

Bro-ller Derby

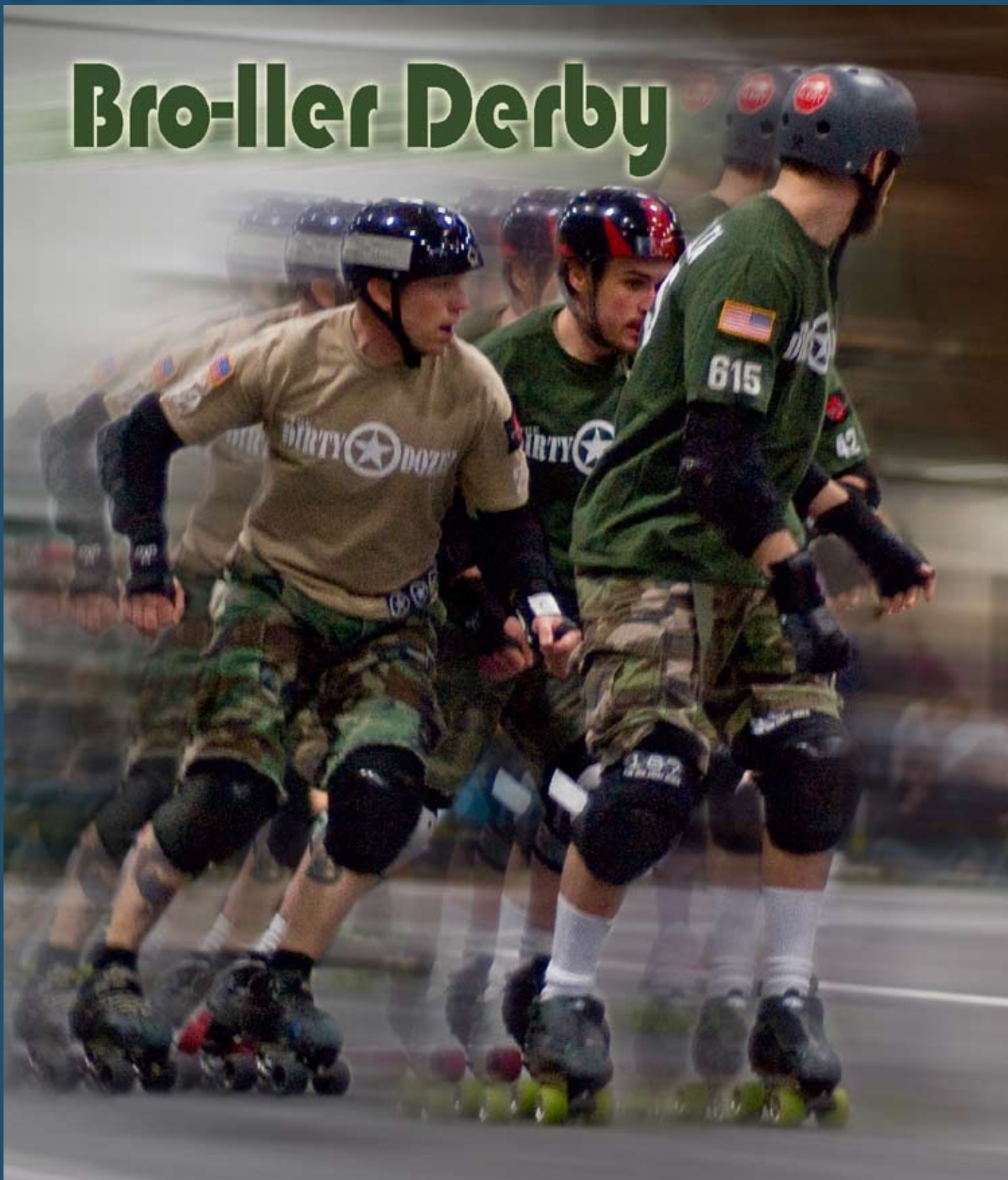


photo by Senior Airman Alexander Brown

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UTA SNAPSHOT |

August

Wing change of command
11 a.m. Aug. 6, Base Hangar
Col. Robert Swain will
relinquish command to
Col. Steven Vautrain

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ROWDY ROLLER Senior Master Sgt. Dean Pelouquin heads up Westover's Explosive Ordnance Disposal flight by day and is a roller derby competitor by night. See story and additional photo on page 9.

