

# PATRIOT

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439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, 975 Patriot Ave., Westover ARB, Chicopee, Mass. 01022-1825

439aw.pa@us.af.mil

(413) 557-2020

Patriot on the web:

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## 439<sup>TH</sup> AIRLIFT WING COMMANDER

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### WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

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### NCOIC

MSgt. Timm Huffman

### LAYOUT/VISUAL INFORMATION

W.C. Pope

### STAFF

TSgt. Brian Boynton

TSgt. Stephen Winn

SSgt. Kelly Goonan

SrA. Alexander Brown

SrA. Charles Hutchinson IV

SrA. Monica Ricci

## UTA SNAPSHOT -- SATURDAY

>> Commander's Call: Base Hangar, 3:30 p.m.

News briefs | **pg. 3**

One for the books | **pg. 4**

Air show closes in | **pg. 5**

First future C-5M leaves | **pg. 6-7**

Capstone event | **pg. 9**

5k race | **pg. 10**

Winter time visits | **pg. 12**

**FIRST >>** Turn to pages 6 and 7 for coverage of the first C-5B leaving Westover to be modernized to an M model. The aircraft will then be reassigned to the 433<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas.



**SNOW ENOUGH >>** A record amount of snow combined with record low freezing temperatures to produce a winter to remember. For the complete story, see pg. 4. (photo by SSgt. Kelly Goonan)



## EDITORIAL Be a part of something vitally important

**W**hen I was an Army lieutenant in Germany, my battalion commander had all his officers take the Myers-Briggs personality test. After a short time, my results came back, and when I looked at them, I thought, "Yes, that's me. They nailed me."

The test seemed to be quite accurate. One of the things that my results said was that I don't care about a lot of things, but those things I do care about, I care about deeply. For this reason, I have trouble speaking publicly about things that are really important to me. I'm retiring after 32 years in the military and wouldn't be able to get through a retirement speech without becoming emotional, so I have decided to put my thoughts in writing.

We often hear military service characterized as being part of something bigger than oneself. For me, that characterization has never really expressed the point. When I worked for a large civilian corporation, I was part of something bigger than myself. Serving in the military, however, is about being part of something vitally important. I don't know of anything, except possibly ministry, that is more important than defending our country and our way of life. I am very grateful to have been given the opportunity to contribute, in a very modest way, to America's defense.

I'm also grateful to the Air Force Reserve for giving me a second chance to serve. I left the active Army during the 1990s drawdown. After going to work for that large civilian corporation, I soon began to miss the military. I missed the opportunities to travel and to grow personally. I missed the people, their discipline, and the camaraderie we had shared. Most of all, I missed the feeling that I was part of something important. The figures on a monthly profit-or-loss state-

ment didn't have the same meaning for me that military service had. After the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, I became determined to return to the military. I found a new home in the Air Force Reserve.



The past 13 years in the USAFR have provided more than I ever hoped for. I've deployed twice and been promoted twice. I held two commands, the 455<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron at Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan and, at Westover, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Aerial Port Squadron, the best squadron I can imagine. Also at Westover, I've been privileged to serve as inspector general of the best wing in the Air Force Reserve.

Being from the South, I didn't know what to expect when I first came here in 2005. I'll just say that in North Carolina, where I'm from, and in Georgia, where I lived for a number of years, Massachusetts had a reputation for being different. All of the people I've met at Westover, however, are great Americans who love their country and serve proudly. And I appreciate you all for not making fun of my accent very often.

Before I retire, I simply want to say, "Thank you" to everyone at Westover and

to the Air Force for your assistance and for the opportunities you've given me. I hope that you all realize that you are part of something extremely important and that you cherish every day that you wear our country's uniform. Theodore Roosevelt, one of my heroes, made a famous speech in which he said, "The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena." I echo the former president and say that the credit belongs to you who are serving our country.

Thank you, goodbye, and Godspeed.

**by Col. John Greene**  
**439<sup>th</sup> AW Inspector General**

## BRIEFS

### ALCF, LRS change commanders

Two units within the 439<sup>th</sup> AW recently changed leadership positions. The 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Control Flight Airmen welcomed their new commander, Lt. Col. Gilbert Kesser, during a change of command held March 8. Maj. Trenton Holden took command of the 439<sup>th</sup> Logistics Readiness Squadron Feb. 8.

