

PATRIOT

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Great New England Air Show and Open House



A Patriot 20 12 Airshow Guide

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Westover will host the 2012 Great New England Air Show and Open House, Aug. 4-5. More than 60 aircraft from World War II era to today's inventory, will be on display. Gates open at 8:30 a.m. and fly-bys and aerial demonstrations begin each day at 10 a.m.



STEALTH SCENE >> The B-2 Spirit Stealth bomber will perform a fly-by Aug. 4 during the Great New England Air Show and Open House. The August *Patriot* is a special edition devoted to coverage of the air show. There are 20 B-2s assigned to the 509th Bombardment Wing, Air Combat Command, at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. This is the first air show to be held at Westover since 2008. (Air Force photo)



munities that pay for it.

In 1939 there were only tobacco fields and swampland where giant C-5s now take off and land. Westover has hosted many other aircraft through seven decades: B-17s, B-24s, P-47s, C-47s, C-54s, F-86s, F-102s, EB-57s, KC-97s, KC-135s, EC-135s, B-52s, C-123s, and C-130s have all been based here.

Primarily a training base during World War II, Westover transitioned

“Airmen from yesteryear put Westover on display throughout the 1940s, ‘50s and ‘60s on each Armed Forces Day in May. The pride of this base was as evident then as it is now.”

In 1974, the base made history as the nation’s first Air Force Reserve-owned installation. Westover’s 2,500 acres make it the largest reserve base in the United States, while its 11,597-foot runway is one of the longest in the Northeast.

Outstanding people have been the constant throughout these many changes. Thousands of men and women have served here. Airmen from yesteryear put Westover on display throughout the 1940s, ‘50s and ‘60s on each Armed Forces Day in May. The pride of this base was as evident then as it is now.

Hundreds of thousands of people will see this pride next month when we open our gates for the first airshow in four years. Many of our visitors will be those who have served at Westover with honor. Let’s make them proud by putting on a successful, safe open house.

I know many of you will be working hard at your various duties during the weekend, but please take time to enjoy the air show too, and be proud of what you do here, just as I am.

by Col. Steven Vautrain
439th Airlift Wing commander

The 2012 Great New England Airshow is more than an airshow, it is an Open House.

This is our opportunity to open the gates of Westover Air Reserve Base and show the public how their tax money is spent. It is our responsibility to show off this 71-year-old base to the com-

to a transport base following the war. In 1948 the Berlin Airlift staging operation established a reputation of excellence throughout the fledgling Air Force. Gen. Curtis LeMay’s mighty armada of Strategic Air Command bombers and tankers arrived in 1955, setting the stage for 19 years as one of the largest Air Force bases in the United States.

Months of planning, hard work will culminate in an exciting weekend

After months of hard work, it’s time to showcase Westover during the 2012 Great New England Air Show and Open House. This is our opportunity to invite the public into our home and show them some of what the Air Force, Army, Navy, and Marines do for our country. We’re highlighting the proud aviation heritage of Westover. It’s also our chance to thank those that came before us as this year’s theme is “A Salute to the Greatest Generation.”

This show has something for everyone. We have a full day of flying featuring a wide variety of civilian and military aircraft. We have scheduled numerous military aircraft

flight demonstrations including the C-5, F-18, F-15, MV-22 and a B-2 fly-by. We also have demonstrations by some of the world’s best civilian aerobatic pilots.

We expect over 60 aircraft at the show, many from today’s inventory and numerous World War II-era Warbirds.

In addition to the dozens of static aircraft and a sky full of airplanes, there will be Army, Navy and Marine equipment, armored vehicles and weaponry on display. Finally, to pay tribute to the Greatest Generation, we will have several World War II-era reenactors who will help our guests to step into the past.

This is not only a chance

for our guests to see military aircraft and equipment up close, but for many it may be their first opportunity to talk to our men and women in uniform. Please remember, each of us represent the military and Westover.