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CHOP CHOP Motorcyclists quickly align their bikes on the flight line as part of a farewell ceremony for Col. William Kountz, 439th Maintenance Group commander, who relinquished command to Col. Kerry Kohler June 4. Turn to page 10 for additional photos of the MXG and mission support group changes of command. (photo by Senior Airman Alexander Brown)



Colonel Finley

My arrival at Westover couldn't have happened at a better time. You may think that statement is crazy after the past year you've had preparing for the ORI.

For me it has become an outstanding opportunity to see the people in the 439th Airlift Wing at their very best.

I knew coming into this job that I could expect to find great people, considering the Wing won the 2010 Lt. Gen. Sherrard Award as the top Reserve Wing in the Command. I've already seen how inspired for excellence everyone is: that includes every airman, civilian, and contract employee.

I've already seen "One team, one mission" demonstrated daily. It's easy to understand how the wing recently earned four major

AFRC awards in three months.

Of course underlying those awards are many contributions – ones that aren't always apparent and not always mentioned in the citations. The leadership in the Patriot Wing and at HQ AFRC knows that much of that contribution evolves from the platform of agile combat support and in-garrison base operating support. In other words, much of what is done within the structure of the support group and our mission focus.

With that mission focus is inevitably a lot of struggle and difficulties that must be overcome. The British Statesman Lord Chesterfield said, "A man of sense is never discouraged by difficulties; he redoubles his industry and his diligence, he perseveres and infallibly prevails at last." This principle was time-tested during the ORI. I'm pleased to have come here at the perfect time to see our wing perform the ultimate demonstration, with all of our mission specialties converging into a team focus.

From here forward, my commitment to the wing commander and to all of you is that we continue to assure processes and opportunities for all of our personnel as the first priority, and to maintain a positive working environment that brings a sense of satisfaction and a safety-conscious approach in everything we do. We need each of you to find satisfaction and pride in your labor, and for each of you to aspire to improve on the successes of the past.

Because of those successes I feel a great sense of pride in having the opportunity to lead the mission support group. I have enjoyed a warm welcome from everyone I've made contact with, and I look forward to getting to know as many of you as possible. Thank you for everything you do so well as we continue to stake our claim in excellence.

by Col. Bruce Finley
439th Mission Support Group
commander

BRIEFS |

Quarterly awards

Westover's quarterly awards board has selected the following winners for their outstanding contributions to the 439th Airlift Wing mission for the second quarter of 2011:

Airman: Senior Airman Nicholas Collins, 439th Maintenance Squadron

NCO: Tech. Sgt. Christopher Eldridge, 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Senior NCO: Master Sgt. LaWanna Viers, 439th Communications Squadron

Company Grade Officer: Capt. Scott Theriault, 439th AMXS

Civilian: Sean Dineen, 439th Security Forces Squadron.

Chiefs Council awards scholarships

The Westover Chiefs Council is accepting applications for a \$500 college scholarship award for a Patriot Wing reservist (airman basic to senior master sergeant), and a \$500 scholarship for a family member of an airman basic to senior master sergeant for the fall semester.

Scholarship application deadline is Aug. 21. An electronic copy of this application can be obtained at www.westover.afrc.af.mil/ and the Westover Facebook Page.

Essays will accompany the applications. Reservists will answer: "What does it mean to be part of today's Air Force Reserve Command?" Family members will answer: "What does it mean to be a family member of an Air Force Reserve member?"

Scholarship applications need to be emailed to squadron chiefs or first sergeants before the Aug. 21 deadline for approval and submission to the Chiefs Council Scholarship Committee.

Senior leadership will announce the winners at the October Wing Commander's Call.