### AFSO 21 initiative looks to streamline UTAs

A plan to combine the wing's ancillary training into four UTAs will be discussed in an upcoming Air Force Smart Operations 21 initiative. The objective is more time available during the remaining eight annual UTAs for mission-essential work.

### Base Hangar renovations

Later this spring, the Base Hangar will be renovated. The April Commander's Call will still be held in the hangar at 3:30 p.m. April 11.

### LRS civilian earns Air Force-level award

Nicole Remy, 439<sup>th</sup> Logistic Readiness Squadron, recently earned the Outstanding Individual Civilian Award at the Air Force and Air Force Reserve Command levels. Remy, a retired chief master sergeant, was picked from more than 300 nominations.

### Quarterly winners

Airmen selected as the first quarter winners are:

Airman: SrA. Patrick Harrington; NCO: TSgt. Alexandru Motoc; SNCO: SMSgt. Christopher Harry; CGO: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. John Archambeau; Civilian: Stephanie Powell; and Civilian Supervisor: David Carbin.

# Westover leaves behind a winter to remember

by SrA.  
Monica Ricci

Although spring will soon melt its way through the gates of Westover, this winter is here to stay—on the record books.

This winter, Westover experienced the most days below zero since meteorological technicians started keeping track on base in 1941.

Tracey Ress, Westover's weather station manager, said February alone was the coldest month to ever be recorded, breaking seven low-temperature records. These record-lows spanned from a bone-chilling -10 F to -19 F.

In addition to the sub-zero temperatures on base, Westover was also buried under a new daily snowfall record

of 10.7 inches on Feb. 2. Ress said this broke the record set in 1974.

Westover reservists from the Boston metropolitan area witnessed the city's snowiest season ever, with Logan International Airport reaching 108.6 inches, which tops the previous record of 107.6 inches set in 1996.

Regardless of the season, the staff at the weather station always maintain its round-the-clock role at Westover.

"We support the flying mission with pilot weather briefings that provide detailed information on takeoff weather, weather enroute, flight-level winds, weather in air-refueling tracks and destination weather," Ress said.

While Westover is equipped with an Automated Meteorological Observing System, the weather station staff is continuously providing

augmentation in certain situations to further ensure flight safety. Their observations go into worldwide databases that can be accessed anywhere.

Weather updates from the staff are regularly logged on the base Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/WestoverPatriot>.



## SECAF VISITS KIRTLAND, DISCUSSES H

by Kendahl Johnson

KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. (AFNS) -- In a visit to Kirtland Air Force Base March 9-11, Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James visited Airmen, learned more about the installation's missions and shared her top three priorities.

James, who has been in her position for 15 months, said visiting bases and meeting with Airmen directly is one of the best parts of her job. In addition to visiting informally with Airmen, to hear from them first hand, she spent time at the Air Force

Nuclear Weapons Center, the Kirtland Munitions and Maintenance Storage Complex, the Air Force Safety Center, the Air Force Inspection Agency, the 58<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Wing, the Air Force Research Laboratory and more.

James said her top priority is taking care of people. She said in her 34 years of defense-related jobs, the one thing she's learned is that great people always fuel great organizations.

"I've always put people first," she said. "You can have the best technology, the best ideas, the best everything and if you haven't got

the best people -- if they are not trained, they are not motivated, they don't want to stick with you -- you're going nowhere."

She said the Air Force, in terms of numbers of people, is the smallest it has ever been, but she and other senior leaders are working to curb downsizing. She said there will be no more involuntary separations.

Readiness, specifically striking a balance between being ready today and modernizing for the future, is the second of James' top three priorities. She said the Air Force is not where it needs to be in terms of full



# Blue Angels, Snowbirds lead headliners at Westover air show

by SrA. Charles Hutchinson IV

Two major aerial demonstration teams will headline the May 16-17 Great New England Air Show.

Originating in 1946, the U.S. Navy Blue Angels demonstration team's mission is to boost Navy morale, demonstrate naval air power, and to maintain public interest in naval aviation. The Blue Angels' first demonstration was on May 10, 1946, using the Grumman F6F-5 Hellcat. Navy officials who attended enthusiastically approved, and the demonstration team earned a place in naval tradition.

