

## Westover launches “Pilot for a day”



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**ON THE COVER** >> Brandon Hanechak, 8, sprays water from the nozzles of Westover's crash fire truck with Patriot Wing firefighter Michael Gelsomini. Turn to page 6 for more on Brandon's visit to the base as part of the Pilot for a Day program.



**MAKING THEIR MARK** >> Patriot Wing athletes begin the Company Grade Officer's Council duathlon Oct. 2. The annual run-bike-run raises money for the Combined Federal Campaign, the largest and most successful workplace philanthropic fundraiser in the world. Westover's CFC began Sept. 28 with a kickoff breakfast and keyworker training at the Westover Club. About 45 people attended. In 2009, the CFC theme was "I can." This year's theme is a close variation: "I care." The Western Massachusetts CFC is one of more than 240 nationwide and overseas. The base campaign wraps up Dec. 15. (photo by Staff Sgt. Andre Bowser)



**Colonel Mahaney**

I consider it an honor and privilege to join you here as the 439<sup>th</sup> Operations Group commander.

I have flown many Air Force missions (B-52, KC-10, C-9), and flown many a desk (Capitol Hill Fellow, Harvard

National Security Fellow, Congressional Liaison, OSD legislative drafter), but never have my family and I been so warmly welcomed into a new assignment.

The reception and care that we have received brings to mind the words spoken to me by, then-Col. Jim Rubeor almost a decade ago as he welcomed me to my new job as 73<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Squadron Operations Officer:

“Take care of your people and they will take care of the mission.”

I have tried to live by those words ever since. As 22<sup>nd</sup> AF commander, now-Maj. Gen. Jim Rubeor has never wavered from that creed.

In the short time that I have been at Westover, I have noticed that the command-

ers and supervisors in the 439<sup>th</sup> AW live by that same creed.

So it is no surprise that the wing is now the proud recipient of the Air Force Wing of the Year Award. And it is no secret how the wing has achieved that honor - by taking care of its people. I have observed that like all superior organizations, the 439<sup>th</sup> provides excellent training and equipment to you, the members of the Patriot Wing.

But that’s not all. Once you have poured your heart and soul into the mission, the wing makes every effort to ensure that your pay, benefits and entitlements are timely and uninterrupted.

And just as important, your leadership is responsive to your concerns; whether those concerns are family matters, educational

**“I have observed that, like all superior organizations, the 439<sup>th</sup> provides excellent training and equipment to you, the members of the Patriot Wing.”**

-- Colonel Mahaney

opportunities, or personal wellness issues.

It is because of this commitment to the care of our people that our mission will continue to thrive. Over the next several months, we are going to take this well-oiled machine, the wing, and give it a “super tune-up.”

That tune-up will consist of two trips to Alpena, Mich. (one in November and one in March 2011), where we will hone our skills at deploying and sustaining operations against the enemy. As a result, I have no doubt that by this time next year we will be looking back on a successfully completed ORI in June.

But ORI success and success in our worldwide mission will depend on one thing. We must always be able to look back and say that we have never wavered in our commitment to treat our people as our number one priority. From what I have observed, and the track record of this wing, I have no doubt that we will not waver in that commitment.

Thanks again for the warm welcome. I look forward to working with each of you in all of our future successes.

**Col. Bo Mahaney  
439<sup>th</sup> Operations Group  
commander**

**BRIEFS |**

**ART hiring**

Individuals interested in applying for air reserve technician vacancies at Westover can access the USAJOBS website for announcements on specific positions.

ART announcements will be posted on the HQ AFRC website ([www.afrc.af.mil/library/jobs](http://www.afrc.af.mil/library/jobs)) and USAJOBS ([www.U.S.A.J.O.B.S.gov](http://www.U.S.A.J.O.B.S.gov)). Both websites will eventually send you back to the USAJOBS site to complete the resumé and application process.

Applicants should carefully review the announcements, follow the application instructions closely and apply before the closing date.

For more information, contact Meesha Crowther at the civilian personnel office at 413-557-3193.

**Chief's Council offers scholarships**

The Westover Chief’s Council is offering two \$500 college scholarships for the fall semester to enlisted reserve members of the 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing.

One scholarship will go to an enlisted member and the other is for dependents of enlisted reservists. The deadline for submission is Nov. 22. The scholarships will be awarded in January, in time for the spring semester.

