

## Air Force Ball

Westover celebrates  
Air Force's 60<sup>th</sup>  
with military ball.

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**RAMPING UP** >> A Rodeo maintainer marshals in a Westover C-5 during the 2000 competition. Westover will participate in this year's competition at McChord Air Force Base, Wash., July 21-28. Look for coverage of the results in the September Patriot.

## AIR MOBILITY RODEO 2007

## EDITORIAL | Answering the call — past, present and future



**General Farris**

Six years. That is longer than many of you have been in the 439th Airlift Wing or the military for that matter. However, as of September that is how long we will have been engaged in the Global War on Terror. And make no mistake, Westover, as part of the Total Force,

continues to play a major role in this war.

Since 2001 we activated over 1,000 Airmen and deployed hundreds. And today over 250 of our people are on active duty orders. Our aircrew has flown Army, Navy and Marine personnel and equipment to strategic positions all over the globe. Air Force reservists fly as much as 20 percent of C-5 airlift into the war zone. To the point, Westover's Airmen are dodging bullets, saving lives and enduring family separation in some of the harshest conditions in the world, all as volunteers.

Every one of you volunteered to enter the armed forces and every one of you volunteered to serve in the Air Force Reserve. While there are many

reasons Airmen join the military, I would venture to guess the majority of you signed up because you have an innate sense of duty to the United States and a calling to protect the lives of the innocent.

Next month as we celebrate the Air Force's 60-years as its own distinct branch of the U.S. military, it is vital that I point out the importance of your consistent, "above and beyond" volunteerism. Your willingness to serve in extreme conditions, away from your loved ones and in an environment that may literally be foreign to you is critical to this Wing's success and ultimately to the Nation's defense. Without your dedication, courage and sacrifice the Air Force cannot ensure our Nation meets its objectives both here and abroad.

Many of you are familiar with Westover's history but for those who are not let me sum it up by saying that this base has played a major role in every conflict since it was established in the early 1940s. From WWII through Korea, Vietnam, Desert Shield and Storm and now through today's war, we have been there. And since 1973 that role has been filled by citizen Airmen like you.

From its birth to today, Westover always answers the call of duty and always in a way that highlights just how outstanding we are. Our reputation as

a first-class organization is made possible by our dedicated, superior performers.

Whether you have been a part of the Westover family for 30 years or have just recently joined us, being part of a unit like the 439th is something of which you can be immensely proud and should celebrate from time to time. In fact, we are hosting a military ball on Sept. 8 to celebrate 60 years of Air Force heritage. I strongly encourage you to attend to be a part of this event so we can recognize the contributions YOU have made to this heritage.

Thank you for the sacrifices that you and your families make every day. And thank you for the outstanding job you do getting the mission accomplished. We cannot do it without you. And remember, nothing can stop the U.S. Air Force!

**Brig. Gen. Wade Farris**  
**439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Commander**

## BRIEFS |

### AF week in August

A flurry of local events will mark the state's Air Force week in August.

The Thunderbirds Air Demonstration Squadron will headline the Cape Cod Air Show 2007 at Otis Air National Guard Base, Mass. Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 25-26. Gates will open both days at 8 a.m.

The Golden Knights Army parachute demonstration team will also be featured at the air show.

The Air Force performing group, Tops in Blue, will be at Forest Park in Springfield at 5 p.m. on Aug. 24.

The 60th anniversary of the Air Force will be the theme at the Wings of Hope Air Show to be hosted at Pease ANGB, Portsmouth, N.H. on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 18-19. The air show will include the Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team. Details on other participants were not available at publication time.

### TRICARE Prime available for Reservists

US Family Health Plan is a TRICARE Prime option available to families of active duty military, family members of National Guard and Reserves (activated more than 30 days, or AGR), as well as to military retirees and their eligible family members. A valued partner of the U.S. Department of Defense, US Family Health Plan is a permanent part of the military health system, and has cared for military families for 25 years through six nonprofit organizations around the nation. Locally, US Family Health Plan currently serves thousands of military families in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, portions of southern New Hampshire, and portions of northern Connecticut.

