that bookends his slim facial features. His posture was straight and sturdy as he stood at his workstation finishing up a last minute e-mail reply before beginning a recent interview.

Furr has taken full advantage of the opportunity given to him by the Air Force to experience and lead personnel in 13 career fields.

“As the years go by and the Air Force mission evolves, it is important for all personnel to stay in tune with these ongoing changes that are ultimately inherent to evolution,” said Furr. “These evolutionary changes within the Air

Force are related to both policy and Airmen.”

Furr uses an effective tool to narrow the gap between old and new: Air Force tech school.

“It’s a generational gap thing,” he said.

A perpetual student who is always enrolled in “one last class,” Furr admits that it’s getting harder and harder to attend tech schools these days.

“Going through tech school helps me with my leadership management with my Airmen,” he said. “I use the opportunity of tech school to understand the new age Airman’s mindset.”

Furr seemed most fond of his time spent as a command post emergency actions officer, with the 39th Tactical Wing at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey.

“I was at the hub of an active-duty base,” he said. “We were right there at the command and control center during the first Gulf War and I got to do some really eye-opening things there.”

Although serving as actions officer in Turkey was one of those eye-opening jobs, Furr learned how to be a true leader by learning what not to do as a commander during his time with the Massachusetts Air National Guard.

He commanded the 104th Security Forces Squadron, at Barnes Air National Guard Base in Westfield. He wishes he could go back and wear the blue beret again, as he has a lot of respect for the women and men that stand at the gate and on the wall, adding that they are the infantry of the Air Force and they stand in harm’s way, and that security forces is one of the greatest callings in the Air Force.

Today, the veteran of so many career fields has earned the respect of the force support squadron Airmen.

“He relies on his enlisted leadership to get things done,” said Staff Sgt. Andrew Jourdan, personnelist 439th FSS. Working in so many different AFSCs, he sees what works and what doesn’t work.” FSS ranks up as one of the best



and most rewarding of all the career fields he has been honored to work. Westover’s mission affords him the opportunity to effect Airmen across the entire base.

“The best thing about this job is that the squadron is so diverse and we do so many things; the worst thing about this job is that the squadron is so diverse and does so many things,” said Furr, also known for dry sense of humor.

“One thing he has instilled in all of us here at personnel services, and he’s nailed it on the head -- just because we aren’t ‘outside the wire’ while serving at deployed locations, doesn’t make us less important to the mission,” said Jourdan.

A past base commander once told Furr that “in the end, you are going to either stand out in a bad way, or you are going to stand out in a good way.”

Furr said he’s worked hard to stand out in a good way by better understanding the working end of the Air Force, by learning the job that Airmen do to get their jobs done. He’s looking forward to that “one last AFSC” to wrap up his Air Force career.



CAREER COLLAGE >> Clockwise: Present photo of Lt. Col. Rodney Furr; wearing BDUs, then-Maj. Furr is the Logistics Squadron Coordinator for the 439th Mission Support Group for the ORI in 2006; May 1984, Cadet Furr is the ROTC flight commander at Texas Christian University, 2nd Lt. Furr takes time after his commissioning in 1986 to take a photo with his father. (Courtesy photos)

2018 Air Show FAQ



Answers to frequently asked questions with the 2018 Great New England Air and Space Show.

The 2018 Great New England Air and Space Show will be held July 14-15. The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds will

headline the event. This will be the first time in 10 years that the Air Force's official aerial demonstration team has performed at Westover. There will also be static displays of current and historic military aircraft, and

various other aerial demonstrations.

This information is subject to changes and revisions. Please check its content online as the air show draws closer this summer: westover.afrc.af.mil, greatnewenglandairshow.com

Q - WHAT ARE SOME OF THE HEADLINE ACTS?

A - Aerial demonstration teams include the Thunderbirds, the U.S. Army Golden Knights, and the Geico Skytypers.

Q - WHAT TIME DO THE GATES OPEN?

A - Gates open at 8:30 a.m. on July 14. We



strongly advise people to arrive early (but not before 8:30 a.m.). Historically, traffic increases dramatically after 11 a.m. The James Street Gate will also be open for the air show.

Q - WHAT TIME DOES THE SHOW START?