With hundreds of thousands of guests, we have a tremendous opportunity and responsibility to make a lasting and positive impression. Take the time to ensure the base is in order and practice proper military customs and courtesies. Be Air Force ambassadors -- answer questions, talk to our guests and help them understand what we do. Most importantly, please take some time for yourselves and enjoy the show.



by Lt. Col. David Heroux
Great New England Air Show and Open House Director

AIRCRAFT AND ANSWERS |

The following performances and flybys are scheduled for the Great New England Air Show and Open House:

World War II Flavored Opening act:

Flag jump

World War II formation

Mike Goulian/Holland combined Act

C-5 ground off-load demonstration

C-5 flight demo

Iron Eagles

Jet Bus

F-15 fly-by

B-2 Spirit Stealth bomber (Saturday only)

Rob Holland

Third Strike

Osprey MV-22

Black Daggers jump



File photo

Geico Skytypers

Mike Goulian

Jet Outhouse

Red Steel

P-51 demonstration

Combined World War II demonstration

Legacy Flight (F-18 & 2 F-4Us)

F-18 demonstration

Frequently asked questions and answers cover ai

Q - WHAT TIME DO THE GATES OPEN?

A - 8:30 a.m.

Q - WHAT TIME DOES THE flying START?

A - 10 a.m.

Q - CAN I BRING LAWN CHAIRS?

A - Lawn chairs and blankets are allowed but no lounge chairs.

Q - IS THERE A CHARGE FOR ADMISSION/PARKING?

A - There is no charge for admission or parking.

Q - IS THERE PARKING FOR BUSES AVAILABLE?

A - No.

Q - WILL THERE BE A SHUTTLE FROM THE ON-BASE PARKING AREAS?

A - Yes.

Q - CAN I LEAVE AND RE-ENTER THE AIR SHOW?

A - Yes.

Q - ARE COOLERS PERMITTED?

A - Sorry, coolers are not permitted except for special needs, such as medication or baby formula.

Q - ARE CAMERAS AND VIDEO RECORDERS ALLOWED?

A - Yes.

Q - CAN I BRING AN UMBRELLA?

A - Small umbrellas are permitted.

Q - DO YOU HAVE ANY BLEACHER SEATING?

A - No.

Q - CAN YOU GIVE ME A SCHEDULE OF ACTS?

A - A tentative schedule will be published shortly before the show. However, the schedule is subject to change due to mission requirements.

Q - WHAT IS A STATIC DISPLAY?

A - A static display is a parked aircraft, or any other display that is not moving.

Q - IS THERE SHADE?

A - There is some shade available in the Base Hangar and under the wings of some of the larger static display aircraft.

Q - ARE PETS ALLOWED?

A - Pets are not allowed, except for service animals (Seeing eye dogs, etc.)

Q - WILL THE SHOW BE TELEVISED?

A - Plans are for the show to be recorded for showing at a later date.

Q - WHAT HAPPENS IF IT RAINS?

A - The show will go on rain or shine.

Q - WHERE CAN I STAY OVERNIGHT?

A - There are numerous motels and hotels in the area. However, we suggest that visitors make reservations as early as possible. The Greater Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau at www.valleyvisitor.com will assist you in finding lodging.

Q - IS THERE A PROVISION FOR PRIVATELY OWNED AIRCRAFT TO PARK?



WARBIRDS FLOCK TO WESTOVER >> The B-25 Mitchell (above) and C-47 Skytrain will be among the Warbirds aircraft on display on the Westover flight line. These renowned World War II-era workhorses will join more than 60 aircraft scheduled to be at the base. (photos by MSgt. Andrew Biscoe)

show particulars

A – All civilian aircraft need to coordinate with Westover Metropolitan Airport.

Additional information can be found on their website www.wmass-arpctcf.com or call (413) 593-5543.

Q - CAN I BRING FOOD?

A – Yes, however it must be in a clear container.

Q - CAN I BRING A FROZEN DRINK ON BASE?

A – Yes, you can bring frozen non-alcoholic beverages in plastic containers.

Q - WHY CAN'T I BRING ICE ONTO THE BASE?

A – Loose ice is prohibited because it is difficult to search. Ice packs are permitted.

Q - IS THERE ANY DANGER OF AN ACCIDENT?

A: Public safety is our top priority. However, in the case of an emergency or accident the base has set up response measures.

Q - CAN I BRING MY KIDS?

A – Attendants are encouraged to bring their children. There will be special family area for families with children.

Q - WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

A – Visit www.greatnewenglandairshow.com or www.westover.afrc.af.mil.

Q - WHERE CAN I GET DIRECTIONS?

A – Visit www.greatnewenglandairshow.com/index.php?page=directions

Q - WHAT ADDRESS SHOULD I USE TO GET TO THE

SHOW IF I'M USING MY GPS?

A – Use 2255 Westover Rd. Chicopee, Mass. to get to the main gate.