### Volleyball raises funds for Military Ball

The senior NCOs of the Top 3 Council are challenging all comers in a volleyball tournament on Saturday, Aug. 11 of the "A" UTA to raise funds for Westover's upcoming 60th Anniversary of the Air Force Military Ball. Volleyball teams representing the Company Grade Officer Council and the 439th Security Forces Squadron have already accepted the challenge. Games will be played in the field behind the Westover Club, with team registration between 4:30 and 5 p.m. The charge will be \$5 per person and include volleyball, hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and desert. Take-out beverages will be available for purchase in the Club. The fun will include horseshoes and boom-box music. Coins, tee shirts and more from Westover units will be on sale. For more information about playing or selling merchandise, call Master Sgt. Theresa M. Robert at Ext. 3317

### Wing names third quarter winners

Westover's Quarterly Awards Board has selected the following third quarter award winners for their outstanding contributions to the wing mission:

Senior Airman Kristen Pinner, 439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron; Tech. Sgt. Jayme Frey, 439th Security Forces Squadron; Senior Master Sgt. David Jones, 337th Airlift Squadron; Second Lt. Marie Tracy, 42nd Aerial Port Squadron; Kristen Matulewicz and Karen Scott, 337th AS.

### Web site offers news

The official Westover web site is a convenient reference resource for anyone seeking information about the base. The official site can be reached at [www.westover.afrc.af.mil](http://www.westover.afrc.af.mil).



**HAVING A BALL** >> Men and women of the Patriot Wing enjoy the traditions of the 1990 military ball at Westover. The first ball in 17 years will be held Sept. 8 in the Base Hangar and will honor the 60th anniversary of the Air Force. (file photo)

## Westover kicks off AF 60<sup>th</sup> with military ball in Sept.

by Master Sgt. Tom Allocco

**M**ilitary tradition, distinguished guests and elegant dining and dancing appropriate for a once-in-a-career celebration will be the setting for the 60th Anniversary of the Air Force Military Ball on the evening of Saturday, Sept. 8.

Everyone in the Patriot Wing family of military, civilians and guests is invited to share a rare opportunity to celebrate the birthday of the Air Force in a formal affair steeped in tradition. Westover last hosted a formal military ball in 1990.

The tone of the evening will be set by mess dress for chief master sergeants and officers and choice of mess dress or semi-formal wear

uniform for enlisted men and women. The semi-formal wear uniform consists of the Class A uniform with white shirt and blue bow tie. Enlisted women, below the rank of chief master sergeants, may choose formal gowns. Uniform rentals are available commercially.

The guest of honor table will be headed by guest speaker Maj. Gen. Allan R. Poulin, vice commander of Air Force Reserve Command. General Poulin's distinguished career spans 37 years, beginning as an F-4 Phantom pilot at Da Nang, Vietnam and including 450 combat hours.

The Air Force Band of Liberty of Hanscom AFB, Mass. will help transform the Base Hangar into a ballroom. Following a formal meal intended to be memorable, the Air-

men will perform a range of music for an evening of dancing.

Tying together every event of the Military Ball will be a celebration of Air Force tradition.

"The Air Force is 60 years old, and we will mark its birthday with formal customs and protocol steeped in tradition going back hundreds of years. A Military Ball pays tribute to the past and reaffirms a commitment to build on what has come before," said Maj. Patrick S. Ryan, deputy commander of the 439th Mission Support Group.

As an organizer of the ball, Major Ryan noted that the evening will also be an opportunity to celebrate Westover's place of honor in Air Force history. It started when the first B-17 Flying Fortress landed at the Army Air Corps' Westover Field on June 10, 1941.

"Westover's history mirrors our Air Force's history. Westover has gone

from training base and assembly point for European-bound bombers and fighters to Air Transport Command base supporting the Berlin Airlift, to Strategic Air Command home of B-52s to Military Airlift Command staging point for the Desert Storm and Shield airlift, and finally to today's worldwide support of the war on terrorism. We will celebrate that history and the people who made it possible," Major Ryan said.

Tickets for the 60th Anniversary of the Air Force Military Ball are available starting at \$55 each. Electronic tickets have been mailed to everyone with a Westover e-mail address.

Tickets or more information about the Military Ball can also be obtained by calling Major Ryan at Ext. 3044, Chief Master Sgt. Kathy Wood at Ext. 2876 or Senior Airman Stephanie Ellis at Ext. 3011. Tickets may also be purchased from any first sergeant.





**COMMANDO COMMANDER** >> Former special operations pilot, Col. James M. Linder ( right ), took command of the 439th Operations Group on July 7. ( photo by Master Sgt. Anne Ward )

## Former SPECOPS pilot takes helm at OG

by Capt. Justin Manna

Col. Udo K. McGregor passed the 439th Operations Group command to Col. James M. Linder during a change-of-command ceremony at the Base Hanger on Saturday July 7 of the July "A" UTA.