A - Static displays open at 9 a.m. Flying will begin at 10 a.m.

Q - WILL THERE BE HEAVY TRAFFIC?

A - Very likely. It's important to arrive early, since in previous air shows local roads and parking areas have gotten very crowded after 11 a.m. As a guideline, traffic and parking from the time exiting a highway to arriving on the flight line is at least an hour and progressively longer after noon. Parking lots are expected to be full by 2 p.m.

Q - WILL THERE BE A SHUTTLE FROM THE ON-BASE PARKING AREAS?

A - Yes.

Q - ARE CAMERAS AND VIDEO RECORDERS



ALLOWED:

A - Yes, video and stills will be allowed

Q - WILL THE SHOW BE TELEVISED?

A - Various media will attend. They will televise all or parts as their schedules allow. Westover public affairs will also show video selections on social media.

Q - HOW DO I GET A MEDIA PASS FOR THE SHOW?

A - Email the public affairs office at 439aw.pa@us.af.mil with your credentials

Q - IS THERE ANY DANGER OF AN ACCIDENT?

A - Public safety is our top priority. In the event of an emergency or accident the base has set up response measures.

Q - WILL SANITARY FACILITIES BE PROVIDED?

A - Yes, portable toilets will be on site.

Q - WILL THE EVENT BE HANDICAP

ACCESSIBLE:

A - Yes. All gates will accommodate handicap parking. Members displaying a handicap placard/plate will be directed to handicap parking areas. Signs will be posted as well. Due to the vast area that is open to the public on the base, guests should be prepared to walk long distances in order to see all the displays.

ALL CARRY-IN ITEMS AND PERSONS ARE SUBJECT TO SEARCH. PLEASE BE PATIENT.

Approved Carry-in Items:

- SMALL purses, fanny packs, diaper bags, backpacks
 - Cameras/camcorders with SMALL camera bags
 - Baby strollers
 - “Small” lawn chairs only (no lounge chairs)
- Wheelchairs, canes, guide/working dogs to assist disabled individuals



THE FOLLOWING RESTICTIONS APPLY TO ALL WHO ENTER THE BASE:

- No coolers (Security Forces will only permit the entry of small coolers carrying lifesaving medicines or formula for young infants).
 - No medical marijuana
 - No loose ice
 - No cans
 - No Glass
 - No alcohol
 - No pets (except service animals)
 - No weapons of any kind (to include pepper spray, pocket knives and other self-defense items)
 - No Tents
 - No Awnings
 - No cooking equipment
 - No roller blades, skateboards, razor scooters, bicycles
- ***SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS MONITOR THE BASE AT ALL TIME.**
- ***METAL WANDS AND OTHER SECURITY SCREENING MEASURES WILL BE USED TO SCAN PATRONS ENTERING THE BASE.**





Westover Exchange thanks Vietnam Vets

by W.C. Pope

The Westover Express and Base Exchange honored Vietnam War Veterans March 29, which commemorated National Vietnam War Veterans Day. The two locations served up coffee, cake, and a lapel pin specifically for the Vietnam War Veterans.

Ronald Bahre, a Vietnam veteran who served at Westover twice in the 99th Bombardment Wing and retired as a master sergeant, worked as a jet mechanic in the engine test cell. Bobbi Moore presented Bahre a commemorative lapel pin at the shoppette.



Thomas Jefferson, from South Holyoke, who joined his friend Terry Atwell also from South Holyoke for a warm welcome during National Vietnam Veterans Day. They occasionally come up to Westover to shop at the BX. Jefferson served during the Vietnam Era working at Warner Robins AFB, Ga. in the 7th Logistics which flew the C-124 Globemaster II. Atwell served at James Connally Air



Force Base, near Waco, Texas, as a carpenter in the 3565th Civil Engineering Squadron. The long-time friends received handshakes from BX staff members and "thanks for their service."

A familiar face around Westover for many years also returned to the base on this commemorative



day. Dan Van Dalsen visited the shoppette. He is a Vietnam Veteran and works for Phoenix Management, Inc. at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Florida.