For more information, call Chief Master Sgt. Earl Duncon at Ext. 2023.

Employer Day

Reservists interested in showing employers their jobs with the 439th Airlift Wing can do so Aug. 7.

This year's Employer Day, taking place from 12:30-3:30 p.m. will immerse bosses in the military way of life. Activities will begin with a mobility line, dog tags, and mobility "records."

Other planned activities include a C-5 tour, meals ready-to-eat, briefings from Employer Support for the Guard and more.

Employers of reservists may sign up for Employer Day by visiting the following link on Westover's web site:

westover.afrc.af.mil/employerday.asp



TOP CHEF Celebrity Chef John Besh, left, prepares a meal for the staff of the Westover Club June 11. Air Force Reserve Command officials honored the staff for its selection as overall most efficient reserve base club. Also pictured is Chief Master Sgt. Daniel Kelly, AFRC chief of services. (photo by Senior Airman Charles Hutchinson IV)

Command honors Westover Club with top cuisine

by 2nd Lt. Andre Bowser

Air Force Reserve Command officials honored Westover Club workers June 11 with a gala after receiving first place in the 2011 Fer de Lance competition.

Fer de Lance judges evaluated the overall efficiency of 10 reserve base clubs.

Club workers on bases across the country are often the first to show up to prepare food for troop feedings and the last to leave long after the masses have been fed.

But all that changed for the entire staff of the Westover Club, and for a select group of club workers from two other

Air Force Reserve Command bases.

"They were judged on their overall club operations, from food to behind the scenes management, such as recipe and menu writing, troop feeding and sanitation processes," said Sheila Idigpio, AFRC Services Chief of Business Operations, "They truly are the 'Tip of the Spear.'"

AFRC Services Deputy Chief Alan T. Ray said the club beat out stiff competition to win the gala, as well as \$5,000 to improve the club, a crystal trophy, and a veritable feast cooked by a celebrity chef.

"We try to do something

every year that's going to benefit the club and the base population," Mr. Ray said. "The program's goal is to provide an avenue through competition to improve our club operations and customer service. We truly wanted to serve those who serve us every day across AFRC."

Celebrity Chef John Besh, who owns several high-end restaurants across the country, joined Saturday for the invitation-only dinner. More than 70 guests attended, including Col. Robert Swain Jr., 439th Airlift Wing commander, his wife, Diane; and Command Chief Master Sgt. Michael Thorpe and his family.

AFRC Services officials said

Westover's Fer de Lance was its largest event to date.

Behind two sets of the doors in the club's kitchen, with only minutes to finish and serve an impressive array of dishes, Mr. Besh plied his trade.

"I was told about the culinary competition and that I would be cooking for the team that won," said Mr. Besh, who has had his own share of culinary competitions, including "Top Chef Masters" and "The Next Iron Chef."

The former Marine said he recalled flying into Westover nearly two decades ago on his return from the Persian Gulf. He welcomed the opportunity

CHEF continued on page 10

Wing community mourns loss of former commander

by Master Sgt.
Andrew Biscoe

The Patriot Wing community mourns the loss of Col. Patrick Cloutier, a former vice commander and long-time Westover reservist who died in an accident at home in May.

Members of the 337th Airlift Squadron, which Colonel Cloutier commanded from 2007 to 2009, led a memorial service at the base June 5.

After serving eight years on active duty, Colonel Cloutier arrived at Westover in 1994.

Colonel Cloutier left Westover in September 2010 for an assignment at the Pentagon as chief of staff for the reserve policy board.

Before becoming the wing vice commander in 2009, Colonel Cloutier was also chief of wing safety before he commanded the 337th AS.

His leadership skills reached command-level as well. Colonel Cloutier led the Air Mobility Command investigation of a C-5B crash at Dover Air Force Base, Del. in April 2006.

AMC leadership tapped the colonel to command the C-5 surge operations in Rota, Spain, in the summer of 2010. Colonel Cloutier leaves his wife, Lori, and two daughters, Gabriella and Ava.

A memorial service was held May 27 at Bolling Air Force Base, D.C.