The new 439th group commander came to Westover from 22nd Air Force, Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Georgia — where he served as chief of standardization and evaluations.

Colonel Linder is a former special operations pilot who literally wrote the book, a 200-page-training guide, on the C-130 Combat Talon during his time as an instructor at Hurlbert Field, Florida.

"I understand the importance. I understand the gravity. I look forward to working with you to collectively accomplish our mission. Your reputation is the finest," said Colonel Linder, upon accepting command.

Colonel McGregor agreed, expressing his belief that his last three years at Westover had been the most successful of his career and reflected the work

and success of the 439th Operations Group.

"We are the envy of the Air Force...the best I have ever seen... I owe you," he said in his farewell address.

A highlight of the ceremony was Colonel McGregor's recognition as an honorary Chief Master Sergeant. The announcement was made by Command Chief Master Sgt. Zigmund D. Skawski and presented by Chief Master Sgt. Joseph J. Cullen, president of the 439th Chiefs' Council.

During the induction ceremony the Chiefs recognized Colonel McGregor as one of the greatest proponents for the well-being of enlisted Airmen through his efforts to improve morale and quality-of-life issues at Westover. Colonel McGregor's recognition was the first time a group commander has received designation.

Colonel McGregor left Westover to assume command of the 910th Airlift Wing located at Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Ohio.

Lt. Col. Charles D. Carroll also joined the operations group as the new deputy commander.

## Air Force streamlines OPR and EPR process

**WASHINGTON (AFPN)** — Air Force officials are introducing new officer and enlisted evaluation forms as it transforms its personnel processes.

The major part of this effort has been directed at reducing the workload associated with preparing officer and enlisted performance reports while ensuring the evaluation process remains fair and provides for accurate portrayal of performance.

The change also includes the much anticipated addition of physical fitness documentation to both evaluation and feedback forms.

Although the Air Force used a competency based performance evaluation and feedback process, the changes to the evaluation forms make them a more user-friendly, value-added product that accurately reflects an Airman's performance.

Both the officer and enlisted performance reports were shortened and technologically enhanced to decrease the time required to accomplish the report.

On performance feedback worksheets, performance assessment areas are now evaluated on a standardized criterion using "Does not Meet," "Meets," "Above Average" and "Clearly Exceeds" criterion.

The new IMT performance report and performance feedback worksheets are available at <http://www.e-publishing.af.mil/>.

Questions should be directed to HQ AFPC/DPPPEP, evaluations programs management branch at DSN 665-2571 or e-mail at [AFPC.DPPEP@randolph.af.mil](mailto:AFPC.DPPEP@randolph.af.mil).

The Westover Military Personnel Flight members will be holding training in August to cover this new program. For more information, please call Ext. 3874.




## New CC at 337<sup>th</sup>

The men and women of the 337th Airlift Squadron welcomed their new commander when Lt. Col. Vito E. Addabbo accepted the flag from Lt. Col. Louis M. Shogry.

Colonel Shogry has accepted a position with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in Albany, NY.

Colonel Addabbo formerly served as Reserve chief pilot of the 337th.

In accepting command of the squadron, Colonel Addabbo saluted the achievements of his predecessor and promised to emphasize accomplishing the mission while keeping safety a top priority.

A photograph of a man in a red shirt performing a bench press in a gym. The man is lying on a bench, pushing a barbell with weights up. The gym is filled with various exercise machines and equipment. The lighting is bright, and the overall atmosphere is one of intense physical activity.

Westover Airman  
is breaking  
records and ...

# Pressing ON

by Senior Airman Timm Huffman

# W

Westover athlete Senior Airman Rick Marrama recently set a new record in the power lifting bench press event for his weight class. The Patriot Wing power lifter benched 620 pounds in the 198-pound weight class during a local open class American Power Lifting Association meet. This feat broke the previous record of 600 pounds.





**WARMING UP**

Senior Airman Rick Marrama warms up with light weights at the Westover Fitness Center. Airman Marrama is a competitive-power lifter, who recently set a record for his weight class, benching 620 pounds. ( photo by Senior Airman Michael Lanza )



**A NEW RECORD** >> Senior Airman Rick Marrama benches an astounding 620 pounds during the local open class American Power Lifting Association meet. He broke the previous record of 600 pounds in his weight class. ( courtesy photo )

Airman Marrama is a lifetime drug-free athlete, meaning he has never used steroids or drugs to enhance his training. He said he travels from his home in Leominster to his gym in Worcester for training three times a week.