At the BX, Rick Lavallee also a Vietnam Vet. presented a pin to Rocky Snow, a Marine and fellow Vietnam Vet. Lavallee served from 1972 to 1992 in the U.S. Navy. At the BX entrance,



Patriot Wing Airmen haul in more than a dozen

by Tech. Sgt. Malcolm Tevanian

A command-wide spotlight from 2017 continues to shine on Airmen with the 439th Airlift Wing, with units here earning more than a dozen Air Force Reserve Command awards.

Outstanding Civil Engineer Unit and Flight Awards: The AFRC nomination for the Maj. Gen. Del R. Eulberg Award, which recognizes the unit that achieved the highest degree of excellence in asset management principles, is awarded to the 439th Mission Support Group Installation Support Flight.

AFRC's nomination for the Maj. Gen. Robert Thompson Resource Excellence Award, which recognizes the unit that achieved the highest degree of resource excellence, is awarded to the 439th MSG Resources Flight.

The MSG Engineering Flight earned the AFRC nomination for the Brig. Gen. Archie Mayes Award, which recognizes the Engineering Flight that most excelled in providing facility products and services of exceptional quality to base customers.

And the MSG Emergency Management Flight earned the Col. Frederick J. Riemer Award, which recognizes the Readiness and Emergency Management Flight that distinguished itself as the year's top performer through sustained superior mission support, exemplary performance, outstanding program management, support of the engineer readiness mission and community involvement.

Air Force Fire Emergency Services Awards:

The AFRC nomination for the Fire Department of the Year, Medium Category: 439th Mission Support Group Fire Emergency Services Flight. This award recognizes the Command's most outstanding medium-size fire department for achieving the highest degree of excellence in mission support and fire protection management.

The AFRC nomination for the Fire Prevention Program of the Year goes to the 439th Mission Support Group, Fire Emergency Services Flight. This recognizes the best fire prevention program for their outstanding achievements and accomplishments in direct support of the mission, regardless of size or location.

The following Individual Awards recognize Airmen who excelled in performance and made outstanding contributions to the AF or DoD mission.

Contingency Response Performer of the year: Maj. Jessica Rose, 439th Contingency Response Flight, Tech. Sgt. Thomas Rowland III, 439th CRF

Outstanding Logistics Readiness NCO of the Year: Staff Sgt. Ryan Bator, 439th LRS, Outstanding Logistics Readiness Senior NCO of the Year: Senior Master Sgt. Charles Carlin.

The Individual Traditional Reservist Awards recognizes individuals who excelled in performance and made outstanding contributions to the AF or DoD mission.

Outstanding Logistics Readiness Traditional Reservist NCO of the Year: Staff Sgt.



COMM SQUADRON WINNERS >> Airmen of the 439th Communications Squadron won numerous awards for their work in 2017. (photos by Senior Airman Max Goldberg)

Ryan Bator, 439th LRS.

Outstanding Communication Excellence Senior NCO: Master Sgt. (now Senior Master Sgt.) Andrew Biscoe, Outstanding Communication Excellence Airman: Senior Airman (now Staff Sgt.) Monica Ricci

Four Airmen from the 439th Communications Squadron have received the 2017 Information Dominance Awards.

The Air Force Reserve Command-wide award recognizes Air Force officers, enlisted, civilian employees, teams, and units for sustained superior performance while providing information dominance and cyberspace operations to Air Force and Department of Defense missions and operations.

Senior Master Sgt. Danita Thibeault, Staff Sgt. Nikki McWhirt, Senior Airman Joshua Slyman, and Senior Airman Sean Gmachowski are this year's winners from the 439th CS.

McWhirt and Slyman, both knowledge operations managers, received the award for their work both here and overseas. McWhirt received the award for Outstanding Cyber Operations NCO and Slyman was awarded Outstanding Cyber Operations Airman.

As Sharepoint managers at RAF Alconbury, England, McWhirt and Slyman were responsible for controlling access to thousands of documents and websites.

“These actions helped to prevent major security concerns,” said McWhirt. “Auditing Westover’s Sharepoint system and removing unauthorized access is another important task that contributes to cyber-security and information dominance,” said Slyman.

Gmachowski received the award for Outstanding Cyber Systems Airman. Updating radios for all of Westover’s squadrons as well as ensuring emergency response radios were functioning and up to date are what Gmachowski said earned him the award.