Patriot Wing Airmen follow through with wingman concept after UTA

Whether locally or abroad on temporary duty, Patriot Wing reservists have put their wingman training to work, helping injured motorists in two separate instances.

As the June UTA came to an end, two Airmen were involved in a motor vehicle accident on Route 90. Six servicemembers noticed that the two Airmen had been injured in the accident, and using self-aid and buddy care skills, they rendered first aid to the two victims simultaneously. One of the victims was dazed and complained of neck and back pain; the other victim was struck in the face when his vehicle's airbag deployed during the accident.

Shortly after the accident, medical workers responded and transported both victims to the hospital. The six Airmen who responded remained until medical workers left the scene.

The reservists involved were: Master Sgt. Frederick Hetu, Tech. Sgts. Mi-

chael Hyde, George Tewksbury, Joann LaFleur, Eduardo Hurtado, and Staff Sgt. Nora Ling.

"Their steadfast devotion as wingmen" sets an example for all of us, said 439th Airlift Wing Command Chief Master Sergeant Michael Thorpe.

Four Airmen on a recent temporary duty assignment in California assisted a motorist whose car had flipped over on a freeway. The Airmen were Staff Sgt. Darryl Szyp, Senior Airmen Kerry Mathews, Christina Liepchack, and Sydony Tomkins, all assigned to the 439th Aerospace Medicine Squadron.

"Airman Mathews ... freed the man from the car and made sure he was doing well until the EMTs arrived," said Senior Master Sgt. Sabine Prather, AMDS assistant superintendent.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Second Lt. Andre Bowser, Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe, and Senior Airman Charles Hutchinson IV contributed to these stories.)

Reservists follow new travel steps

All 439th Airlift Wing members use the new Commercial Travel Office which recently changed to Carlson Wagonlit/SATO Travel, Inc. To request and secure commercial airline tickets:

-- Reservists contact their respective squadron travel card representatives so their accounts can be opened for billing.

-- Call the toll-free number at (855) 794-4927 to make airline reservations.

-- Orders are faxed toll-free to (877) 907-5376. To protect their personal information, reservists must remember to black out all but the last four numbers of their social security numbers.

Reservists with questions should contact their unit orderly rooms.

Westover fire fly into ac



photos by
Firefighter Capt.
Robert Mancini



Firefighters Action after Twisters

by Lt. Col. James Bishop
and 2nd Lt. Andre Bowser

Westover's fire department responded to a mutual aid call at 7:29 p.m. June 1 after three tornadoes left widespread damage in 19 communities across central and western Massachusetts.

The tornadoes killed four people and injured about 200. The National Weather Service estimated that wind speeds reached between 136 and 165 mph.

The initial aid request after the tornadoes was for a specialized rescue unit and one officer for an Incident Management Team.

"Our response is based on a mutual aid agreement between Westover and 40 neighboring towns, and we're always glad to help," said Col. Robert Swain, Jr., 439th Airlift Wing commander. "This is part of being a good neighbor."

Westover responded with four firefighters and one fire chief. Westover Fire Chief Charles Van

Gorden was assigned to the Area Command in Palmer, Mass., to assist with coordination of emergency resources. The rescue team was initially assigned to Palmer, but re-directed to West Springfield to assist with a damaged nursing home. The team assisted with search and rescue of several areas throughout the night and also performed a victim extraction from a damaged minivan. Chief Van Gorden and the rescue unit worked until 3:30 a.m.

The rescue team members who responded on June 1 were Capt. Robert Guthrie and firefighters David Wilkinson, Nicholas Bush, and Mark Litchfield.

Captain Guthrie said one thing was on his mind during the rescue operation: "Getting us out of there in one piece." He said traversing a windy and dangerous terrain made his job difficult.

"You couldn't see; it was bad," Guthrie said about his team responding to multiple locations during the worst of the storms, usually heading in the opposite direction of fleeing motorists.