Q - IS CELL PHONE RECEPTION AVAILABLE ON BASE?

A – Yes.

Q - WILL I NEED AN ID TO GET ON BASE?

A - Vehicle operators will need a valid driver's license.

Q - WILL THERE BE SECURITY ON SITE?

A - Yes, security will be provided by the Air Force, Marines, Army and Massachusetts State Troopers.

Q - WILL THE GUARDS AT THE GATE BE SEARCHING VEHICLES?

A - Guards will not be searching vehicles at the gate unless they have probable cause for suspicion.

Q - WILL SANITARY FACILITIES BE PROVIDED?

A - Yes, portable toilets will be on site.

Q - WILL THE EVENT BE HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE?

A - Yes, there will be a separate handicap parking area on the base.

Approved items:

- Small purses or fanny packs
- Cameras and/or camcorders with "small" camera bags
- Diaper bags
- Baby strollers
- "Small" lawn chairs only (no lounge chairs)
- Wheelchairs, canes, guide/working dogs

Air Show Headliners



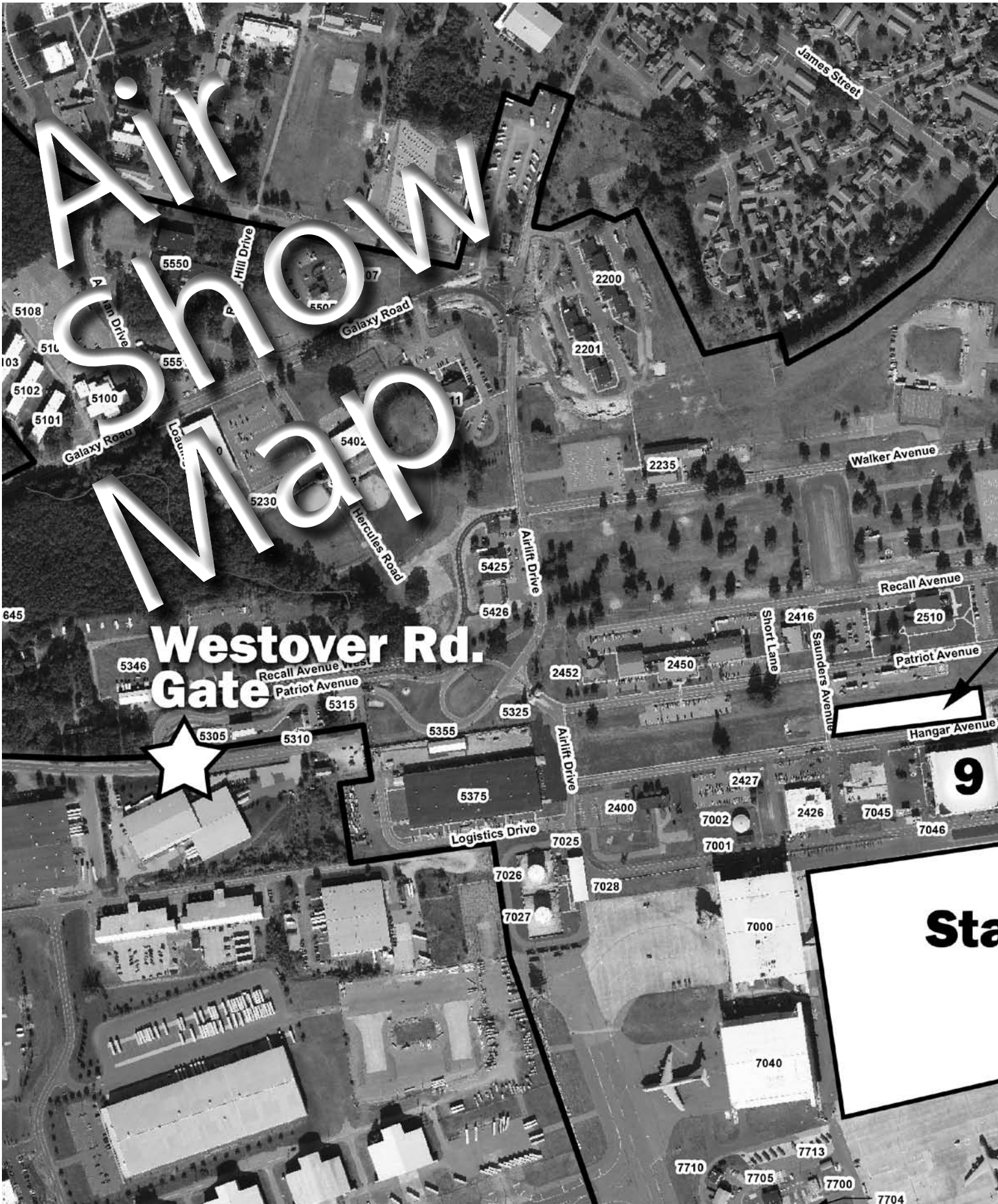
FLY-IN >> These aircraft are among those scheduled to be at the Great New England Air Show and Open House. Clockwise from lower left: F-15C Eagles from Barnes Air National Guard Base, A-10 Thunderbolt II, C-17 Globemaster III, the Geico Skytypers, F-4U Corsair and F/A-18 Hornet Heritage Flight, two C-130J Hercules, Geico Skytypers, Red Steel Jet team and a C-5B Galaxy. (photos by MSgt. Andrew Biscoe)



