

ARBT

**With openings base-wide,
Air Reserve Technician
could be your next career move**

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439Patriot.Editor@
westover.af.mil
(413) 557-2063
www.westover.afrc.af.mil

439TH AIRLIFT WING COMMANDER
Col. Robert Swain Jr.

CHIEF OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Vacant

WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
Maj. Wilson Camelo

AIR RESERVE TECHNICIAN / EDITOR
Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

STAFF

Tech. Sgt. Brian Boynton
Tech. Sgt. Troy Thibeault
Tech. Sgt. Timothy Huffman
Senior Airman George Cloutier
Senior Airman Andre Bowser

ADMINISTRATION
Dana Moore

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ON THE COVER >> Air reserve technician career opportunities provide reservists with full-time employment, while being part of the day-to-day operations at Westover. Turn to page 6 for more information.



LINKING UP >> Tech. Sgt. David Gilles, 439th Communications Squadron, conducts an exercise with the Joint Incident Site Communications Capability system April 1. Westover is the first Air Force Reserve Command base to receive the JISCC. Turn to page 5 for additional photo and story, or click on Westover's web site to see the story and video. The link to the web site is www.westover.afrc.af.mil. (photo by Senior Airman Andre Bowser)



Chief Skawski

Winter is long over. Our recent warm weather signals the coming of spring with summer not far behind. With the change in the seasons also comes significant changes to operations at Westover, with the in-place

mobilization of nearly 500 Airmen to support the surge in Afghanistan.

Another contingent of about 300 Westover Airmen are mobilizing and preparing to deploy forward in support of Overseas Contingency Operations. The numbers are impressive. With more than 800 Westover Airmen engaged in support operations, the Patriot Wing is making significant contributions to the Air Force mission.

Each of us has an important role in that mission, whether you are mobilized, reservist, air reserve technician, civilian, contractor, or active/guard reserve. Your role is key to the Patriot Wing's successes and the safe accomplishment of the mission.

The wing's C-5s are providing 35 percent of the C-5 fleet capability for airlift, a huge

amount of work, but the Westover team eagerly rises to the challenge.

As operations begin, plans call for enhancing services to meet the growing needs of you and your families. The fitness center is now open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, providing fitness and wellness programs. The club and bowling center staffs are expanding their hours of operations and services, and the military personnel flight and Airman and Family Readiness Center are also extending hours of operation to meet your needs. We in senior leadership know everyone has a vital role in our wing's operations.

Timing could not be any better for us to welcome to the Westover family, Chaplain (Maj.) Ted Nicholson. Chaplain Nicholson is assigned to the wing as active guard/reserve (AGR) and is available on a full-time basis for wing Airmen.

Stress levels in our lives parallel the increase in operations here, as scores of traditional reservists transition to their military careers.

The change not only affects us, but our employers and most importantly our families too. Wing leaders recognize this and encourage you to use the many support agencies we have on base. Please use such organizations as our Airman and Family Readiness Center -- the winners of the 2008 Department

of Defense Family Readiness Award. The chaplains' office and your first sergeants are other options.

With summer just around the corner, I must mention the 101 Critical Days of Summer. We are all looking forward to getting outdoors for summer fun -- be it swimming, biking, boating or riding motorcycles.

Please be careful. Regardless of whether you are at work or at home, please ask yourself this one simple question:

Am I going to get hurt or hurt someone else?

If the answer is no -- have fun -- if the answer is anything else -- STOP.

Think it through.

Please remember an increase in operations means more people and more aircraft. We must BE ALERT to STAY SAFE. Slow down, watch your wingman -- we are Airmen taking care of Airmen. I am mobilized as well. I am proud to be a member of the Patriot Wing. Your pride and professionalism and the contributions you make to this wing's mission are phenomenal. We are truly LEADERS in EXCELLENCE.

Command Chief Master Sgt. Zigmund Skawski

BRIEFS |

Rising 6 officers

Rising 6 members recently voted for its new slate of officers.

They are:

President: Senior Airman Marina Buie

Vice President: Staff Sgt. Davielle Rodgers

Secretary: Staff Sgt. Christopher Eldridge

Treasurer: Senior Airman Brian Albert

Formerly the Junior Enlisted Advisory Council, Rising 6 members advise senior leadership on quality-of-life issues at Westover, and assist with running base events.