By 7 a.m. June 2, Chief Van Gorden was back

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TORNADOES from page 7
in the Area Command center coordinating rescue and recovery efforts. Four new firefighters reported to Monson, Mass., to assist with a grid search of the town for possible trapped people.

“The primary focus was accountability of all personnel in town and ensuring all homes damaged by the tornado were clear and safe,” said Chief Van Gorden. “The devastation was massive in this community.”

While searching house to house in Monson, they heard a whimper that sounded like a dog coming from a demolished home. They listened closer and heard it again. So they used airbags to lift a portion of the house and rescue a black lab that was trapped beneath the rubble. When they brought the dog out of the house a national news service recorded the event.

“There were a lot of cheers and tears from the crowd and the family,” said Chief Van Gorden.

Crews on-scene June 2 performed house-to-house search and rescue. Firefighters at Thursday’s search and rescue mission were Capt. Robert Mancini, and firefighters Kenneth McMorris Jr., Roy Cooley, and Shawn Martin.

Westover firefighters, who specialize in battling flightline blazes, are no strangers to responding to structure fires off base. Last



TWISTER RUBBLE The tornadoes wrought devastation throughout Western Massachusetts. Westover firefighters assisted in rescuing some of the victims of the June 1 storms. (Courtesy photo)

summer, they responded to a fire in Holyoke in which three municipal firefighters were injured. In March, they responded to a fire at a Chicopee factory. In June, five days after the tornadoes, they helped fight an apartment fire in Holyoke.

TROOP TALK | If you were to go on vacation this summer, where would you hope to go?

“Spending time at the beach with my kids Hawaii or anywhere in Europe.”

Lt. Col. Holly Becker
439th Airlift Wing deputy
staff judge advocate



“Hot air ballooning in Alpena, Michigan.”

Senior Airman Jason Kluza
439th Civil
Engineering Squadron



“Being on the beach with my two beautiful girls.”

Master Sgt. Dana Tesorero
439th CES



photos by Senior Airman Kelly Galloway

Bombs to bouts: EOD NCO joins rollerderby fray

by Senior Airman
Alexander Brown

On the night of March 27, 2010, in Florence, Mass., Senior Master Sgt. Dean Peloquin prepared for his first bout of roller derby against the Harm City Homicide of Baltimore, Md. He laced his skates, put on knee pads, elbow pads, wrist guard, helmet and cup and skated out on to the flat track to face his first opponents.

"I remembered saying to myself: 'This is insane.' We were skating with people who played hockey or they were speed skaters," said Sergeant Peloquin. "Some of the guys out there have been skating for more than 20 years."

The sport of roller derby is mainly dominated by women. It involves full body contact. The game, called a bout, is based on formation roller skating around an oval track by two teams. Points are scored as the designated scoring player -- the "jammer" -- laps members of the opposing team, including its "blockers," so offense and defense typically occur simultaneously.

Sergeant Peloquin, Westover explosive ordinance disposal program manager, began participating in roller derby when he accompanied his wife, Rose Peloquin, to a bout. His interest peaked when he learned that Pioneer Valley Roller Derby has a male team -- one of the first



SMASHING GOOD TIMES Senior Master Sgt. Dean Peloquin, pictured in the center, works his way into the flow of the rollerderby. (Senior Airman Alexander Brown)

male teams in the country.

Sergeant Peloquin's first idea was to just go and watch his wife skate and he would sit on the side lines with a magazine and see what's going on, he said. But once the offer to skate was extended to him by one of the players, he couldn't refuse.

Within two weeks Sergeant Peloquin purchased skates of his own. He and his wife continue to skate as a way of keeping in shape and having fun.

Sergeant Peloquin began roller derby in October 2009, practicing four times a week with his team, The Dirty Dozen. During his first practice sessions at the Pioneer Valley roller derby track, he learned the rules and basics of skating such as blocking, skating on one foot, turning and skating backwards. He went from novice skater to being elected captain of the 2011 season.

It was a bumpy, bruised-

filled road. With roller derby being a full contact sport, you have to learn things fast, Sergeant Peloquin said.