To apply for the scholarships, members must contact their squadron’s chief for an application. Applicants also have to attach a resumé, goals and personal vision statement and an essay.

The Chief’s Council has provided two essay topics to choose from. “What does it mean to be a part of today’s Air Force Reserve Command?” and “What does it mean to be a family member of an Air Force Reserve member?”

For more information, contact Chief Master Sgt. Earl Duncan at [earl.duncan@westover.af.mil](mailto:earl.duncan@westover.af.mil) or Chief Master Sgt. Kathleen Wood at [kathleen.wood@westover.af.mil](mailto:kathleen.wood@westover.af.mil).

**Senior leaders to serve holiday meal**

The 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing senior leadership will serve a specially-prepared Thanksgiving meal at the Westover Club Nov. 7. Commanders and first sergeants will serve the meal from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m.

**UTA schedule**

The following is the UTA schedule for fiscal year 2011:

FY 2011 UTA Schedule		
	A UTA	B UTA
Oct:	2-3	16-17
Nov:	6-7	20-21
Dec.:	4-5	No B UTA
Jan.:	8-9	22-23
Feb.:	5-6	26-27
Mar.:	5-6	19-20
Apr.:	9-10	16-17
May.:	14-15	21-22
June:	4-5	18-19
July:	9-10	23-24
Aug.:	6-7	20-21
Sept.:	10-11	No B UTA

Cut out and save this information for future reference.





**SETTING THE STAGE >>** Pakistani men gather on the flight line at Gilgit Air Base, Pakistan, to help U.S. Marines offload hundreds of bags of flour from a KC-130J Super Hercules aircraft assigned to the 352nd Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron (VMGR) Sept. 8, 2010. Westover contributed three C-5 missions to the flood relief efforts. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Andy M. Kin)

## Patriot Wing airlifts supplies to Pakistan flood victims

by Maj. Wilson Camelo

When the worst rains in 80 years created massive floods in northwest Pakistan in late July, the result was devastating to the country.

The flooding left 2,000 dead, 21 million people displaced and one million homes destroyed, according to the United Nations.

It was only a matter of time until mobility Airmen, including those with the 439th Airlift Wing here, sprung into action as part of an International flood relief effort.

U.S. military relief flight operations in Pakistan began Aug. 5, and as of Sept. 11, U.S. military helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft had transported more than 5.4 million pounds of relief

supplies and rescued more than 13,000 people, according to U.S. Central Command.

Westover contributed with three C-5 missions in late August and early September.

The first, piloted by Lt. Col. Michael Davis, departed Westover on Aug. 30, and the second left the following day piloted by Lt. Col. Andreas Hau. The final flight took off Sept. 7 with Aircraft Commander Lt. Col. Dave Heroux, who most recently served six months in Haiti leading part of the military's relief efforts following the massive earthquake that hit the island nation.

U.S. flood relief support to Pakistan is being coordinated through the U.S. Embassy in Pakistan, with consultation with

the Pakistan government, including Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority and other agencies.

The U.S. government has

pledged more than \$200 million in aid, the State Department announced in September. Private donations from U.S. citizens have also poured in support.

### House honors aeromed Airmen

by Master Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol  
Air Mobility Command Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. -- Members of the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously passed a resolution Sept. 28 honoring the Airmen who support and perform aeromedical evacuation.

House Resolution 1605 recognizes "the service of the medical and aircrews in helping our wounded warriors make the expeditious and safe trip home to the United States," and, "commends the personnel of the Air Force for their commitment to the well-being of all our service men and women." The resolution highlights how, since Sept. 11, 2001, "the aeromedical evacuation system has moved over 81,000 patients, including almost 14,000 battle-injured Soldiers."

For the complete story, visit [www.westover.afrc.af.mil](http://www.westover.afrc.af.mil)



**HAPPY HOMECOMING >>** Reilley Reim hugs her father, Senior Master Sgt. David Reim, when he returned from his deployment to Kandahar Airfield, Sept. 21. Sergeant Reim is with the 58th Aerial Port Squadron and spent four months in Afghanistan supporting the surge in operations there. (photo by Tech. Sgt. Timm Huffman)

## Returning deployers rejoin varied family lives

by Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

Senior Airman Jake Ryan completed one of life's full circles with his mom Sept. 21.