Members meet at 8:30 a.m. each Sunday morning of the A UTAs, in the wing commander's conference room in Bldg. 1850 on Patriot Avenue.

Wing plans fourth annual workshop

The Patriot Wing's fourth annual enlisted workshop is scheduled to begin the Sunday of the June A UTA (June 6) at the Westover Conference Center. The theme of the 2010 workshop is, "I Am An Airman, I Am A Warrior." The workshop wraps up June 8. May 16 is the final sign-up date. Airmen interested in attending should contact Chief Master Sgt. Kathy Wood at 557-2876.

AFRC awards comm squadron

The 439th Communications Squadron recently earned Air Force Reserve Command Communications and Information Awards for 2009. The awards include the top civilian specialist, Deborah Heady, who is an information technology specialist/resource advisor. The squadron also received the Lt. Gen. Harold W. Grant Award.

Base marks 70 years of service

Westover passed through its seventh decade of service April 6. The base opened April 6, 1940, said Master Sgt. Joseph Gluckert, 439th Airlift Wing historian. Westover evolved through multiple roles as an active-duty base until April 1974, when it became an Air Force Reserve base. Sergeant Gluckert recently won the AFRC Spirit of the Eagle Award for his historical documentation during a 2009 deployment to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

Quarterly awards

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

Airman: Senior Airman Matthew Kadish, 58th Aerial Port Squadron

Noncommissioned Officer: Tech. Sgt. Desmond Farrell, 439th Communications Squadron

Senior NCO: Senior Master Sgt. Mark Farrington, 42nd Aerial Port Squadron

Company Grade Officer: Capt. Matthew Hein, 42nd APS

Civilian: Shawn Rooney, 439th Security Forces Squadron

Civilian Supervisor: Jeffrey McCarthy, 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.



MOBILIZATION >> Senior Airman Zach Allard works late into the night, conducting an oil change on one of the C-5's four massive General Electric TF-39 engines. The Patriot Wing moved to 24-hour operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, in April. Westover's C-5B aircraft are providing 35 percent of the Air Force's C-5 missions. (photo by Tech. Sgt. Timm Huffman)

Nearly 500 reservists mobilize for surge

by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

The first major mobilization in more than seven years summoned nearly 500 reservists to Westover in early April to join the surge of operations for Operation Enduring Freedom.

Lines of reservists formed in the Westover Conference Center April 6 as military personnel flight Airmen arranged multiple briefings and mobility stations. The call-up of the 439th Airlift Wing reservists is to support Operation Enduring Freedom. The Airmen are scheduled to be on duty six months as part of providing airlift support for the movement of 30,000 additional American troops supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

These Airmen will join about 300 others at Westover who are scheduled to serve between four to six months on overseas contingency operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, beginning in latter April.

There are 16 C-5B strategic airlifters assigned to Westover. The C-5 is the largest aircraft in the Air Force inventory and its aircrews deliver supplies and people worldwide in support of Air Force airlift operations.



LINEUPS AND LISTS >> Reservists line up for shots, processing, mobility records, and briefings April 6 at the Westover Conference Center. (photo by Senior Airman Andre Bowser)



PLUGGING IN >> Tech. Sgt. Desmond Farrell, 439th Communications Squadron works on the Joint Incident Site Communications Capability system in April. (photo by Senior Airman Andre Bowser)

COMM links to history with first exercise of mobile unit

by Senior Airman Andre Bowser

Communications squadron reservists notched another first for the Patriot Wing in April with the first field exercise of a new mobile communications package conducted at an Air Force Reserve Command base.

The Airmen successfully put their new Joint Incident Site Communications Capability (JISCC) system to the test, said Capt. Jeremy Downer, 439th Communications Squadron officer in charge.

He and a group of communications Airmen started the field exercise the morning of April 1 by rolling out components of the mobile communications kit, all of which fit

inside of a 19-foot trailer and on the back of two flat-bed trucks.

An extensive set-up kicked off the exercise at 8:30 a.m., including satellite and antennae arrays; a tent that serves as the mobile command center, as well as a variety of communications equipment. The demonstration started in the early afternoon once the Airmen built a mock emergency site in a grassy field on base.