"The first six months was a continual learning process," said Sergeant Peloquin. "It was learning the rules about the game using one part of my brain, getting balance on my skates using another part of my brain, and then using muscles I have never used."

After much practice, Sergeant Peloquin was in his first bout. He was playing, hitting, and getting hit by people far more experienced. This did not deter him: he was, in fact, more motivated.

"I like the contact, I like being able to hit people and get hit," he said.

With contact came injuries. "For the first six months I was icing my knees daily," he said.

His worst injury occurred when another player fell in front of him and the other

player's skate popped up and ruptured Sergeant Peloquin's groin. He still completed the game, but later required surgery.

Bruises and injuries are not the only benefit of roller derby. It is also a great form of exercise. Sergeant Peloquin was able to reduce his mile and a half run time for the fitness test by one minute once he began participating in roller derby.

"The workouts are fantastic," he said. "I had run and I had done all kind of cardio work in the past and weight lifting, but there was nothing as demanding as derby..."

Sergeant Peloquin's hard work has begun to reap rewards. His team placed 2nd in the 2010 championships and finished the season with an 11 - 2 record.

Sergeant Peloquin will not be able to play this sport forever. At 44-years-old he is the second oldest on his team. "After awhile our knees don't want you to get up," he said, adding that he'll continue to throw those elbows and participate in bouts until his body gives him the message that he cannot play anymore.

For now, he says, he will continue to enjoy the hard hitting, muscle tiring, bruise creating, friend making sport that is roller derby.

WESTOVER PATRIOTS |

MSG, MXG change command



IN COMMAND Col. Bruce Finley, 439th Mission Support Group commander, addresses the audience in the Base Hangar following the MSG change of command June 4. (photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Boynton) Below, Col. Kerry Kohler, incoming 439th Maintenance Group commander, lets his Airmen know his plans for leading the mission of keeping the wing's C-5s flying. (photo by Senior Airman Kelly Galloway)



BRANCHING OUT Team-building exercises and a scavenger hunt highlighted the wing's 5th Annual Career Enlisted Workshop. (photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Boynton)

More than 60 Airmen attend annual workshop

With a theme of "I am an Airman; I am a Wingman," the 5th Annual Career Enlisted Workshop ran June 5-7.

A scavenger hunt looking for clues across the base in a competition for "top wingmen", kicked off the event.

Other highlights included a "speed mentoring" session with six Westover Chiefs, awards and decorations writing with Lt. Col. June Kountz, social networking with Senior Master Sgt. Shane Robitaille, and "Are you a Leader?" with 22nd Air Force Command Chief Steve Larwood.

The feedback from nearly 60 participants indicated that the event was a success.

"You know you've succeeded when an Airman admits that this workshop changed his mind about not re-enlisting," said Chief Master Sgt. Kathy Wood, one of the workshop's facilitators.

CHEF continued from page 4
to serve the club workers after their impressive achievement, and he described the night's fare as "a taste of New Orleans." Westover Club manager Erin LaHart praised the effort of the gala.

"The food was unbelievable, it was by far the best meal I have ever had," she said, "I couldn't have asked for a better celebration dinner, from the décor, the food, to the company," she said. The meal included shrimp remoulade with mirliton salad; roast

managalista pork with crabmeat, truffle, and silver queen corn,

Allan Burns, club custodian, was among the club staff to be honored Saturday night. He said the award was a long time in coming. "We came in second place in 2006. Finally, we won."

The other reserve bases with competing clubs were March, Calif.; Homestead, Fla.; Dobbins, Ga.; Grissom, Ind.; Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn.; Youngstown, Ohio; Pittsburgh, Pa.; Niagara Falls, N.Y.; and Duke Field, Fla.