Courtesy photo



AIRSHOW MAP |

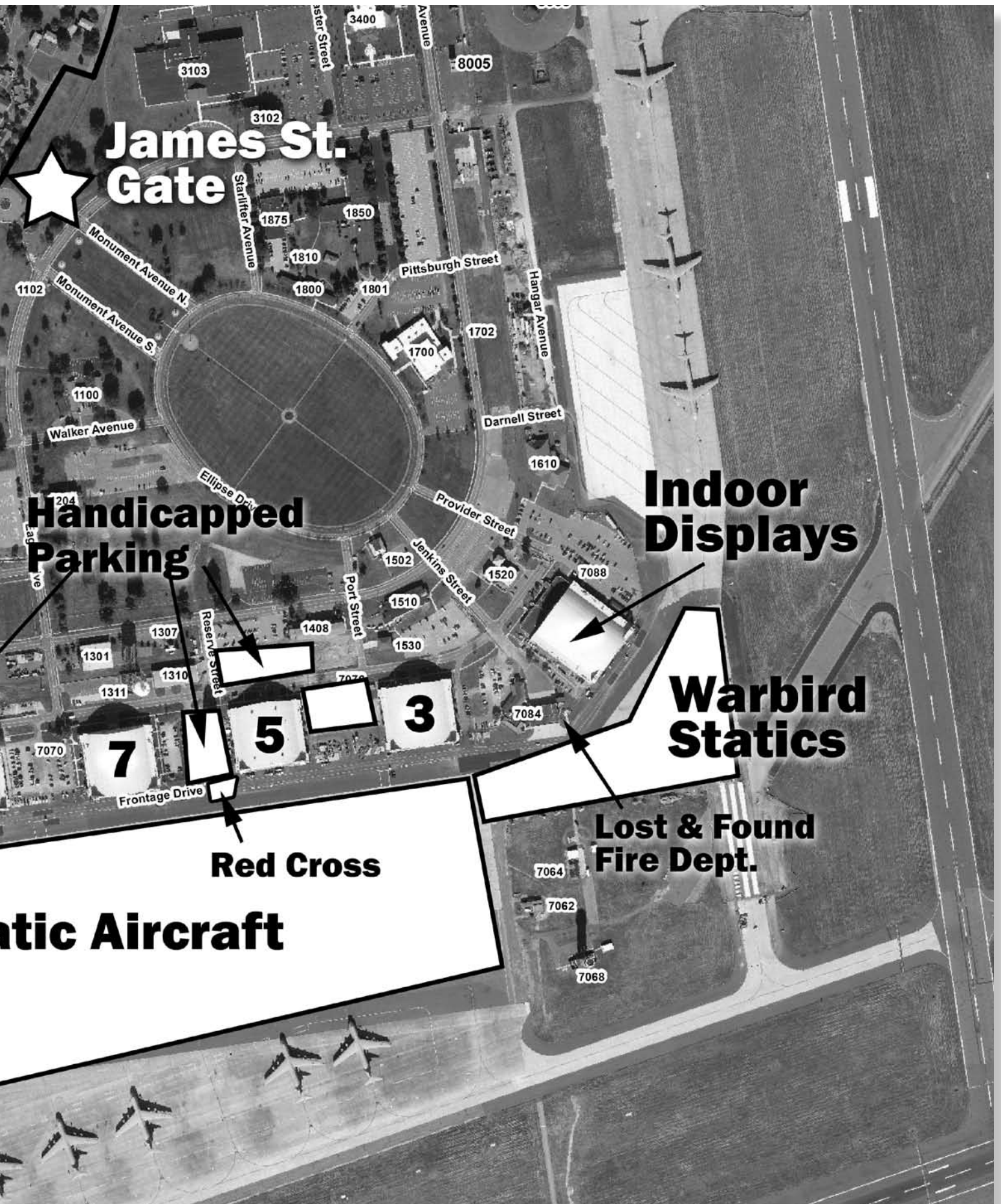


**Westover Rd.
Gate**



9

Sta



James St. Gate



Handicapped Parking

Indoor Displays

Warbird Statics

Lost & Found Fire Dept.

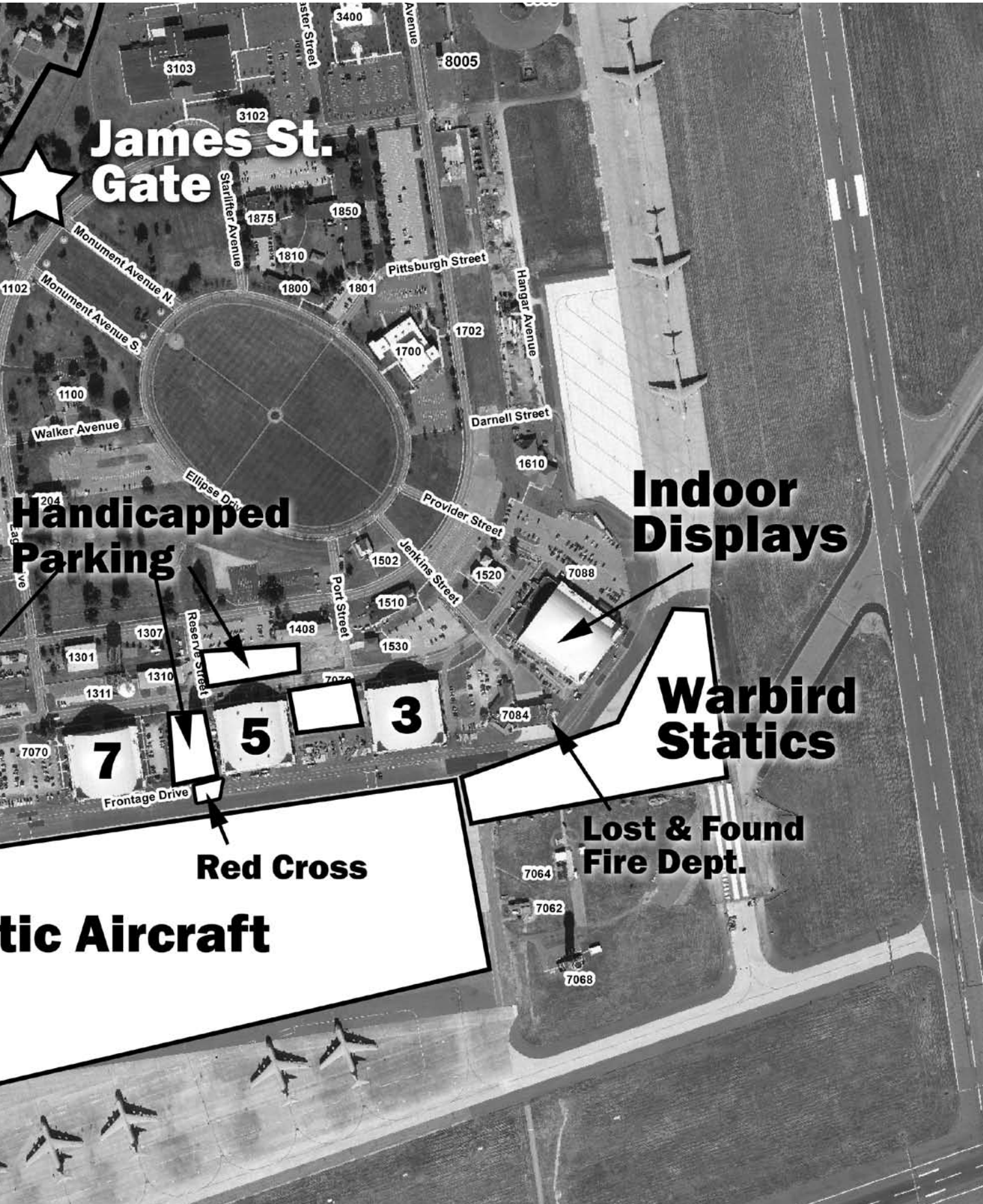
Red Cross

Antic Aircraft

3

5

7





FIRST NOTES >> TSgt. Blaire Sieber, an American Idol semi-finalist, will sing the National Anthem both mornings of the air show and open house. TSgt. Sieber is a 337th Airlift Squadron loadmaster. (Courtesy photo)

Did you know?