Over half a century later, the Blue Angels are still headlining air shows all over the world. They fly six F/A-18 Hornets for demonstrating their maneuvers.



According to the team's web site, the Hornets are former fleet aircraft with modifications which include removal of the aircraft gun and replacement with a smoke oil tank. The tank creates the white smoke used for spectators' visibility in aerial demonstrations.

In Canada, the 431 Air Demonstration Squadron is a national icon. More popularly known as the Snowbirds, the squadron comprises members of the Canadian Armed Forces. Like their Amer-

ican counterparts, their pilots and technicians work as a team to bring thrilling performances to the North American public. Serving as Canadian ambassadors, the Snowbirds demonstrate the skill, professionalism and teamwork inherent in the women and men of the Royal Canadian Air Force and the Canadian Armed Forces.

The Snowbirds fly the Canadair CT-114 Tutor, a Canadian-built jet flown by the Canadian Forces as a basic pilot-training aircraft from 1963-2000. The Snowbirds carry on the demonstration tradition of former Canadian air force aerobatic teams, such as the Siskins, the Blue Devils, the Golden Hawks, and the Golden Centennaires.

## ER TOP THREE PRIORITIES

spectrum readiness.

"Remaining ready in this tough budget environment is difficult," she said. "Readiness is an area of investment in our budget. We are pumping more money into training, flying hours, munitions and maintenance, and range infrastructure. We are upgrading our ranges so high-end training can be more effective."

Her third priority is making sure every dollar counts.

"We cannot waste a single dollar," James said. "Money is precious and we have to spend it wisely, and sometimes we have to

make some hard decisions. But we must be good stewards and provide the best value for the taxpayers' dollars at the lowest possible cost."

She said with sequestration, senior leaders will have about \$20 billion less than what they anticipated. Sequestration will not only damage our national security, but the nation's defense strategy will have to be rewritten, she said.

"We simply have to lift sequestration," she said. "Our services are needed more than ever, and having more money puts us in a better position to support our priorities."

James added that it's the job of Air Force senior leaders to provide to the country the most agile, credible and affordable total force possible, so they are ultimately capable of meeting the demands that are outlined by the defense strategic guidance.

"Although we are under strain, I'm absolutely certain we are doing that (meeting the defense strategic guidance) today and are going to continue to do that in the future," James said.





# Westover's first C-5 to fly into the future

by SrA. Monica Ricci

It was a common sight for those at Westover, a C-5 taxiing to the runway March 3 preparing to take off into the Pioneer Valley skies. What many probably did not know that morning, was that it would be the last time tail 027 would do just that.

This aircraft was the first of the wing's 16 C-5Bs to leave Westover for conversion into a C-5M Super Galaxy. It was also the first of eight C-5Bs that won't be returning after the conversion.

A crew chief at Westover has a big responsibility – okay a huge responsibility – taking care of the military's largest aircraft. The 200-ton aircraft is a lot to handle. MSgt. Bob Cirillo knows that well.

"We do a lot of maintenance, and a lot of inspections," MSgt. Cirillo said, "including basic post-flight inspections, basic pre-flight inspections, home-station inspections, and then after its all inspected we take care of all the write-ups, find out what we need to fix, and call the specialists out to take care of their write-ups." MSgt. Cirillo has been a crew chief at Westo-

ver since 1986. He's been assigned to C-130s and C-5s. Tail 027 happened to be one of them.

Crew chiefs have countless responsibilities as tactical aircraft maintainers. They must not only diagnose and repair, but also coordinate and supervise as they oversee their aircraft. Of course, even the toughest of jobs have their rewards.

"My favorite part is finally getting it on the runway and seeing it taking off," MSgt. Cirillo said. "It's amazing to watch something that large, it's as big as a building, taking off into the air. It looks like it's moving so slow, but it's not!"

Some crew chiefs will even say each aircraft has a personality of its own. Nonetheless, tail 027 had its own quirks when it came to its internal fuel

system.

"Tail 027 liked to go to the fuel cell," MSgt. Cirillo joked. "It was always having a fuel leak at the point where if I had to call in a leak, I would laugh to myself because I knew I was going to be about it from everyone else."