Airman Ryan was among more than 100 aerial port deployers who returned to Westover from Iraq and Afghanistan following their spring deployments in September. They stepped off an Air Force bus following a brief trip from Bradley International Airport in Connecticut.

The 21-year-old reservist, assigned to the 58th Aerial Port Squadron member said goodbye to his mother, Joyce Greene, on Mother's Day. Four months later, Mrs. Greene's outstretched arms welcomed her son home.

Also on hand was Airman Ryan's fiancée, Senior Airman Sarah Fellows of the 439th Services Squadron. The couple were engaged in April. "This is amazing," Airman Fellows

said, as she hugged her fiancé. "This was the best feeling in the world when I stepped off the bus," Airman Ryan said.

In the Air Force just 2 ½ years, Airman Ryan completed his first overseas deployment when he set his feet back on Westover soil.

"The deployment was not what I was expecting," he said. The deployers worked 12-hour shifts six days per week. "It was hot and sandy. I have never been so busy in my life."

He and the aerial porters moved cargo on and off hundreds of military and civilian aircraft. "It seemed like time went slower when I was there, but looking back on it, it went by fast. I made a lot of good friends."

The aerial porters spent three days traveling across the world to get home.

"I'm going back to Somers (Conn.) and taking a nap," Airman Ryan said with a smile, as he walked to his car with his mom and fiancée.

Staff Sgt. Michael Chesanek passed up

any opportunity to get any rest. He drove to the Norris School in Southampton, Mass., to surprise his young son, Matthew. With two news crews in tow, Sergeant Chesanek showed up at the school, still in his airman's battle uniform. The aerial porters also had family members within the 439th Airlift Wing awaiting them.

Senior Airman Keith Germain, hugged his sister, Master Sgt. Michelle Dunfield, 337th Airlift Squadron first sergeant, as they spoke to local news media.

An Airman who had been in the news while at Joint Base Balad was again on camera shortly after he walked into the passenger terminal.

Senior Airman William Clark held his baby son, Spencer, and wife, Sabrina. Airman Clark had last seen Spencer as a newborn baby through the Westover Conference Center's video teleconference system in early August.

# Eight-year-old checks in for UTA

by Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

## “Let’s go fly!”

That’s what Brandon Hanechak heard when he “joined” the ranks of the 439th Airlift Wing for a day in October, and took in a day-long tour, including a “flight” in the C-5 simulator.

One of the first pilots to meet the young man was Lt. Col. Darcey Thureson, a 337th Airlift Squadron C-5 pilot, who provided him a mission briefing in the Base Hangar.

The 8-year-old boy, and his mother, Deborah, and sister, Natalie, arrived at the base in VIP fashion – with a State Police escort, its sirens blaring as the entourage pulled up to the Base Hangar Oct. 2.

Welcoming him there was Col. Robert Swain, 439th Airlift Wing commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Zigmund Skawski, wing command chief.

Besides the simulator, Brandon visited the base fire station, and enjoyed a view from one of Hampden County’s tallest points – Westover’s 123-foot-high control tower. He also had the opportunity to work the controls of a sophisticated bomb-handling robot.

“I got to drive the robot,” Brandon said. Senior Master Sgt. Dean Peloquin, explosive ordinance disposal superintendent, and the team of EOD technicians, were among scores of people who hosted Brandon’s visit.

Brandon also highlighted the base fire station as one of his favorites, when Westover firefighters handed him a hose – and a challenge.

“I got to spray the cone and try to knock it down,” he said. “I did knock it down.”

Brandon, who has a bone deficiency and wears a prosthetic foot, was part of the “Pilot for a Day” program, which has become a community rela-







photo by Tech. Sgt. Larry Couch

tions fixture at active-duty and reserve bases throughout the United States. The program invites children of all ages to be guests at military bases. It is designed to bring hope and cheer to a child who is undergoing serious medical issues.

Saturday's event was a joint venture between the Shriners Hospital in Springfield, the 439th AW, the Air Force Association, and the Galaxy Community Council, a non-profit organization which supports major base events like the Great New England Air Show and Family Day.

Senior Master Sgt. Heather Zackaricz, 439th Maintenance Squadron, was project officer for the day.