Only 13 awards were given AFRC wide. McWhirt said she was proud to have so

many Airmen from her squadron as recipients.

“I was honored to hear that four airmen from the unit won,” said McWhirt. “It’s AFRC wide and there aren’t many given so it’s a real honor.”

These Airmen earned this award through outstanding performance in their field. Their diligence and hard work will ensure that the Air Force maintains superiority in cyberspace.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Senior Airman Max Goldberg contributed to this story.



FOD Walk in the air park



FOD WALK >> A couple of times a year the entire 439th Maintenance Group grab a plastic bag and head to the tarmac to do a sweep for foreign object debris. Not just for comradery but a “Golden Bolt” has been hidden somewhere on the ramp. The finder not only gets to pick up debris that can damage the aircraft but a \$25 gift card. (photo by Lt. Col. Jordan Murphy)

Around Westover



MAY THE FOURTH BE WITH YOU >> As fighter jets from nearby Barnes Municipal Airport flew overhead and Star Wars music played over the giant voice a ceremony was held in May for the newly planted holiday tree. At 9:30 a.m. men and equipment arrived to plant the long anticipated delivery of a more permanent tree to celebrate the holidays.

The Blue Spruce was selected for its heartiness to survive the cold New England Winters.

The ceremony began with Jack Moriarty speaking on the importance of trees. He also recited read a poem by his daughter. Moriarty's wife Cynthia, sang the National Anthem.

Col. Howard Clark gave an inspirational speech including an Arbor Day Proclamation to honor the planting and the day. Giving Westover's continued commitment to its stewardship of the environment contained on the 2,500-acre base.

Organizers provided Jennifer Durham, wife of Col. D. Scott Durham, 439th AW commander, the first ornament to be placed on the tree by members of the Pioneer Valley USO. (photos by Senior Airman Max Goldberg)



BABY DINOSAURS >> On May 21, members of the 439th wing safety office, along with Jack Moriarty, Westover's chief of environmental engineering, members of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and carpenter's from the Veteran Facility Service removed a nest from a high corner of the ISO hangar. Inside the nest were three two-week-old peregrine falcon chicks. The birds were removed because they pose a safety risk to our personnel and aircraft. As a protected species, the birds will be cared for until they are healthy



enough to be placed in one of the 25 nesting boxes throughout Massachusetts where they will be paired with adoptive peregrine parents. They will grow up to rule the skies as the world's fastest animal. (photos by Senior Airman Max Goldberg)

Westover Open House 40 years ago

1978



DISCO ERA >>

What we've come to know as an air and space show today was once called an Open House 40 years ago. Westover's Open house in 1978 was held on Aug.

22, and headlined the USAF Thunderbirds when they flew the T-38 Talon. The team had only been performing this airframe for four years, having changed over from the F-4 Phantom II in 1974. The change was driven by the oil crisis at that time. According to Air Force statistics, five T-38s could be flown on the same amount of fuel it took to fly one F-4. The air show boasted 50,000 visitors. Music was supplied by the 590th Air Force Band of the East, McGuire AFB, N.J. The 731st Tactical Airlift Squadron, a Westover unit at the time, demonstrated short field landings in the Westover-based C-123 Provider.

(photos by past Public Affairs and Photo Lab staff)



Third annual Senior Enlisted Dining-in



TOP THREE CHEERS >> More than 80 senior noncommissioned officers attended the Senior NCO Dining-in, held April 7 at the Log Cabin Restaurant in Holyoke, Mass. The Top 3 Council collected \$1,200 and donated the proceeds to the Pioneer Valley USO. (photos by Senior Airman Max Goldberg)



TROOP TALK

"What will be your favorite thing at the upcoming air show?"



"I'm looking forward to showing my family the Air Force's capabilities."

Senior Airman Jeffrey Mann
58th Aerial Port Squadron



"I'm excited to see a variety of aircraft that we're not used to seeing at Westover."

Staff Sgt. Eric Glatczak,
58th Aerial Port Squadron

"I'm excited to see the Thunderbirds for the first time."