The remaining C-5B airlifters will head incrementally. The first C-5M is expected to arrive here in June 2017.







Sgt. Cirillo  
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# Around Westover



**LIL' HOCKEY FAN >>** Springfield Falcon hockey players Denn Urban, Corey Cowick, and Will Weber came out to the Pioneer Valley USO's free Monday night dinner to sign posters for military members and their families. (photo by W.C. Pope)



## VICTIM ADVOCACY >>

The volunteers for the Sexual Assault Victim Advocate positions received training the week of Mar. 9 to become certified in their new role. Top row; SrA. Jacqueline Bones, 439<sup>th</sup> AES, SrA. Merari Antunez, 439<sup>th</sup> ASTS, SrA. Richard Hendricks, ASTS, Tamara Thompson, Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, MSgt. Alexander Cotton, 439<sup>th</sup> ALCF, MSgt. Christopher Baca, 337<sup>th</sup> AS, TSgt Giselle Guidara, 439<sup>th</sup> ASTS and in the front Kimberlee Ayuyu, 439<sup>th</sup> LGC, Cesar Lopez, 439<sup>th</sup> MSG. (photo by W.C. Pope)

## TROOP TALK What are you looking forward to with the arrival of warmer weather?



"I am most looking forward to being able to go hiking in the mountains of New Hampshire. They offer views one can only dream of."

**>>SrA. Grason Grantham**  
439<sup>th</sup> Logistics Readiness Squadron

"Traveling to the beach with friends; just being able to run outside without being bundled up."

**>>Amn. Chelsea Barzola**  
58<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron



"Being able to drive my summer car and not have to worry about potholes and snowy road conditions."

**>>A1C Evan Crossman**  
58<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron

photos by TSgt. Brian Boynton



# August Capstone takes place of ORI

In 2013, the Air Force changed inspections significantly. The purpose of the new Air Force Inspection System is to help Airmen use their time more efficiently and focus on the mission of supporting the warfighter. To do this, the new system eliminates multiple inspections from "outside agencies" and creates an environment in which the wing performs an honest self-assessment over a period of 24-months called a Unit Effectiveness Inspection (UEI) culminating in a Capstone event. The 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing's first Capstone Event is scheduled for August 2015.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: SrA. Monica Ricci, Patriot staff writer, recently interviewed Lt. Col. David Heroux, chief of the 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing inspector general's inspections office, about the Capstone event taking place at Westover this summer.*



## Q. Is Capstone a compliance inspection, like LCAP or ASEV?

A. No. The new Air Force Inspection System eliminates the former ORIs and compliance inspections. The UEI portion of AFIS encompasses a 24-month cycle in which inspections will be completed "virtually" by AFRC culminating in a Capstone Event.

## Q. When is Capstone? What is it?

A. The Capstone Event will take place from Aug. 6-11, when approximately 40 Airmen and civilians from Air Force Reserve Command headquarters visit Westover to verify and validate our self-assessment of our ability to perform the wing's mission. During the Capstone, the IG will conduct one-on-one interviews or group interviews tailored to the results of the 439<sup>th</sup> AW UEI survey and their virtual MICT inspections to assess our ability to complete our mission.

## Q. Please explain the transition from "checklist" to "communicator."

A. Under AFIS, the Management Internal Control Toolset transitions from "checklists" we accomplish annually to a "communicator" by which we continually assess ourselves and keep our leadership informed of any areas where we are non-compliant with Air Force Instructions. Continually means that communicators are updated as soon as non-compliances, or deficiencies, occur. This way, the communicators are always up to date throughout the entire inspection cycle.

## Q. What is the grading criteria for the UEI?

A. The AFIS provides the IG a mechanism to view our wing's ability to perform its mission through four lenses called major graded areas: 1. Managing Resources; 2. Leading People; 3. Improving the Unit, and 4. Executing the Mission. Each of the MGAs is subdivided into areas focusing on how the wing enables its personnel to accomplish the mission. Using this focus, the inspection team can then grade the wing's readiness. Each MGA and the wing overall will receive a rating of "Outstanding," "Highly Effective," "Effective," "Marginally Effective," and "Ineffective."