PATRIOT PEOPLE |

PATRIOT PRAISES

Senior master sergeant
Jason Martin



Master sergeant
Dominique Corbett
Peter Murphy
Robert Page



Technical sergeant
Kimberly Carter
Matthew Dauphinais
Miguel Dejesus
Timothy Finch
Laura Hagmeyer
Robin Hammond
Matthew Krueger
Richard Mitchell
Stephen Pare
Francis Sforza



Staff sergeant
Theodore Anzalone
David Carpenter
Stephen Caruso
Kyle Davis
Franklin Francis
Sally Granada
Joseph Mahoney
Daniel Morrissey
James Thuo



Senior airman
Jeremy Beland
Davis Cote
Ryan Cullen
Brittany Dasilva
James Jennings
Jason Kluza
Mauricio Pino
Tyler Stone



Airman 1st class
Erik Cables
Brenden Cassada



Airman
Anthony Del Viscovo



Master Sgt. Alexander Cotton

Master Sgt. Alexander Cotton
439th Airlift Control Flight
Age: 43
Hometown: Wilbraham, Mass.
Position: Telecommunications/aerospace ground equipment NCOIC
Favorite Food: Prime Rib
Years of Service: 26
Favorite Sport: Football
Favorite Hobby: Repairing things
Ideal Vacation: Travel by train through Europe
Best Way to Relax: Feet up, watching a good movie
Preferred Entertainment: Live soul/blues band
Hero: My grandmother, Ethel Forbes
Favorite Music Style: Rap/R&B blends
Favorite Movie: *Bram Stoker's Dracula*
Favorite Aircraft: F-16
Pet Peeve: People that refuse to think outside the box
If I Won \$1 Million, I would: Pay off every bill I had, invest the rest and make another million!

Retirements |

Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Cortese
Senior Master Sgt. Patrice Woods
Master sergeant
David Beauregard
Marylynn Scherlin
Mark Silva

Technical sergeant
Richard Ohrenberger
Richard Schmoke
Matthew Smith
Robert Snyder
Michael Williams
Anthony Windom

SERVICES CALENDER |

AT THE CLUB >> Travel Around the World! Lunchtime Buffets at the Club. Everyday-Soup & Salad Bar. Monday-Italian Buffet & Pasta Bar; Tuesday-Mexican Buffet & Taco Bar; Wednesday-chef's Choice Buffet; Thursday-Home-Style Cookin' Buffet; Friday-Seafood Buffet. \$6.95 Members, \$7.95 Non-Members. A la Carte menu also available! Specialty burgers, wraps, salads, and more!

BOWLING CENTER >> The Bowling Center is now open for lunch on UTA Sundays from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. It is also open on UTA Fridays and Saturdays from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. For more information, call 557-3896/3990.

SUMMER FUN >> Canopy tents, bounce houses, grills, and much more are all available. For more information, call 557-2192.

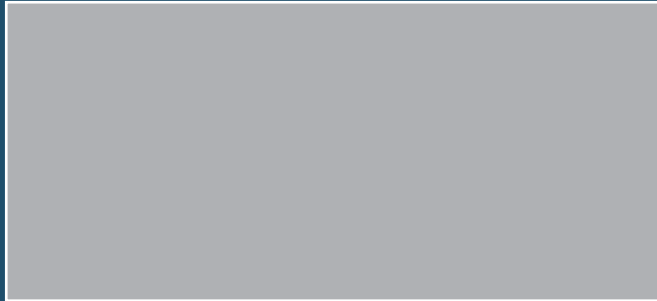
FITNESS CENTER >> Sign-ups begin for Biggest Lutzer; flag football sign-ups begin July 18, coaches meet at 5 p.m. Aug. 10 in Bldg. 5100 conference room; kickball tournament at 3 p.m. July 22 on the softball field. Information: 557-3958.



Published monthly for Patriots like Tech. Sgt. Doreen Mercado, Meriden, Conn., and the more than 3,600 reservists and civilians assigned to the 439th Airlift Wing.

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FIRST CLASS
US POSTAGE
PAID



TORNADO TOPPLING One of the tornadoes that ripped through western Massachusetts June 1 flipped this house upside-down. The storms heavily damaged nearby neighborhoods in Springfield, Monson, Westfield, and West Springfield, Mass. For more on Westover's assistance to these communities, turn to page 6. (photo by Westover Firefighter Capt. Robert Mancini)