

PATRIOT

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**J.E.O.I.
COMES TO
OUR
GALAXY**

J.E.D.I. COMES TO OUR GALAXY

by Lt. Col. Dan Moore and CMSgt. Lee Hareld

The term JEDI, with its Star Wars theme, suggests the idea of a futuristic subject. The future is now as Air Force Reserve Command maintenance leadership in May chose the C-5 maintenance experts at Westover to field-test a state-of-the-art photography system.

JEDI -- which stands for Joint Engineering Disposition Infrastructure -- uses a network of mobile collaboration devices (high-tech video cameras), as well as associated desktop application software at field locations to provide real-time, high resolution video and synchronized audio.

"We're the first base to receive this," said MSgt. Joseph Whalen, 439th Maintenance Group quality assurance inspector. "JEDI allows us to collaborate in real time with engineers."

This digital information connects maintenance workers and quality assurance

-- JEDI continued on next page



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representatives, via integrated wireless networking, with engineering decision-makers hundreds or even thousands of miles away at a system program office or aircraft manufacturer. This means that hours are saved as the photos appear in real-time – showing close-up views of what maintenance workers have discovered during an aircraft inspection. It allows for quicker decision-making that will allow aircraft to be placed back into service much faster than the current engineering disposition process.

Discrepancies such as cracks, dents, corrosion, and delamination of composite parts, which are outside the required technical order standards or parameters, are perfect candidates for JEDI collaboration. Additionally, with the use of a special adapter, JEDI also works with an engine boroscope to collaborate on defects found on internal jets engines components.

MSgt. Whalen cites the Patriot Wing's decades-long reputation as the premier C-5 maintainers in the Air Force. "We pride ourselves in doing things faster and better," he said.

JEDI system components are ruggedized for use in the harsh environments of aircraft maintenance, whether in the hangar or on the flight line. Once set up for video streaming, engineers may take control of the capture device from their remote location to view the defect in a way more suitable for their inspection and decision making. Mechanics or engineers on either end of the collaboration effort can use the on-screen drawing function to superimpose hand-scribed letters or symbols on



the image, or to circle an area of focus or concern. Also, video and audio of the entire collaboration session is recorded for historical record keeping with appropriate follow-up of required documentation after final disposition is provided to complete the maintenance action. This real-time collaboration saves days -- sometimes weeks -- of back and forth email messaging between the field and engineering, and puts critical warfighting assets back in operational status faster.

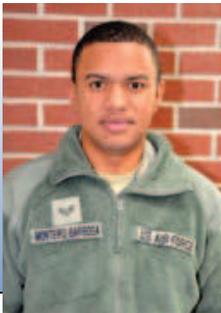
"We can start on repairs immediately," MSgt. Whalen said. "This applies to whether the C-5 is on the flight line or in the isochronal inspection dock. Patriot Wing maintainers handle in-depth inspections on C-5s from all other Galaxy bases in the Air Force -- including the modernized C-5M Super Galaxy airlifters now assigned to Travis AFB, Calif., and Do-

ver AFB, Del.

During this test phase, Westover maintainers have successfully collaborated six aircraft defects with the C-5 SPO at Robins Air Force Base, Ga. The time savings over the current process for obtaining an engineering disposition is estimated to average about 36 hours.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Lt. Col. Moore is the deputy maintenance group commander; CMSgt. Harrel is superintendent of the 439th MXG's quality assurance office.

TROOP TALK What is your favorite holiday tradition?



"Getting together during the holidays with my family. I enjoy the family holiday parties..."

>>SrA. William Bigda
439th
Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

"The Thanksgiving family gathering is always something I've enjoyed over the years as a holiday tradition."

>>SrA. Fredson Monteiro Barbosa
439th Civil Engineering Squadron



photos by TSgt. Brian Boyrton



"The tradition of the mandatory family fun time at my grandma's for Christmas."

>>SrA. Alicia Shartler
439th Maintenance Squadron

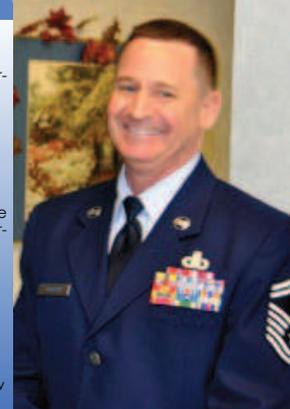
A salute to our veterans



VETS SALUTE >> Patriot Wing members take part in the annual Veterans Day retreat ceremony Nov. 2. This year's ceremony was held in the Base Hangar, due to inclement weather. (photo by SrA. Alexander Brown)

ALCF NEW CHIEF

>> SMSgt. Paul Veresko, 439th Airlift Control Flight chief of airfield operations, was promoted to chief master sergeant during a ceremony held Nov. 2 in the Westover Conference Center. CMSgt. Veresko has been assigned to the ALCF since 1991, and has been in the Air Force for 27 years. (photo by MSgt. Andrew Biscoe)



WESTOVER PUMPED \$221M INTO LOCAL ECONOMY IN FISCAL 2014

by Lt. Col. James Bishop

The 439th Airlift Wing poured nearly \$221 million into the community in fiscal year 2014, representing a decrease of \$4 million over last year, and a two-year decrease of \$17 million.

Military pay last year decreased \$16.3 million, due in large part to a decrease in reserve funding, according to Dan McCarthy, Westover cost and management analyst. For fiscal year 2013, military pay increased \$3.8 million, but overall military and civilian payroll decreased \$3.3 million, due to furlough days plus a decrease in the number of assigned civilians, McCarthy said.

Fiscal year 2014 saw a net increase of \$11.5 million in construction and related expenditures. A \$24 million fuel hydrant system project began on the flight line in 2013, with the cost pro-rated over a three-year construction period.

In 2013, there were net decreases of \$10.1 million in construction and \$3.4 million in the estimated value of jobs created.

The wing impacted communities within a 50-mile radius with an economic impact of \$220,856,889 from Oct. 1, 2013 to Sept. 30, 2014.

During the previous year, the base's economic impact was \$224,946,752.

In 2012, the impact was \$237,936,751. In 2011, the impact was \$237,568,913, and in 2010, that figure was \$266,631,634.

The number of base employees decreased from 3,813 in 2013 to 3,613 in 2014. In 2012, Westover employed 3,902 people. This number includes 2,319 Air Force reservists, down from 2,455 last year. There are 712 federal employees now (718 last year) and 287 non-appropriated



MONEY MATTERS >> Members of the local media interview Lt. Col. James Bishop, 439th Airlift Wing chief of public affairs, about Westover's local economic impact. (photo by MSgt. Andrew Biscoe)

fund and contract employees (298 last year).

The annual payroll for the base during fiscal year 2014 totaled \$125.9 million. In 2013, that number was \$139.7 million.

The estimated value of indirect jobs created -- a federal formula that calculates goods and services off base which members purchase -- amounted to \$46.8 million in 2014 (\$48.7 million last year).

The economic figures and personnel counts do not include the base's 29 tenant units, which include ten Army units, and three Marine units, which together employ approximately 2,160 people, mainly reservists.

"As a major employer, Westover's success is linked to Western Massachusetts' success. We've had to tighten our belts economically, along with the rest of the Air Force, but we're glad to continue to support the economies of communities near the base significantly," said Col. Albert Lupenski, 439th Airlift Wing commander.