The ravages of a raging hurricane several years ago left more than scarred lands in the southeastern portion of the country. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, the lesson of stronger communications between different agencies left its mark, too.

The National Guard built the JISCC to make the job of responding to natural or man-made disasters a little easier. Now AFRC is adapting the capability to allow its bases flexible emergency response communications.

The JISCC is a communications innovation born after Hurricane Katrina in response to the challenges faced by multiple agencies in communicating with each other, Captain Downer said.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe contributed to this story. See the complete story and video of the JISCC exercise on Westover's web site:

www.westover.afrc.af.mil



"Being away from my wife and kids (in Albany, N.Y.) -- I only get to see them once a week, and that's not even a promise."

-- Staff Sgt. Bradley Von Haugg, 439th Civil Engineering Squadron



"Since I'm new ... to the unit and career field, just getting used to the clinic and all of my responsibilities."

-- Senior Airman Melissa McGinley, 439th Aerospace Medicine Squadron



"Missing my family and my friends (in Connecticut), even though I can go home every other weekend."

-- Tech. Sgt. Frank Falcone, 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

TROOP TALK | What has been the most difficult part of your mobilization?

Westover's Most Wanted

Patriot Wing seeks Air Reserve Technicians

by Senior Airman Andre Bowser

As the Air Force Reserve Command ramps up for mobilizations in which thousands of reservists will be deployed in support of missions to Afghanistan, the need for full-time support command-wide has highlighted staffing shortages.

Westover Air Reserve Base is no different, with a virtual "Help Wanted" sign hanging in its window for qualified, full-time, federal civilians who also will work part-time as reservists.

Air Reserve Technicians

The title of Air Reserve Technician isn't worn easily; many position openings require training sometimes exclusive to the military, and members always serve in the Air Force Reserve as an integral part of their work experience. But no job is as unique or rewarding for the same reason.

According to the Air Force Reserve Command: "An Air Reserve Technician (ART) carries



dual status, working as a full-time Department of Defense civil service employee and as a Reservist performing the same job in an Air Force Reserve Command unit.”

Master Sgt. William Hose, the ART recruiter at Westover, said AFRC wide there are shortages in the ranks of full time ARTs. He said the members act as the glue that binds the Air Force Reserve when traditional reservists are off leading their lives as civilians.

While several units within AFRC can attest to their own ART shortages, Sergeant Hose said locally there are more than 40 positions available presently at Westover. Most are in the aircraft maintenance field.

“We have jobs that are in almost every career field,” Sergeant Hose said, who noted that civilians, current as well as former military are encouraged to apply.

“We know that the best applicants we have are active duty members getting ready to separate and traditional Reservists with the needed AFSCs.”

But Sergeant Hose noted that qualified civilians would also be considered for the federal civilian employee positions, which would also require that they remain active in the Air Force Reserve if selected.

Of the ART openings at Westover, many fall under the category of urgent to the base’s mission given a recent mobili-

zation here, according to AFRC. That means that presently there is a pressing need to fill the dearth in the skilled mechanics that work on the largest U.S. military aircraft. Those professionals would help bolster the number of the existing staff of expert aircraft maintainers.

On the front line

On the flight line, Staff Sgt. Page Policastro wears many hats. The recently-hired ART said she had served as a traditional reservist for six years while she finished her bachelor’s of science in astronomy at the University of Massachusetts, before joining the full-time ART ranks in February.


As a 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, she teams with many specialists in launching aircraft for vital missions.

“I oversee the different specialty career fields and the work they do,” she said.

For her job, which Sergeant Policastro described as tantamount to a jack of all trades, key traits she relies on include: “patience; good people skills; the ability to learn quickly; high standards and integrity.”

The 25-year-old Springfield native and ART crew chief said her work in the reserve prepared her for her current role. She said she applied for the job and handled the lengthy process on her own, including filling out detailed forms called “elements,” which allowed her to describe her skills with a variety of tools and on aircraft parts.