## Q. What is the key to obtaining a good rating?

A. Communication is key. If everyone focuses on the mission, and communicates when something is not in compliance, the wing will be on the right track to a good rating.

All Airmen and civilian employees should complete the 439<sup>th</sup> AW Unit Effectiveness Inspection survey. It can be found in your military e-mail inbox as well as at [www.research.net/r/439AW](http://www.research.net/r/439AW). Please answer questions honestly, as it will be more meaningful for your wing's improvement.

Contact the 439<sup>th</sup> AW/IGI office with any questions at [439AW.IGI@us.af.mil](mailto:439AW.IGI@us.af.mil) or 557-2599. The IGI staff is located in Bldg. 1850.

**AFTER BURNERS>>>** The F-22 Raptor, one of the most advanced aircraft in the world, will be among the featured aerial demonstrations at the 2015 Great New England Air Show. The May 16-17 show honors Westover's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary and will also feature two headline performers, the U.S. Navy Blue Angels and Canadian Snowbirds. The F-22 pictured is flying over Quonset Air National Guard Base, R.I. (photo by MSgt. Andrew Biscoe)





# 5k: kourage, kold, klouds, kamo, and kramps

by SrA. Monica Ricci

A misty St. Patrick's Day morning didn't stop more than 30 runners from chasing the pot of gold, in this case, the finish line of Westover's annual St. Patrick's Day 5K.

Among the runners were Airmen, Soldiers, Marines and civilians. It was the first chance for many of the participants to run outside this year following the winter's record-breaking cold.



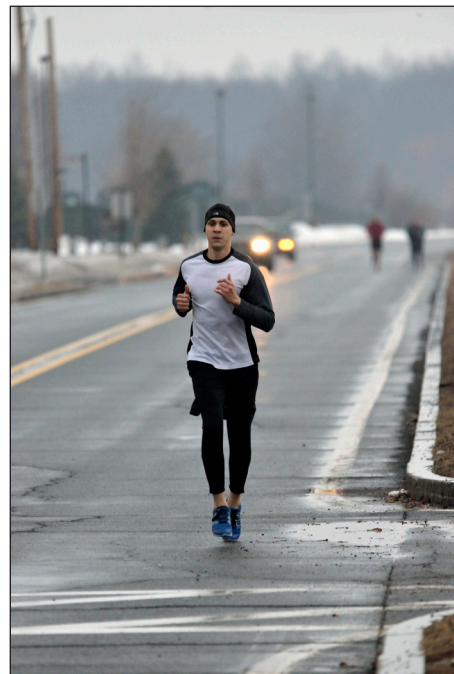
The fitness center staff gathered the runners outside the facility where the 5K then took off to Patriot Avenue. The sounds of the Marine formation's cadence and encouraging words among the participants provided the motivation for this year's run.

Army Spc. Rony Agosto, from the 302<sup>nd</sup> Maneuver Enhance-

ment Brigade, finished in first place among men, while this photojournalist from the 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Public Affairs office, finished first among the women.

All participants were rewarded with green beads, cups and party-wear in honor of the holiday after they crossed the finish line.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: The fitness center provides many opportunities for the people of Westover to stay in shape while also having fun. To find out what is coming up next, visit [westoverservices.com](http://westoverservices.com).*



## 439<sup>th</sup> AMXS wins tournament

by SrA. Monica Ricci

Ten 439<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Airmen swept the Commander's Cup double-elimination Dodgeball Tournament round March 7 at the fitness center.

This tournament was a part of the ongoing series of competitions among units across base. Each team earns points toward winning the Commander's Cup, and some are eliminated.

After their most recent victory, AMXS is now tied for second place with the aeromedical staging squadron in the cup's current 2015 standings. Ahead of the pack is the logistics readiness squadron in first place. The force support squadron is in fourth place, followed by the operations support squadron in fifth place.