"I try to work on different things during my training, but my focus is on benching," he said.

The 439th Maintenance Squadron air reserve technician also watches his diet to make sure he's getting plenty of proteins and not too many carbohydrates. He said he's tried supplements such as

creatine and protein shakes, but has found his diet is the best way to get the nutrition he needs.

Another reason Airman Marrama said he watches what he eats is to make sure he remains in the appropriate weight class. Before weigh-ins he has a routine that includes up to three hours in a sauna.

Now that he has broken the 600 pound record, Airman Marrama said he is working towards lifting 700 pounds at the 198 pound weight class.

Airman Marrama is currently sponsored by a company that pro-

vides him with his lifting shirts, but he is currently seeking more sponsors to support his training and competing. It can be a real challenge at times between balancing his Air Force job and his training. He said he has to take leave and pay for all his expenses out-of-pocket.

Airman Marrama has been competing for more than 10 years in various events, winning competitions and setting records. In 2005, he placed first in a World Bench Meet in Reno, Nev. During high school, he won at the national level

four times and has won numerous times at local and national competitions. By pressing 620 pounds, he surpassed his own goal of benching 600 pounds.

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**"Airman Marrama said he is working towards lifting 700 pounds."**

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#### AT EASE

Deployed aerial porters Staff Sgt. Ronald Antezana (left) and Senior Airman Richard Leger (to his left), 85th Aerial Port Squadron, join Airmen of other squadrons taking a break on an armored vehicle under a hot desert sun during operations at an airfield supporting Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. (courtesy photo)

# The Desert Express

by Master Sgt. Tom Allocco

Nineteen Patriot Wing aerial porters are moving cargo and passengers in the war on terrorism in a part of the world where the desert sun is a relentless enemy that can drain your strength while making every task more difficult and dangerous.

Men and women of the 85th Aerial Port Squadron of Hanscom AFB, Mass. have been at the desert base since May supporting Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. That's long enough to see the summer heat climb and stay in mind numbing triple digits.

Senior Master Sgt. Steven Meltzer, team chief of the deployed aerial porters, described the conditions as something never seen in New England.

"It gets up above 110 on most days and will hit 120," he said. For aerial porters on a flightline of hard surfaces and metal aircraft, the temperature can climb another 10 degrees.

"The heat is the biggest battle. You have to always be aware of what it can do to you and take precautions. There are water trucks and sheds of water bottles everywhere and signs with safety messages. During the worst of it, supervisors follow a work

cycle of 20 or 30 minutes and then have people rest out of the sun. Sometimes you can't do that if you've got to get the mission done," he said.

By July the deployed aerial porters also had experienced three or four sandstorms, which Sergeant Meltzer described as causing a gritty sand version of a nor'easter white-out.

The aerial porters are serving Air Expeditionary Force tours with the 386th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron projected to continue into September. They are doing the full range of aerial port jobs, including the Air Terminal Operations Center (ATOC), passenger, cargo and ramp operations. The Patriot Wing aerial porters represent one of 18 Air Force-wide units running the port operations.

The job of conducting the airlift in and out of Iraq, Afghanistan and other destinations in the Middle East involves two 12-hour shifts, with six days on and one day off. The base is a main transient point for American and Coalition aircraft, including British, Japanese, Australian and Korean C-130s. One of the more rewarding jobs of the 85th aerial porters is moving troops coming out of Iraq and Afghanistan combat on rest and recuperation breaks.

"We have a saying here, 'we put boots on the ground'

which means we are putting people into the theater of operations. We have the heaviest passenger operation in the AOR (area of responsibility)," Sergeant Meltzer said.

He noted that despite the heat and random sandstorm, the base has amenities for deployed troops. "The food is outstanding, the roads are paved and there have been entertainment groups. I've been told that it wasn't like this a few years ago," he said.

The aerial porters have access to a swimming pool with cooled water, a fully equipped recreation center and a media center with videos, game stations, phones and e-mail.

Cultural tours are available off base, but there is little time to take advantage of the opportunity. "The best strategy is to keep busy. You fall into a routine of work, exercise and rest," Sergeant Meltzer said.

"We say 'it's not the greatest place to be, but we're keeping spirits up.' I can't say enough about the positive attitude," he said.