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ART-WORK >> Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Riggs and Senior Airman Joseph Blackwood, both Air Reserve Technicians with the 439th Maintenance Squadron, mate the plane to the stands inside the isochronal inspection dock. (photo by Tech. Sgt. Timm Huffman)



ENGINE CHANGE >> Tech. Sgt. Frank Manegio, 439th Maintenance Squadron Air Reserve Technician, works on a C-5 during an engine change at the isochronal (ISO) area. (photo by Senior Airman Andre Bowser)

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“I had to submit about 15 pages of elements demonstrating my qualifications to work on the C-5,” Sergeant Policastro said.

Serving as an ART is mission-critical to the Air Force because members provide constant support at home stations while also remaining fully deployable to areas of operation, according to AFRC.

“You can be activated; you can be deployed,” Sergeant Policastro said. “But I got to go places I probably wouldn’t have gone otherwise,” such as El Salvador, among other places.

Sergeant Hose said while there are many positions available at Westover for ARTs, including out on the flight line, there are critical jobs that extend to the Air Force Reserve mission beyond Westover’s gates.

The regional C-5 isochronal (ISO) inspection facility at Westover has been active for

Applicants can refer to base web site for vacancies

Current Air Reserve Technician vacancies include aircraft maintenance and personnel.

To find out more about vacancies, visit Westover’s web site at www.westover.afrc.af.mil

Nearly 500 ARTs are Air Force reservists and civil service technicians with Westover’s 439th Airlift Wing, the host unit at the base. ARTs are civil service technicians who work at the base

full-time and also drill as reservists during the monthly unit training assemblies.

Applicants interested in joining the reserve as ARTs also need to contact Master Sgt. William Hose, the 439th AW ART recruiter, at 413-557-2943.

His e-mail is:

william.hose@westover.af.mil

more than three years, and it’s recently gotten busier.

The ISO is rapidly becoming the sole site for C-5 maintenance in the Air Force Reserve Command, according to Capt. Dusty Dossman, 439th Maintenance Squadron. He said the inspections done on C-5 aircraft at his site are detailed examinations of the entire aircraft, from nose to tail and wingtip to wingtip.

Captain Dossman said that aircraft maintainers look for repair problems in every system on the U.S. military’s largest aircraft, which has

20,000 working parts.

“We’re about to be the only unit doing this in the Air Force Reserve Command,” he said, gesturing to a C-5 parked just outside of the isochronal inspection facility on a recent Friday afternoon. “That C-5 right there flew in from Dover for an inspection.”

An inside job

Inside the ISO, towering scaffolding stands like a dinosaur’s skeleton; from secure vantages, workers comb every part of the C-5 -- one of the three largest

aircraft in the world.

Hunched down by a tire, Staff Sgt. James Kelly of Wareham, Mass., inspects the wheel with deft attention for anything out of the norm.

The 25-year-old former reservist, now an ART, served as a crew chief with fighter jets for five years before joining the ranks of C-5 mechanics at Westover. He’s been an ART since February.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Visit the Westover web site for the complete story:

www.westover.afrc.af.mil



AN EGGS-ELLENT TIME >> Children scatter on the Base Ellipse April 11 during the Airmen and Family Readiness Center's Month of the Military Child Egg Hunt. Children enjoyed a bounce house, C-5 tour, and games in the Base Hangar before the egg hunt. (photo by DeAnne Biscoe)

Think before posting thoughts and information on Internet

**by Tech. Sgt.
Troy Thibeault**

Social networking has become one of the most popular and interactive ways people connect and stay informed about one another. Although sites like Facebook and Twitter can be fun and provide information quickly, what some don't realize is how fast the information they are posting becomes so readily available to anyone.

People should be careful before discussing information on the Internet, particularly when discussing their jobs.

The 439th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office staff handles all official information for release on the Internet. If you are on Westover's Facebook page and have questions about what can and cannot be posted, please contact PA.

Once information is posted -- whether personal or operational, -- it cannot be retrieved. The best way to protect sensitive information is not to post it.

Most social networking sites allow their members to apply privacy settings. Some sites allow grouping people and granting these groups certain permissions or access to one's personal account or information.

Personal information includes many aspects of people's lives like work activities, names of

"Posting work related activities specifically related to the Air Force can greatly impact operational security and the mission. Sensitive information can include photos as well. Reviewing file names and tags for sensitive data is critical."

family and friends or even vacation plans.

