



# **GALAXY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**WESTOVER AIR RESERVE BASE**

**P. O. Box 498 Chicopee MA 01021**

**[www.GALAXYCOUNCIL.com](http://www.GALAXYCOUNCIL.com)**

## **Galaxy Community Council History and Mission**

The Galaxy Community Council (GCC) was formed in the late 1980's through the effort of then Westover ARB commander Brigadier General Mike Walker. General Walker saw a need for an organization composed of the Military Affairs Committee of the Chicopee Chamber of Commerce and area residents who appreciated the value of a facility such as Westover and could serve as a vehicle to enhance the relationship between Westover and surrounding communities. The GCC was formed as a non-Department of Defense, self-sustaining, non-partisan, non-profit organization. The primary objective of the approximately 150 members of the GCC is to support the overall mission of the United States Air Force and in particular, the mission at Westover Air Reserve Base. The GCC assists Westover ARB in accomplishing civic objectives that, due to regulations and staffing limitations would have difficulty in achieving. A primary example of the GCC contribution to Westover is the Great New England Air Show normally held every other year. The GCC members solicit sponsorships from area and national businesses, seek other non-profit organizations to staff food and beverage booths and share in the profits derived from their sale, solicit and pay civilian flying and ground acts and provide overall support for this huge weekend show.

The GCC provides monetary and physical support to various Westover functions such as the Westover Annual Family Day Picnic where GCC members provide gifts and the manpower to allow military members the opportunity to enjoy the festivities with their family and friends. The GCC also supports base personnel and unit needs where appropriate. Off base, the GCC has established an alliance with the Shriners Hospital for Children in Springfield and supports local charitable organizations.

While area residents can see the giant C-5 aircraft flying overhead, membership in the GCC allows area residents the unique experience of gaining valuable insight into the workings of the U. S. Air Force, world events and in particular, activities at Westover ARB. This is accomplished through tours of the Westover facilities and briefings provided by Westover's senior officers at the council's monthly meetings.

The overall community objectives of the Galaxy Community Council are:

- To support the common interests of the military and surrounding communities
- To support and recognize the contributions and economic impact made to the area communities by Westover and its personnel
- To assist in the development of general aviation at Westover ARB
- To promote a positive relationship between the military and the civilian community.
- To assist other organizations and agencies in community improvement.

### **Official Sponsor of the Great New England Air show**

The Galaxy Community council is a private organization. It is not a part of the Department of Defense or any of its components, and it has no governmental status.