Colonel Thureson and Sergeant Zackaricz benchmarked the idea of Pilot for a Day after they attended the Women In Aviation International Convention earlier this year.

"I looked at what the (Joint Base Andrews AFB) 459th ARW did with their program," Sergeant Zackaricz said.

They briefed the program to Westover's Human Resource Development Council, which Colonel Swain approved to proceed.

"Then I sent out emails to points of contact across Westover. People were very quick to respond. Everyone loved the idea."

The teamwork succeeded enough for another planned visit. Another Pilot for a Day child is scheduled for the December A UTA.

"This project brought so much team and family spirit together here," said Chief Master Sergeant Kathy Wood, 439th AW HRDC co-chair. "I saw so many people with the wing excited to host this young man."

Sergeant Zackaricz said the Oct. 2 tour was an opportunity for Westover Airmen to give back.

"It gave us a chance to do something for someone," she said. "This boy's visit brought us together. It was a feel-good moment."

Brandon won't soon forget his special visit with the Patriot Wing.

"The Air Force was big," he said, recounting his visit with scores of pilots, air traffic controllers, maintainers,

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**TOWERING TOUR** >> Brandon Hanechak and his mom, Deborah, look out onto the flightline from inside the Westover air traffic control tower. Brandon came to Westover as the first Pilot for a Day and was named an honorary 337th Airlift Squadron C-5 pilot. The program recognizes children who have faced medical hardships with courage and persistence. (photo by Senior Master Sgt. Heather Zackaricz)

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firefighters, Colonel Swain, EOD, and a rousing end to the day – a standing ovation during Commander’s Call held in the Base Hangar.

Prolonged applause from more than 1,000 reservists gathered inside the hangar showed the big heart of the Patriot Wing as the young man took the stage with Colonel Swain.

Brandon concluded his exclusive Westover tour eye-to-eye with the wing commander.

Colonel Swain crouched on the stage and returned a sharp salute from Brandon, who then smiled and walked from the stage in his custom flight jacket.

## Wing council bridges community contacts

The 439th Airlift Wing Human Resource Development Council launched the Oct. 2 Pilot For A Day at Westover.

Coordinators arranged the joint venture between the Shriners Hospital in Springfield, the 439th AW, the Air Force Association, and the Galaxy Community Council, a non-profit organization which supports major base events like the Great New England Air Show and Family Day.

HRDC members also arranged smaller, but no less important details -- such as the patch on the custom flight jacket given to Brandon Hanechek at his mission briefing. The Marden Company donated the patch.

Other major projects HRDC organizes

and coordinates are the Enlisted Workshop and the Hispanic Youth Leadership Symposium, both of which are held at Westover. The next symposium is planned for April 2011, while the next workshop is planned for June.

The HRDC main council meets every other month on Fridays before the A UTA at 4 p.m. in the wing commander’s conference room in Bldg. 1850.

Members meet monthly to ensure the program’s continuity. The HRDC outreach working group meets each A UTA Saturday at 2 p.m. in the maintenance group conference room in Hangar 7.

For more information, call Chief Master Sgt. Kathy Wood, HRDC co-chair, at 557-2876.



"Twice a year gets you in shape. Six months isn't as long between tests."

-- Airman 1st Class Moira Erius, 439th Mission Support Squadron



"It's good because more people will be fit to fight. Unfit members make us look bad as a service."

-- Staff Sgt. Doreen Mercado, 439th Civil Engineering Squadron



"It's going to keep people in shape and lead to a more positive outlook."

-- Senior Airman Sarah Fellows, 439th Services Squadron

**TROOP TALK** | How do you think the new PT standards will affect your unit?



# The moment it ended, I wished

by Tech. Sgt. Timm Huffman

**it hadn't.** Even though I had run 21 miles of hilly New Hampshire roads, been crammed in a van with five other sweaty runners and barely slept in 24 hours, I wished the Reach the Beach Relay could go on longer.

The distance relay is the longest in the country, and I participated in it for the first time Sept. 17 and 18. As part of a 12-person team, I ran 21 of the 209 miles of the race that starts in Franconia Notch, N.H., and winds its way through the state to Hampton Beach.