Posting work-related activities specifically related to the Air Force can greatly impact operational security and the mission. Sensitive information can include photos as well. Reviewing file names and tags for sensitive data is critical.

People may take pictures not considering what's occurring in the background. Even reflective surfaces captured in photos can be the culprit of displaying dam-

aging information.

With all the appropriate steps taken, there are still ways our adversaries can gather information about us. Change your passwords frequently. Be vigilant of phishing scams and emails with attachments from unrecognizable people.

Having an up to date anti-virus will reduce the chances of exposing your system to viruses.

Reservists are encouraged to take part in social networking but also need to follow these guidelines to protect family, friends and maintain operational security. Wing operational security (OPSEC) officers also can provide tips on using care when on the Internet.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Questions may e-mailed to the 439th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office at 439aw.pa@westover.af.mil.

WESTOVER PATRIOTS |



FLAG FROM OUR FRIENDS >> Westover Marine Capt. Christopher Hermann and Staff Sgt. Andrew Galonska display a special American flag at Bowie Elementary School in Chicopee, March 18. The Bowie students created the flag from handprints last year. The Marines, with Marine Wing Support Squadron 472, also presented a framed certificate of appreciation and letter stating when and where the flag was displayed during their unit's deployment to Iraq. (photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Boynton)

Key Spouse volunteers keep in touch with families of deployed

**by Tech. Sgt.
Andrew Biscoe**

A volunteer-driven program is helping keep families of deployed Airmen informed while their loved ones are serving their country away from home.

One of those Key Spouse Program volunteers is Therese Sarnelli. She has experienced the months of separation that families deal with – her husband deployed for 15 months six years ago. Now assigned to the 337th Airlift Squadron, Tech. Sgt. Ronald Sarnelli travels on monthly

overseas missions.

“It was very hard at first when Ron was gone. It took a good two months to get used to being a single parent ... the deployment took a lot out of us.”

While Sergeant Sarnelli served in the Army National Guard, Ms. Sarnelli met Kimberly Babin, an Army Guard family resource contact, who is also with the Airmen and Family Readiness Center as an Air Force reservist. “She was the only support I had (through the Army Guard) while Ron was deployed,” Ms. Sarnelli said.

“I may have only known Kim at the time for about four months but she made a big impact on me.”

That influence led Ms. Sarnelli to join the new Key program at Westover, then called the Key Family Member Program. “When I saw they needed help, I thought this would be a perfect way to help another family,” she said.

“I knew I could be there for a family, like Kim was there for me. I decided to volunteer when I saw in the news letter that they needed volunteers.”

Ms. Sarnelli reflects on what she

has experienced as the greatest benefit to her satisfaction with volunteering.

“I think just knowing there is someone out there who knows how you feel and can relate is the best feeling in the world,” she said. “I feel I can make a difference by just being there for someone. It makes me satisfied knowing I can be there to help someone who needs help. We are all family and should be there for each other.”

For more information on the Key Spouse program, call the Airmen and Family Readiness Center at 557-3024, or visit the web site www.westoverafrc.org



PATRIOT PEOPLE |



Chaplain (Maj.) Ted Nicholson

NAME: Ted Nicholson
 RANK: Chaplain (Major)
 AGE: 47
 HOMETOWN: Austin, Texas
 FAVORITE FOOD: Catfish and beef barbecue
 YEARS OF SERVICE: 15
 FAVORITE SPORT: College football
 FAVORITE HOBBY: Tennis and scuba
 IDEAL VACATION: Phuket, Thailand
 BEST WAY TO RELAX: Lying on the beach
 PREFERRED ENTERTAINMENT: Watching movies
 FAVORITE HERO: George Washington
 FAVORITE MUSIC: Steven Curtis Chapman
 FAVORITE MOVIE: The Devil's Brigade
 FAVORITE AIRCRAFT: A-10 and SR-71
 PET PEEVE: Dogs barking while I'm sleeping
 WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH \$1 MILLION?
 Fund orphanages and Bible translation
 To learn more about Westover's newest chaplain, visit:
www.westover.afrc.af.mil

AT THE CLUB >> The club is located on Galaxy Road. Visit the services web site for daily specials. Information: 413-593-5531

SOFTBALL ON >> Softball teams may register beginning in April. The season starts in May. Call 557-3958 to make reservations.