The deployed aerial porters are: Master Sgt. Stephen Brannan, Renee Myrdek, Edward Brown and Robert Muller; Tech. Sgt. Herbert Mello, Carlos Lopez, Charles Cognato, Richard Chartinez and Kandie McNeil; Staff Sgt. Ronald Antezana, Keith Davis, Thomas Morrill, Mike Pietrantonio, Anthony Branco and Edwin Wriston; and Senior Airman Jayme Bagtas, Richard Leger and Robert Williams.

WESTOVER PATRIOTS |

**Fitness center revives  
Commander's Cup**

By Master Sgt. Tom Allocco

**T**he Commander's Cup sports and fitness challenge is coming back to the Patriot Wing. The Westover Fitness Center is reviving the Commander's Cup competition among teams which had lapsed here in recent years.

In line with an increased emphasis on fitness, the center is following the example of other Air Force bases in challenging units to form teams to compete for a Commander's Cup. The challenge is for teams representing all Patriot Wing units to compete against each other for points in a full range of sports and fitness events over a one-year period. In the end, the top Westover team will have the honor of displaying the Commander's Cup in their unit until the following year.

The determination of outstanding Westover unit of the year for sports and fitness will kick off with a softball tournament and dodgeball tournament during the September "B" UTA. Similar tournaments, volleyball, runs and other competition will continue through the October, 2008 "A" UTA, after which the Commander's Cup winner will be announced.

The Westover Sports Council will meet at the Westover Fitness Center at 1 p.m. on Saturday of the August "A" UTA to discuss possible events for the Commander's Cup challenge. For more information about the team competition, call Rick Heller, acting director of the Westover Fitness Center at Ext. 3958.



**EMPLOYER DAY** >> David Markham, a civilian employer to Tech. Sgt. Norman O'Brien, 439th Communications Squadron, gets a tour inside a C-5 at Westover's ISO dock. (photo by Senior Airman Michael Lanza)

**Employers receive insight into military life**

by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

BDUs and a mobility line greeted the bosses who "deployed" to Westover during the July A UTA.

A line of bosses filed out the door to the Westover Club to "in-process" for the annual Employer Day held July 7. Their employees – more than 30 reservists – also welcomed the group as the bosses received mobility folders, shot records and other vital information before their welcome from Brig. Gen. Wade Farris, 439th Airlift Wing commander.

As the bosses ate lunch with the reservists, they received "intelligence" that the deployment was taking place in a high-threat area of the world. To be prepared for this, employers applied their skills at donning JSLIST chemical warfare ensembles.

The employers heard about military life from a vet-

eran reservist who recently deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq. Chief Master Sgt. Donald Martel, 42nd Aerial Port Squadron, credited his boss, James Muri, for his support.

Mr. Muri was among 28 of the employers who flew aboard a Westover C-5 for an hour-long trip over the hook of Cape Cod and along the southern Connecticut coast before it returned to Westover.

Besides the C-5 flight, the employers also toured the reservists' workplaces, the control tower, and the isochronal inspection (ISO) area, before returning to the club for an afternoon mixer.

"It was truly an afternoon I won't forget," said Dennis Sciarrino, employer of Senior Airman Marina R. Buie, 439th Logistics Readiness Squadron. "Thank you for a wonderful day and the insight to the inner workings of the base."



**Marine change of  
command**

A change of command recently took place with one of Westover's major tenant units.

Lt. Col. Michael A. Warbeck

assumed command of Marine Air Support Squadron Six (MASS-6) from Lt. Col. Michael J. Flynn.

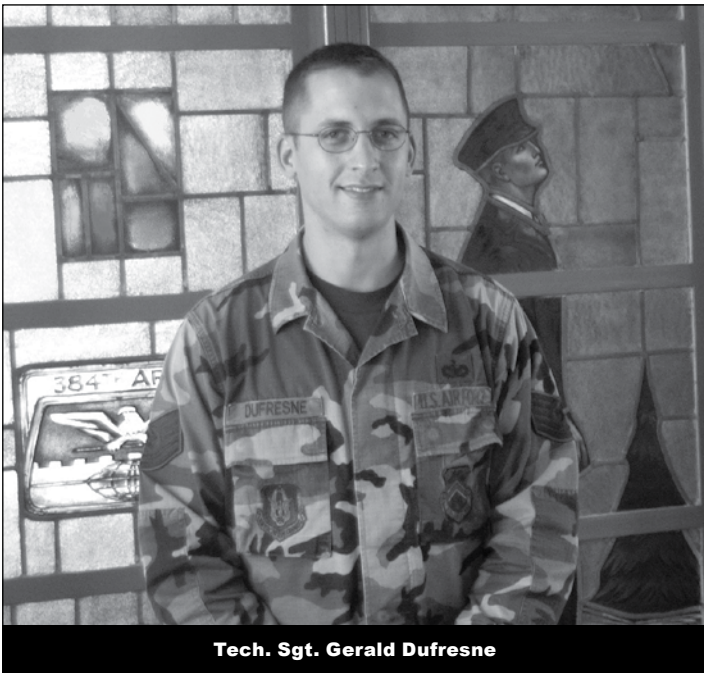
Colonel Warbeck was commissioned in July 1988. He transferred to the Selected Marine Corps Reserve in 1995 and was assigned to MASS-6.