My wife, Julia, and I are avid long-distance runners with 12 half and full marathons between us. We're always seeking new distances and events to try. So, when a friend of ours from the local Fellowship of Christian Athletes organization approached us to run on his team, we quickly paid the \$95 entry fee.

Our 2010 running season was lackluster compared to a usual season, with my activation and some health problems with my wife, we ran two races, compared to seven or eight in a good year. That said, we went into the RTB with apprehension. The feeling abated at the team meeting, when I realized no one was out for blood. Everyone sat in the late afternoon sunlight laughing and joking about how slow we'd be.

The morning of the race we met up with the rest of our team in Hooksett, N.H., before heading north to the White Mountains.

The weather was cool and wet when we arrived at noon. The relay has a staggered start at the Cannon Mountain ski area, with the slowest teams starting at 7:30 a.m. and the fastest teams starting at 4 p.m. As our 2 p.m. go-time approached, my team rallied by our vans and Don Veilleux, the team captain, read a passage from

the Bible on running a race and said a prayer for safety. Jason St. Jean, our first runner, took his place on the starting line with the other runners.

The race started. Runners blew past. Teammates cheered.

The relay is broken into 36 legs. Each runner is assigned a position, one through 12, and the team goes through the rotation until all legs are complete. Teams are split into two vans to give runners a chance to rest when they aren't on deck. I was in position two, which meant once things got started I had to be waiting at the first transition area in about an hour. So, after cheering Jason, we drove to T.A. 1 where he passed the fluorescent-yellow slap bracelet-baton to me.

With no mile markers along



the course, I could only guess at how close I was to unwrapping the slap bracelet from my wrist and handing it off to Julia. The winding, hilly road prevented me from seeing too far ahead, but as I rounded the last bend and saw Julia standing in the T.A., I quickened my pace and finished strong. I wished Julia good luck as I handed her the baton.

"It comes so quick you hardly have time to be nervous; you just go," said Julia about the hand-off. "That first time it was new, so it was really exciting."

As we rode in the van through

the White Mountains, the sun, trying to burn through the clouds, cast brilliant rays of late summer sun on the changing leaves and up the sides of the steep, rocky notches. As dusk approached, we cheered our last runner, Sharon Fredette, as she came into the T.A. and passed the baton off to our second vehicle. We took a break to eat and relax. Four hours later, we arrived at T.A. 25, donned our night gear and started again.

The night run was one of the most beautiful things I've ever witnessed. It is pitch black, the only cars on the road are the colorfully-decorated team vehicles, and all you see up and down the road is a row of headlamps and reflectors bobbing through the dark. The sky had cleared by the time the

leg, even though I ran it slower than my first leg. After handing the baton-bracelet off to Julia, I had to lay on the grass and laugh at how crazy the whole endeavor suddenly seemed.

After going through our second rotation, I drove my half of the team to Bear Brook State Park where we parked and slept for a few hours wherever we could find space in the van. I slept two hours before getting up at 7 a.m. to prepare for the final rotation.

As we waited for our turn, Jason's phone rang. There was a problem. Don, the number 12 runner, had a groin injury and wasn't sure if he'd be able to run leg 24. In RTB, if a runner drops out, then the rotation gets bumped up one runner, which meant Jason would have to run.

"If he can at least run half of his leg, I can pick up the last three miles and then do my leg," said Jason.

A text message came: "Don's started his leg. Will keep you posted." Our van stood ready to go if that message came. It never did and soon we were all cheering as Don rounded the corner and came into the T.A.

"It took about a mile for the pain to go away," Don said with his characteristic smile. "Once it did, I felt pretty good. I've got this duct tape wrapped pretty tight, though," he added, turning down the top of his shorts to illustrate his point.

The second half of our team arrived at the state park just before 9 a.m. and Jason was off again, running through the cool, sunny September morning. The climbs through this portion were long, steep and gradual, and our runner needed us to get him water several times as the temperature rose. A traffic jam near my T.A. made me get out of the van and race past the line of support vehicles to be in time for the hand-off.