Fun facts about previous Westover air shows

>> The 2008 Great New England Air Show brought in \$13.5 million to the western Massachusetts economy.

>> Westover's air shows began in the 1940s and were held on Armed Forces Days in May through the 1960s. The air show is now held about every four years.

>> More than 330,000 people visited the 2008 Great New England Air Show.

>> Twenty-four years ago, the base celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift. Retired Col. Gail Halvorsen, the famous "Candy Bomber" of Berlin Airlift fame, visited the base and talked with schoolchildren, just as he did in 1948 as a lieutenant, with his C-54 airlifter.

Pope's Puns





B-52



KC-135K

Heritage display will showcase aviation history at Westover

A war-readiness appropriation created the Northeast Army Airfield signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1939. The base opened on April 6, 1940. Since then, Westover has hosted scores of different military aircraft – five of which are showcased here.

B-52 Stratofortress (1956 – 1972)

The most well-known aircraft associated with Westover was the B-52 Stratofortress. In mid-1956, the Air Force selected Westover as one of just three bases nationwide to initially house 45 of the giant strategic bombers. The B-52 was designed for worldwide delivery of conventional and nuclear weapons. B-52s assigned to Westover flew missions in Vietnam in 1967 (Linebacker I) and 1972 (Linebacker II).

KC-135A Stratotanker (1957 – 1975)

The KC-135s were responsible for refueling aircraft, extending the range of the B-52s. Westover's fleet of 20 KC-135s participated in the Cuban Missile Crisis. KC-135s were the last SAC-assigned aircraft at Westover, pulling alert until the spring of 1975.

C-123 Provider (1973-1982)

The "Providers" became one of the airlift workhorses of the Tactical Air Command after the Korean War. The C-123s came to Westover from L.G. Hanscom Field, Mass., in September 1973 and remained until 1982. Westover's C-123s frequently supported the Army and performed airdrops of paratroopers and cargo.

C-130 Hercules (1972 – 1987)

Westover became the nation's first Air Force Reserve base in May 1974 and flew tons of cargo and troops in these transport aircraft. During this time the 439th Tactical Airlift Wing received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for providing 90 percent of the worldwide air support needed by the U.S. Army's 10th Special Forces. Sixteen C-130s were assigned to Westover.

C-5 Galaxy (1987 – present)

The arrival of the gigantic C-5 transformed the base. Westover's 16 C-5s have flown in every major military and humanitarian operation since their arrival in 1987. The 121-foot-long cargo deck of the C-5 is one foot longer than the Wright Brothers' first flight. The C-5 is the largest aircraft in the U.S. military inventory.



C-130



C-5

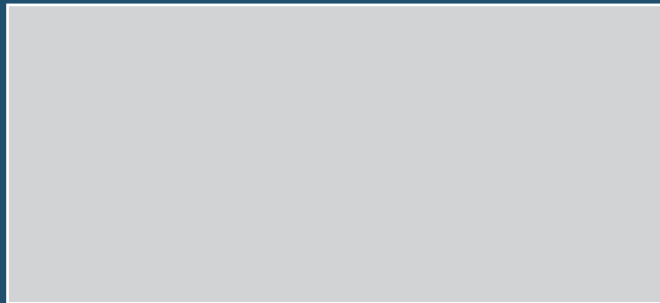


KC-135A



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Published monthly for Patriots like TSgt. Nathan Tarleton, Portsmouth, N.H., and the more than 3,400 reservists and civilians assigned to the 439th Airlift Wing.



THE ART OF THE AIRSHOW >> These illustrations depict the 1998 air show (right) and the 2008 event. For more information on the 2012 Great New England Air Show and Open House, visit westover.afrc.af.mil or greatnewenglandairshow.com. (photos by SrA. Kelly Galloway)