Colonel Warbeck has served tours of duty in Operations Southern Watch, Iraqi Freedom, and Enduring Freedom.

More than 400 active-duty and reserve Marines are assigned to the base.



**PATRIOT PEOPLE |**



**Tech. Sgt. Gerald Dufresne**

NAME : Gerald Dufresne  
 RANK : Tech. Sgt.  
 HOMETOWN : Ashford, CT  
 UNIT : 439th AW/HC  
 POSITION : NCOIC Base Chapel  
 CIVILIAN POSITION : Police Officer  
 FAVORITE FOOD : Pizza  
 YEARS OF SERVICE : 11  
 FAVORITE SPORT : Hockey  
 FAVORITE HOBBY : Motorcycles  
 IDEAL VACATION : Somewhere on the beach  
 BEST WAY TO RELAX : Spa  
 PREFERRED ENTERTAINMENT : Movies  
 FAVORITE HERO : Paul Newman  
 FAVORITE MUSIC STYLES : 80's music  
 FAVORITE MOVIE : Uncle Buck  
 FAVORITE AIRCRAFT : F-86 Sabre  
 PET PEEVE : Large crowds of people  
 WHAT WOULD I DO IF I WON \$1 MILLION : Relax



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**PATRIOT PUNS |**



**PATRIOT PRAISES |**

**Chiefs recently inducted**

Chief master sergeant  
 Olivia K. Eason  
 Kurt C. Kohler  
 David A. Mottor  
 Michael J. Sullivan

James P. Garrity  
 Andrew P. McGovern  
 Vikki J. Stokes  
 Stephan J. Gusan  
 Michael R. Bellerose  
 McDonald R. Molina  
 Sean R. Powell

Phaly S. Walker  
 Robert J. Walker  
 Antonio Demarco  
 Daniel R. Ejdays  
 Richard W. Gheen  
 Leslie J. Hunter  
 William A. Mackey  
 Irving Little  
 Shane Newhart  
 Robert S. Rodrigue

Christopher W. Crowningshield  
 Kevin P. Godbout  
 Allen J. Guiel Jr.  
 Gregory S. Levangie  
 Daniel P. O'Flaherty  
 Michael J. Rochon  
 Chelsey A. Stead  
 Andrew J. Tynik  
 David A. Williams  
 Victor Wong  
 Cynthia J. Harris  
 Scott A. Macnevens  
 Peter J. Murphy  
 David N. Padgett  
 Elizabeth A. Sanford

**Reenlistments**

Chief Master Sgt.  
 Catherine J. Skalecki

Master sergeant  
 James M. Bowler  
 Wayne A. Rehnberg  
 Andrew T. Rivet  
 James P. Scott  
 Dennis J. Vight

Senior master sergeant  
 Gary Phillip Bisson

Technical sergeant  
 Roy A. Agpaaa  
 James F. Anthony  
 Kevin R. Blake





**SMOKE HOUSE** >> Wayne Wood, a Westover fire fighter, prepares to enter the base's new "smoke house," a training facility designed to simulate the temperatures and visibility fire fighters will face in real world emergencies. Local fire fighters also joined the Westover crew during the June inaugural event here. ( photo by Senior Airman Michael Lanza )

**PATRIOT** |

[www.westover.afrc.af.mil](http://www.westover.afrc.af.mil)

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Published monthly for Patriots like Senior Airman Brett Johnson, Hadley, Mass., and 3,053 reservists and civilians of the 439<sup>th</sup> AW and the wing's geographically separated unit at Hanscom AFB, Mass.

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