While this five-mile leg was the shortest of my three runs, it wasn't easy. The climbs continued

**BEACH on page 10**



**REEL 'EM IN >>** Everett Miguel, front, and George Kolytyn fish from the deck of the *Albatross* in Cape Cod Bay Sept. 18, as part of a getaway organized by the Wounded Warriors Project. Co-owners retired Master Sgt. Shawney Carroll and Lt. Col. Charles Carroll, 439th Airlift Wing chief of safety, offered to take a group of wounded war veterans out for a day of fishing after Wounded Warriors Project organizers approached him. "We started something good and we want to build on it next year," Colonel Carroll said. (Courtesy photo by Cape Cod Times photographer Christine Hochkeppel)

## Are we speaking their culture?

by Maj. Wilson Camelo

Those of us in uniform share a connection that comes from — among many things — our shared experiences, our mission, and the Air Force core values.

In short, we have a common culture.

Many of us have trouble explaining to those outside of our military culture exactly what we do and why we continue to do it, especially in wartime.

Our common military culture naturally leads us to have strong associations with each other; as we believe we are understood by and can easily relate to others in uniform.



Major Camelo

This too is true for ethnic minorities in uniform who also share a common culture and have associations that are often not understood by those outside of a particular ethnic culture.

Understanding this is vital to having a wing that not only feels welcoming and inclusive for minorities, but also is better representative of the communities from which we recruit. Thus far, our biggest challenge is with Hispanics as only 7.9 percent of the wing's population is Hispanic despite the fact the surrounding area in almost 20 percent Hispanic, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

While this percentage has been historically low, this isn't a column advocating quotas. Rather, it's to ensure we understand how to retain the 7.9 percent while trying to attract and recruit other Hispanics and ethnicities who want to

serve our nation in uniform. This effort has some urgency as Census data projects that Caucasians will be the minority population by 2050.

A recent U.S. Census report indicates a reflection of the growing Hispanic population in western Massachusetts. Hispanic or Latino residents made up 38.9 percent of Springfield's population in 2009, up from 36 percent in 2008.

One way is by providing for culturally-relevant events where non-minorities can gain an understanding of and celebrate the diversity found on base while simultaneously serving as a cultural expression for a given ethnic group. Some positive examples already exist, such as the private organization Hispanic Outreach and Leadership Association (HOLA) that has hosted Latin nights at the Westover Club and the Hispanic Youth Leadership Symposium (HYLS) where hundreds of Hispanic and other students spend a day at Westover.

These types of cultural events

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to come, with 552-feet of elevation gain, and 200 of them in the last half-mile. As I passed the baton off to my wife, I knew my part of the race was done, but I hadn't quite realized how great a sense of camaraderie I had experienced with her and my fellow athletes and how much I would miss it once we parted ways.

Later that day, we met the second half of our team at Hampton Beach for the final leg of the relay. Don finished strong, despite his duct-taped groin injury. We enjoyed a post-race supper together there on the beach 26 hours, 45 minutes and 55 seconds after starting. Thousands of other racers who had also just completed the relay surrounded us. We later learned we finished 58th out of 429 teams and the winning team finished in less than 20 hours. As we prepared to leave the beach, Don asked "How about next year?"

Julia and I looked at each other. We already knew the answer.

are already paying off. I've had many younger Hispanic Airmen personally tell me how happy they are to participate in these types of events and how these types of events keep them motivated to continue serving. In addition, non-Hispanic Airmen have also expressed to me how much they've appreciated these events, and several have volunteered to be part of HOLA and the HYLS.

We are making positive steps, but we could do more. I encourage other ethnic groups to also organize and conduct cultural activities, and I encourage everyone to support them and to get involved.

We retain our best and brightest when they feel like they are contributing to the mission and when they feel like their culture is welcomed.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: To learn more about cultural diversity and helping promote diversity in the Patriot Wing, contact Lt. Col. Donald Gomes, chief of the equal opportunity office at 557-2220.*



PATRIOT PEOPLE |



Leeanne DeGiule

NAME: Leeanne DeGiule  
 RANK: Senior airman  
 UNIT: 439th Logistics Readiness Squadron  
 POSITION: Logistics planner  
 HOMETOWN: Rensselaer, N.Y.  
 YEARS AT WESTOVER: One  
 FAVORITE FOOD: Tacos  
 FAVORITE SPORT: Soccer  
 FAVORITE HOBBY: Spoiling my nephew and dyeing my hair  
 IDEAL VACATION: Beach  
 BEST WAY TO RELAX: Watching movies  
 FAVORITE MUSIC: Country  
 FAVORITE MOVIE: *Dirty Dancing*  
 FAVORITE AIRCRAFT: C-5  
 PET PEEVE: My boyfriend's X Box  
 WHAT WOULD I DO IF I WON \$1 MILLION: Pay off my car and buy a house

**CLUB COOKIN'S** >> Enjoy Early Bird Thanksgiving Feast, Nov. 18 11 a.m. -1:30 p.m. & 5-8 p.m., serving turkey, prime rib and ham. A free comedy show will be held Dec. 4 at 7 p.m. in the lounge. Breakfast with Santa, Dec. 18, 8-11 a.m. Information: 413-593-5531.

