

# Renovations make big landings possible



Collegian Photo/Dan Saellinger

Students in the Air Force ROTC step into an EC-130E plane yesterday. The military plane was brought to the University Park Airport in Benner Township by the 193rd Special Operations Wing from Harrisburg.

By **BETH LUCAS**  
Collegian Staff Writer

A large military airplane landed at the University Park Airport last night, an event recently made possible because of airport renovations. The renovations allowed Penn State Air Force ROTC students to see the plane, an Air Force electronic cargo 130, which is one of only six of its type in the Air Force.

"I've never seen one of these myself," said Col. Steven Paladini, Penn State professor of aerospace studies.

The large craft stood out among the small piston and jet planes which normally land at the airport.

These military planes are used in information warfare, Paladini said. This plane was able to land en route to its regular course because of the runway renovations. The 6,700-foot runway recently was extended by 650 feet, allowing for larger and heavier planes to land.

"Since the airport has a long enough runway, (the visiting pilots) said, 'Why don't we just fly (here)?"' Paladini said.

The landing gave students an opportunity to interact with the plane's crew, Paladini added.

"Cadets get to see (the plane), talk to the crew," Paladini said. "It's purely to showcase to our cadets one piece of the Air Force."

The Penn State football team also has been affected by the runway extension. Visiting teams now can

fly directly into State College rather than taking a bus from Williamsport or Harrisburg, said Frank Rocco, Penn State's assistant athletic director.

Purdue University's football team flew to State College on a 727 full-size jet homecoming weekend, the same type of jet the University of Illinois' team will use this week-end.

Although it is currently in use, the runway will not be finished until Thanksgiving. It still needs to be grooved in order to assure water stays out of the gravel to protect airplane tires from hydroplaning.


General repairs also were made to the runway.

"Basically, we have a whole new runway here," said Bob Dannaker, the airport manager.

The pavement had not been renewed for 20 years, which made it weaken, holding only 60,000 pounds compared to the 110,000 pounds it now holds.

U.S. Airways Express, Northwest Airlinck and United Express maintain their previous 40 flights per day, but the reinforced and extended runway has allowed for heavier planes to take off, which means more passengers may be allowed to board the planes.

In 1997, there were 105,000 departures from the airport. This year that number is expected to increase to about 110,000. Cost of the total construction at the airport is projected at \$22 million.



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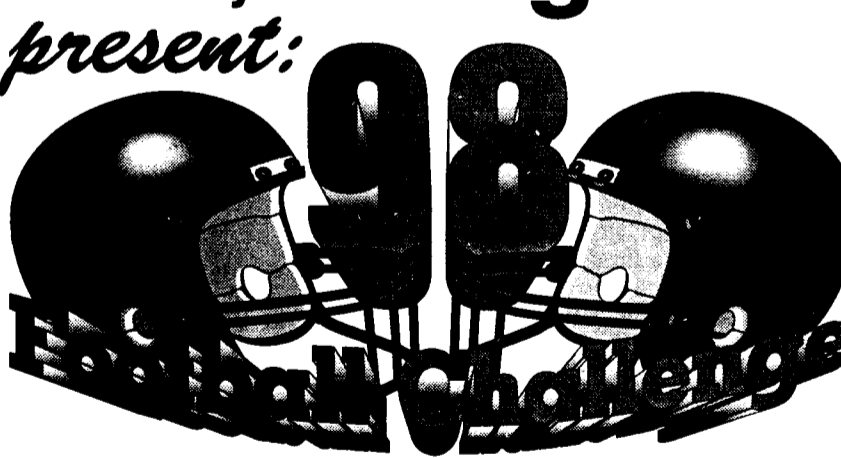
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Visitors	Win	Home	Win	Tie
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Iowa	<input type="checkbox"/>	Purdue	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Northwestern	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michigan State	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minnesota	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ohio State	<input type="checkbox"/>	Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Carolina	<input type="checkbox"/>	Florida State	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
West Virginia	<input type="checkbox"/>	Virginia Tech	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Texas	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nebraska	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Texas A&M	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oklahoma State	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Missouri	<input type="checkbox"/>	Texas Tech	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arizona State	<input type="checkbox"/>	Washington State	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stanford	<input type="checkbox"/>	UCLA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Georgia	<input type="checkbox"/>	Florida	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Colorado State	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Pro</b>				
Tennessee	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pittsburgh	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
San Francisco	<input type="checkbox"/>	Green Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minnesota	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tampa Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
NY Jets	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kansas City	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jacksonville	<input type="checkbox"/>	Baltimore	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Tiebreaker:** Total Points Scored in the Illinois/Penn State game?


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