

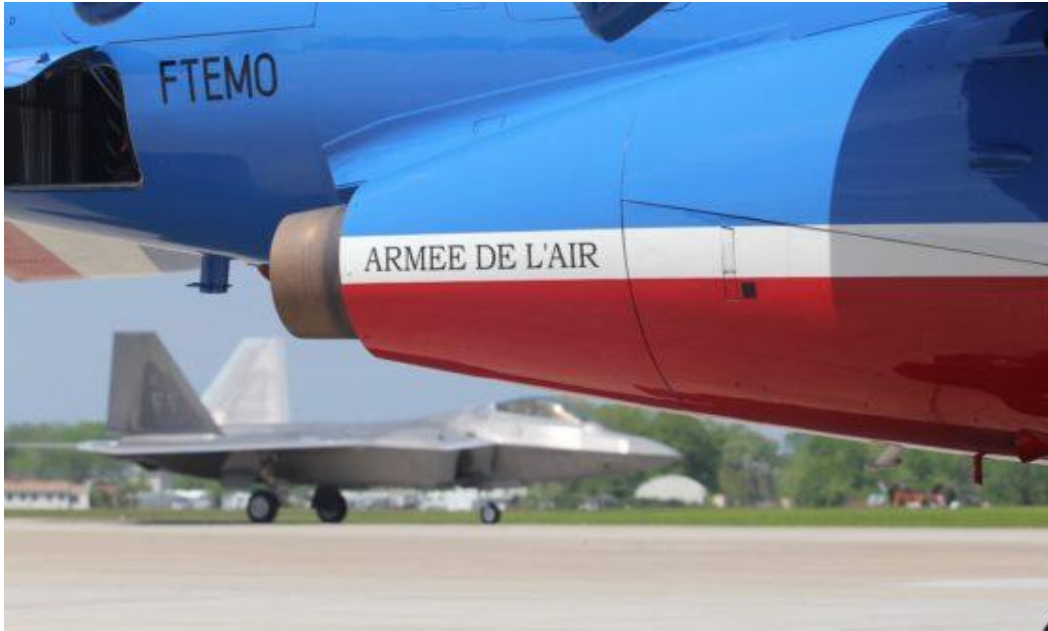
Promising tour of the Patrouille de France in the USA

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(French-to-English Translation by Google Translate)

[AMERICAN TOUR-Patrouille de France-THUNDERBIRDS](#)

The American tour of the PAF, begun on March 25 in New York, ends. The departure for France of the planes and the whole team is scheduled for May 4th. At the US Air Force base in Langley, Virginia, where we met the Patrouille de France, we talk about the participation of the USAF Thunderbirds in the July 14th 2017 parade ...



The AlphaJet of the PAF put a few colors on the base of Langley, the F-22 (in the background) high place in the United States. © Frédéric Lert / Aerobuzz

From New York to California, passing through fifteen other stages across the North American continent, the Patrouille de France arouses a considerable enthusiasm with the Americans. The flags on the AlphaJet drift, the messages delivered by the commentators on the microphone, the quality of the presentation and the simple fact that France decided to send its patrol electrifies a very patriotic public who does not have its flag in his pocket...



Colonel Peter Fesler, commander of the 1st Fighter Wing equipped with F-22, receives a souvenir from the hands of Commander Christophe Dubois, leader of the 2017 PAF. The American officer has just "penned" with the patrol and everyone seems pleased ... © Frédéric Lert / Aerobuzz

The star-shaped banner "made in PAF"

And when the PAF finishes its program by unrolling a ribbon of smoke in the colors of the starry banner, with red and white stripes and a touch of blue to represent the stars, the hearts capsize. The hand on the heart, the crowd listens religiously the Marseillaise played at the end of the presentation.



For designers, the Alphajet in its American colors under all its seams ... © Frédéric Lert / Aerobuzz

This is a new show off the Atlantic, and ultimately confirmation that finesse can advantageously replace power. The tour will continue until May 2 with a presentation in Quebec City, before departing for France from the base of Bagotville 48 hours later. Arrival in Salon de Provence is scheduled for May 6th.

Fraternal meeting with the Thunderbirds

Last Friday (April 21, 2017), the PAF was on the Langley air base to perform before the participants of the multinational TEI exercise and the Chiefs of Staff of the US Air Force, Royal Air Force and the Air Force.



The PAF team with the three American pilots taken in the back seat during a transit flight. The US tour was an opportunity to create strong ties with the US Air Force. © Frédéric Lert / Aerobuzz

Lieutenant Colonel Gauthier Dewas, the presentation team's manager, spoke of the highlights of the tour, including the meeting with the USAF Thunderbirds: *"We met with the USAF presentation team three times, The meetings of*

Melbourne, Nellis and Maxwell. We traded with them for a long time, there was a very close proximity between the two patrols. We exchanged not only our ambassadorial work, but also our respective operational experiences. Over the last fifteen years, we have been engaged together in numerous theaters of operation ... "

Beyond memories, projects

The PAF will return to France richer of some ideas. The simplest, such as the hanging of a huge French flag in its hangar of Salon, the image of what is very often found on US bases. Or a greater openness vis-à-vis the media and VIPs. *"During the tour we had journalists stolen from the biggest television stations, it was still the best way to communicate about our presence ..."* says LC Dewas.



An A400M evolves in the wake of the PAF to transport the logistics: the aircraft can carry at the same time sixty passengers, their luggage, four pallets of equipment and two spare engines on their transport trolley. A considerable improvement over the C-130 or C-160! © Frédéric Lert / Aerobuzz

The PAF will also bring back a beautiful friendship with the Thunderbirds, which could materialize, on July 14, by a passage of the US patrol on the Champs Elysees. The Thunderbirds will already be in Europe to participate in the Royal International Air Tattoo Overseas. Technically, nothing would be opposed to this coup d'éclat in France. The two armies are also in favor at the highest level. But the last word will come back to the political power and the messages that the new French president will want to pass on the occasion of his first 14 of July ...

Frédéric Lert



The insignia of the American tour 2017, which takes again the motif painted on the drift of the Alphajet. © Frédéric Lert / Aerobuzz