**FITNESS CENTER** >> Beginning Oct. 25, center hours will be: Monday-Friday: 7-8 p.m.; Saturday 9-3 p.m.; Sunday, closed; UTA Weekends; Saturday 5:30 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sunday 5:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. For more information, call 557-3958.

**BOWLING CENTER** >> A Turkey Bowl will be held, Nov. 15-19 (\$1 per try). The center is also open for lunch and bowling Monday through Friday. For more information, call 557-3990.

**GET JUICED!** >> Eat on base at Get Juiced! inside the fitness center front door. Customers can enjoy protein shakes, salads, sandwiches and more. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

SERVICES CALENDER | [www.westoverservices.com](http://www.westoverservices.com)

**Retirements**

**Colonel  
Patricia Evans**

**Major  
Danielle Ingram  
Joseph Lucia**

**Captain  
Patricia Blake  
Michael Downs**

**Chief master sergeant  
Michael Barrick  
Daniel Duffy  
Ronald Labonte  
James LaGasse  
Shirley Warbeck**

PATRIOT PRAISES | Promotions

**Master sergeant**  
Thomas Batchelor  
Scott Lagrant  
Marc Michaud  
Eric Plouffe  
Kenneth Trabert

**Technical sergeant**  
Kyle Burton  
Jorhan Jurado  
Christopher Lahart  
Ean Larson  
Erik Trudeau

**Staff sergeant**  
George Cloutier

Anthony Dragich  
James Hutchinson  
Matthew Kadish  
Ryan Lemmer  
Justin Nolan  
Michael Silba  
Leslie Vittone  
Trevor Wallace

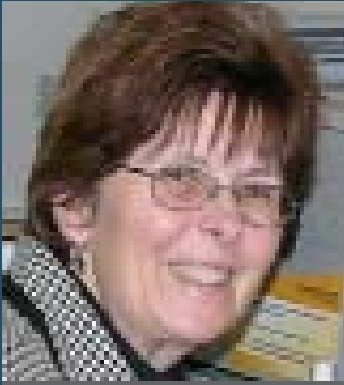
**Senior airman**  
Tony Dechristopher  
Jennifer Grace  
Kristen Kelly  
Timothy Pike  
Kara Schulz  
Brian Vanguilder

Eric Wills  
**Airman first class**  
Andre Sample

Jose Santana

**Angel Tree program helps needy families**

The Airman and Family Readiness Center staff will again sponsor the annual Angel Tree and Adopt-a-Family Program. All Airmen or Westover civilian families in need of financial assistance must go through their first sergeants or civilian supervisors via email to [Andrea.Bowen@westover.af.mil](mailto:Andrea.Bowen@westover.af.mil) or call 557-3024. This is an anonymous program for both the recipient and donor. Deadline for those being recommended is Nov. 6 at noon, in order to allow time to match donor/receiver and coordinate receipt of the gifts.



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

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Published monthly for Patriots like Kathy Kies, Easthampton, Mass., and 3,053 reservists and civilians of the 439<sup>th</sup> AW.



**STAIR MASTER >>** Brandon Hanechak, honorary 337th Airlift Squadron C-5 pilot, comes down from the flight deck of a C-5, accompanied by Senior Master Sgt. Todd Ramsey, Oct. 2. Brandon came to Westover as part of the Pilot for a Day program that recognizes children who have faced adversity with courage. Tech. Sgt. Larry Couch, 439th Maintenance Squadron, took this photo. Photographers are encouraged to shoot high-resolution photos of Westover happenings and people for this back page photo section of the *Patriot*. Photos may be submitted to 439aw.pa@westover.af.mil.

**Photo selection of the month**