OUTDOOR RECREATION >> Spring time items for rent include an Aerator, Over Seeder, Power Rake, Post Hole Digger and more. Located near the family camping area, the outdoor recreation staff may be reached at 557-2192.

AT THE CHAPEL >> Catholic Mass is held on A UTA Saturdays at 4:15 p.m. and Sundays at 11:30 a.m. A Protestant service is held Sunday at 11:30 a.m. Catholic Mass is held on B UTA Sundays at 11:30 a.m. Protestant service is at 11:30 a.m. The base chapel is in Bldg. 1100 on Walker Avenue. For more information, call 557-3031.

SERVICES CALENDER | www.westoverservices.com

Retirements

Lt. Col. Douglas Sudnick

Chief Master Sgt. Olivia Eason

**Master sergeant
 Arthur Riley Jr.
 Roger Dager**

**Technical sergeant
 Steven Bone
 Merrill Pregeant
 Scott Lennerton
 Sean Sullivan
 George Tocher**

PATRIOT PRAISES | Promotions

Promotions

Senior Master Sgt. Mark Czmyr

Master sergeant
 Steven Bryant
 Gregory Davidson
 David St. Denis
 Edward Lepsch
 Dana Tesorero
 John Tinnemeyer
 John Maycock
 Timothy Shoup

Technical sergeant
 David Christian

Darrell Harper
 Justin Joslin
 Leah O'Leary
 David Owens
 Stephen Mckunes
 Ryan Mulqueen
 Dean Lischke
 Melissa Small
 Nicholas Henchey
 Mary Young
 Shutasica Irby
 Ronald Samell
 Matthew Swindlehurst
 Jeffrey Szymanski
 Ronald Tyson
 David Giles

Lauren Narkiewicz
 Terry Wint

Staff sergeant
 Eliezer Barbosa
 Jonathan Bowker
 James Kelly
 Timothy Allen
 Kourtney Frey
 Corey Gallant
 Christopher Hodges
 Jeremy Baker
 Rachel Benson
 Katie Lee
 Charles Putnam
 Dominique Powell

Stacy Sabrowsky
 Matthew Savard
 Janelle Tablada
 Peter Stone

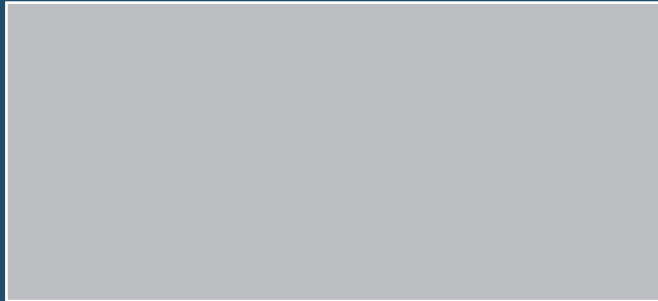
Senior airman
 Shawn Day
 Stephanie McKenna
 Willmary Vega
 Michelle Plante
 Matthew Flaherty
 Kevin Brown
 Andrew Pont
 Leeanne Degiule

Amn. Brittany Menegan



Published monthly for Patriots like Senior Airman Samantha Gonzales, Springfield, Mass., and 3,053 reservists and civilians of the 439th AW.

439th Airlift Wing
100 Lloyd St., Box 49
Westover ARB
Chicopee, Mass. 01022-1825



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PRESCRIBED BURN >> Jack Moriarty, civil engineering, photographed this prescribed burn that took place on the airfield April 3. The Westover fire department and US Forest Service teamed up for the 300-acre burn, designed to clear out older vegetation. Another burn is planned for late summer. The Patriot Portrait of the Month encourages photographers to submit their photos for publication to PA. Digital photos may be e-mailed to 439aw.pa@westover.af.mil. Deadline for the next *Patriot* is by the end of the June A UTA. High-resolution digital photos are preferred. For more information e-mail PA at 439patriot.editor@westover.af.mil or call 413-557-2063.

Photo submission of the month