Senior Airman Luis Acosta
439th Airlift Wing



POPE'S PUNS

by W.C. Pope



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

PROMOTIONS

Chief Master Sgt.
Kara Stackpole



Master Sergeant
Angel Romero
William Buckhout
John Kuczynski



Technical Sergeant
Dillon Childs
Brian Jenkins
Eric Mailloux
Chayanne Acevedo
Sarah Buelow
Jennifer Casey
Darwin Najera
Stephan Dacosta
Oscar Weke
Christopher Titus
Stephen Williams



Staff Sergeant
Francis Westleigh
Thomas Griffin
Alysia Bator
Nirva Driscoll
Benjamin Poirier
Angela Bergeron
Andrew Norris
Ralph Toribio
Matthew Brotherton
Alyssa Lynch



Senior Airman
Jacob Ribeiro
Josephine Agyen
Christian Sears
Kiana Eaton
Joselyn Monzon
Derrick Cabral
Michael Fortis
Melissa Cyr
Faustino Colon
Jazmyn Anderson



Airman 1st Class
Nathan Marquez



Airman Aboudou Dao 58th Aerial Port Squadron

Airman Aboudou Dao, an air transportation specialist with the 58th Aerial Port Squadron, wanted to serve in the military since childhood. Last year, the 38-year-old realized his dream of wearing a uniform.

"I've always wanted to join, it's been a calling for a long time" said Dao. "It's a privilege only some people can claim, I wanted to be able to say I wore that uniform, I served."

Dao was born in Burkina Faso, in West Africa where he earned his degree in education. In 2004 Dao crossed the Atlantic and settled in Western Massachusetts where he works as a middle school teacher, and builds gas-powered remote-control model cars.

Dao said he reached a point where it was "now or never" and decided to walk into a recruiter's office. A short time later Dao entered the Development and Training Flight program here where he received a coin from the wing commander.

"That was one of my proudest moments," said Dao. "Getting that coin made me feel welcome here, it was a great way to start my Air Force career. I love that coin, I carry it with me every day."

After completing basic military training and technical training, Dao said his next goal is to each day work at being the best Airman he can be.



RETIREMENTS

Senior Master Sgt.
David Adams

Master Sergeant
Kenneth Wermann
Matthew Dallachie
Charlene Delesline

Technical Sergeant
Jon Bissonnette
Bryan Healy

Staff Sergeant
Andrew Lore

SERVICES CALENDAR

westoverservices.com

Club >> Not including UTAs, we're open Sat. and Sun. from 3 p.m. to 12 a.m., closed Mon., and Tues. Fridays: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 12 a.m. Become a Club member, you can sign up at <https://www.memberplanet.com/account/usaf> The club card is good at most military installations. Club members pick up your punch card at the Grind, fill your card and get a free coffee. Complimentary Social Hour Snacks in the Lounge Tues. through Fri., 4 to 6 p.m.

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

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

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

Outdoor Recreation >> Come on over to our office and see what we have. Call 413-557-2192 or go to <http://westoverservices.com/OutdoorRec>



Published monthly for Patriots like Senior Master Sgt. Amelia O'Brien, 439th Airlift Wing and more than 4,700 people assigned to Westover Air Reserve Base.

Major changes to enlisted professional military education

Air force officials recently announced some major changes to enlisted professional military education. Airmen in the active duty component are no longer required to complete courses 14 and 15. Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Airmen will have the option to complete their EPME through distance learning or in-residence attendance.

For more information, contact base training.

Patriot Archive online

If you are interested in Westover history a great place to start is the vast archive of Patriots ranging from 1975 through today. You can browse them at www.westover.afrc.mil/news/the-patriot

A&FR/KEY SPOUSE CALENDAR westoverservices.com

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.

SPOUSE FOCUS GROUP >> Airman and Family Readiness will be holding a Spouse Focus Group on Thurs., June 7 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Consolidated Club's Lounge Extension Room.

ORION THE HUNTER >>

Occasionally Westover is visited by Navy P-3 Orion aircraft. Its mission is to patrol and detect enemy submarines. It has a distinctive "tail stinger" or "MAD Boom". This stinger uses the fluctuation in the

Earth's magnet field to detect subs beneath the waves. 724 were originally built and the P-3 airframe joins the club of aircraft in the U.S. military that have been in serving for over 50 years, joining the B-52 Stratofortress and KC-135 Stratotanker.

(photo by W.C.Pope)