## POPE'S PUNS

by W.C.Pope





## PROMOTIONS

**Chief Master Sgt.**  
Marykate Casey



**Senior Master Sgt.**  
Shelley Foust  
Thomas Hans



**Master Sergeant**  
Adam Bassett  
Jonathan Bowker  
Matthew Kadish



**Technical Sergeant**  
Christopher Darling  
Michael Parviainen  
Brian Shipman



**Staff Sergeant**  
John Alexander  
Darren Arsenault  
Crystal Attardo  
Kristen Baier  
Edward Brehm  
Chad Ceccarini  
Davis Cote  
Jonathan Cote  
Amber Fink  
Timothy Pecia



**Senior Airman**  
Robert Breault  
Shannon Riley  
Brian Rodriguez  
Andrew Stoner  
Jeremy Sullivan  
Paige Sullivan  
Tyler Wortham



**Airman First Class**  
Maxime Castor  
Amber Hanson  
Vitaliy Peylykh  
Victor Torres



**Airman**  
Puneet Khunda  
Corey Kosinski  
Shawn Olney  
Hali Ramos



## FACES OF WESTOVER

### TSgt. Janai Lee 439<sup>th</sup> Force Support Squadron



TSgt. Janai Lee, 439<sup>th</sup> Force Support Squadron, is the installation personnel readiness specialist.

"I honestly can say... I really like my job," she said, adding that her favorite aspect of her job was managing the personnel needs of her fellow Airmen. She also enjoys "working with people and having different people from the units coming in, getting a blend and seeing everybody."

Originally from Albany, N.Y., TSgt. Lee moved to Chicopee to be an air reserve technician, where she has served for seven years. She was inspired to join the Air Force after she witnessed the sacrifices servicemenbers and their families made.

TSgt. Lee remains busy and is also an additional duty civilian Equal Opportunity counselor. When she does have time to herself, she loves to crochet, quilt, and read.

--Capt. Andre Bowser

## RETIREMENTS

**Master Sergeant**  
Mark Glibert  
Shane Mortimer

**Technical Sergeant**  
Laurence Olivier

## SERVICES CALENDER

westoverservices.com

by Mollie Anello, services marketing assistant

**CLUB:** CLUB: Welcome a new live band to the Westover Lounge, Relentless! April 11<sup>th</sup>, 8 p.m.-12 a.m.; Dj Kuls returns on April 25<sup>th</sup>, from 8 p.m.-12 a.m., lounge opens at 3 p.m.

**BOWLING:** Join us for Spring Vacation Lunchtime Bowling! April 20-24, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. \$1 games & shoes and cosmic bowling!

**FITNESS:** Softball Sign Ups/Registration will be taking place from April 1-30; Softball season begins in May. Sign up at the Fitness Center front desk. A coaches meeting will be held on April 22 at 4 p.m. at the Fitness Center; 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament also taking place from April 22-24, sign up today!

**OUTDOOR REC:** Start planning for graduation parties, summer parties and more! Tents, tables, chairs, bounce houses and much more! Call to make your reservation today! 557-2192

## Westover Helpers

If in need please contact:

**Psychological Health**  
557-2623 Bldg. 2235

**Sexual Assault**  
557-3862 Bldg. 1100

**Equal Opportunity**  
557-3225 Bldg. 1850

**Airman and Family  
Readiness**  
557-3024 Bldg. 1100

**Chaplain**  
557-3360 Bldg. 1100





Published monthly for Patriots like SrA. Jonathan Teixeira, 439<sup>th</sup> Force Support Squadron, and more than 4,700 people assigned to Westover Air Reserve Base.

## EMPENNAGE

### Dueling headliners

Dual headliner demonstration teams will highlight this spring's Great New England Air Show. Both the U.S. Navy's Blue Angels and Canada's Snowbirds will perform during the May 16-17 show. The Air Combat Command's F-22 Raptor demonstration team, the U.S. Army's Golden Knights and the Canadian CF-18 demonstration team will also be featured.

### Westover becomes one of two ISO's

The West Virginia Air National Guard completed its last C-5 Galaxy isochronal inspection March 6. The 167<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Group had been a regional hub for the past eight years and had completed 63 inspections from eight different bases. The 167<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing is transitioning to C-17s. The remaining C-5 ISO operations are at Dover AFB, Del., and Westover.



**COLD WIND BLEW IN >>** During one of the coldest days on record, Feb. 19, A-10s from the Idaho Air National Guard's 124<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing and a C-17 from Travis AFB, Cal. took up residence on the North Ramp before traveling on to their next mission. Temperatures that day fell to -19F, so cold some of the snow removal equipment stopped working. (photos by SrA. Monica Ricci)