



Travis Air Museum NEWS

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Editor's note:

By Denell Burks

It's been a busy time for Travis Air Museum staff, volunteers and supporters. In fact, there is a convergence of activities

that is exciting, rewarding and optimistic.

BRAVO! APPLAUSE! SALUTE!

Here's what's happening:

What's Up!

17 Oct 2009 Travis Air Museum Status

During the Jimmy Doolittle Air and Space Museum Foundation (JDASMF) Board of Directors meeting, LtCol Luckritz, Special Assistant to 60 AMW/CV, presented a power-point presentation regarding the current status of the Travis Air Museum.

That presentation stated that Travis Air Museum is one of the top 10 priorities for Travis Air Force Base's wing commander, Col James C Vechery. Col Vechery sees the relationship between the 60th Military Airlift Wing, the Travis Air Museum and the Jimmy Doolittle Air and Space Museum Foundation as a full partnership working toward the goal of making the new Travis Heritage Center the pre-eminent military museum in northern California.

In order to insure that this renewed cooperation is successful, several steps were taken:

- Museum staff was increased... welcome, CMSgt Kevin Soltis, Assistant Curator, MSgt Tony Borrelli, Superintendent, and Capt Keegan Maple, 60th Wing Action Officer.
- A working group consisting of Travis AFB personnel, Travis Air Museum staff and JDASM Foundation members was established. This working group, headed

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Last flight of The C-133A Cargo Master (Tail Number 56-1999)

It's a love story . . .

"So there it is, love lost, love returned and a love affair remembered. Like a match made in heaven, Travis and the C-133A Cargomaster reunited," . . .

*By Master Sgt. Anthony Borrelli
60th Air Mobility Wing Museum*

The Alaskan sky was dark and overcast and Terry pulled the collar up on his brown leather jacket to keep the chill out. This was going to be a big day for him. He was far from home. A little anxious, a little excited, and one could say even a little nervous. His steps were heavy as he walked out on the barren flightline and thought about what he might be getting into. What could he say? What would he do? The questions went round and round in his head, a chaotic jumble of words, but before he could grasp his thoughts and get a handle on things, he saw her.

She stood there all alone. She was weathered, cold and lost. She was pushing more than 17,000 hours of flight time and her days of flying were now numbered. She was missing her markings and looked tired, but there was no mistaking that she was the one. Terry was speechless. He approached her slowly, put his hand out to greet her and like destiny, he knew without a doubt, that their lives would never be the same again.

From that timeless moment on, the Travis Air Museum, and the men, women and families of the 84th Military Airlift Squadron devoted their time and efforts to bring the C-133 Cargomaster 56-1999, home. In no time, the arrangements and the funding for the long trip from Alaska to Travis were made and in August 2008, the last flying C-133 touched down at the 2008 Travis Air Expo. Terry Juran, the museum director,

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What's up continued

by Col Mike Minihan, Vice Wing Commander, 60th Air Mobility Wing, meets monthly.

The working group establishes goals, assigns projects and recently coordinated the move of the C-133A from the Travis AFB flight line to the Travis Air Museum Heritage Park. JDASMF past-president Andy Popenoe is the Foundation's primary representative, while Curator Terry Juran represents the Travis Air Museum.

12 Dec 2009 Berlin Airlif

After traveling to 29 different cities, the Berlin Airlift exhibit now has a permanent home at Travis Air Museum. During its rededication, Mr. Heinz-Gerd Reese, the director of the Berlin Airlift Gratitude Foundation, spoke about the long friendship between the German and American people, built on the Berlin Airlift.

"The Berlin Airlift veterans changed the world," he said. "It was the greatest airlift ever, and you can be proud of it, and your continued humanitarian operations today, worldwide, wherever needed."

Dr. Bernd Von Muenchow-Pohl, the director of the German Information Center USA, said there was no better place for the exhibit because the Air Mobility Command was the "child" of those who carried out the Berlin Airlift. "The old frontlines of the Cold War have vanished, but there are new threats and challenges we friends have faced together, to overcome."

03 Feb 2010 New Museum Site

In a letter to JDASMF president Phil Lancaster, Col Vechery, 60 AMW/CC designated land near the hospital gate for the new Travis Heritage Center. The Center would be accessible to the general public and Air Force owned and operated. However, appropriated funds may not be used for construction of the facilities, so the new Heritage Center is wholly dependent on the success of the Jimmy Doolittle Air and Space Museum Foundations' (non-profit arm of the Travis Air Museum) fundraising efforts.

March 2010 Escorts

Thanks to the efforts of JDASMF director Tom Kulinski, escorts are now available for guests without base access to visit the Travis Air Museum. Escorts are available Tuesday-Friday, from 1200 to 1500, and on Saturdays from 0900 to 1500. Please refer to the "Access to

Travis AFB" information on our website www.travisairmuseum.org for base entry requirements. The Museum is closed on Sundays and Mondays. Current escorts are Andy Popenoe, Tom Kulinski, George Buchanan, Denell Burks, Wally Mitchell, Mike Barber, Charles Dawes and Linn Benson. More escorts are needed... if you have a valid military ID card, we need you.

April 2010 Fund Raising Study

In order to meet the challenge of providing the funds for the construction of the new Travis Heritage Center, the Foundation has hired Lanny Couvillon and John Youngberg of FriendRaisers, LLC to conduct a Capital Campaign Feasibility Study to be concluded before July 1, 2010.

May 2010 New Museum Brochure

The new Travis Air Museum brochure created by MSgt Tony Borrelli and Foundation members Denell Burks and Tom Kulinski was completed. It was funded by Travis Credit Union and printed by Delta Graphics of Fairfield, CA.

08 May 2010 C-133 Relocated to Museum

The C-133A Cargomaster "The Spirit of Fairfield Suisun Vacaville" was moved to the airfield, across the KC-10 ramp to the Travis Air Museum Heritage Park. During the move, retired Air Force Major John Burnett sat in the pilot's seat of the C-133 and retired Air Force Master Sgt. Ike Issacson sat at the flight engineer station. Operating a U30 Tow Vehicle, Senior Airman Dave Roberts, 60th Maintenance Group, positioned the C-133.

Depending on cost, steps have already been taken to permanently move the C-133A Cargomaster "The Spirit of Fairfield Suisun Vacaville" to the hospital gate. Other sites are also being considered.

15 May 2010 84 MAS Reunion

The 84th MAS celebrated their reunion at the Travis Air Museum. In addition to the Friday night dinner, over 200 folks attended the Saturday luncheon at the Museum.

Autumn 2010

Get ready to stroll with the Mustangs ... that is: beautifully restored WWII P-51 airplanes and cool Ford Mustangs. Enjoy a family friendly event at the Nut Tree Airport hosted by the Jimmy Doolittle Air and Space Museum for the benefit of the Travis Air Museum.

Love Story continued

was there to greet her as well, and he had the sole honor of being the last crew chief to block a C-133.

For 13 years the C-133 served our Air Force as the first wide-body cargo aircraft. Only 50 of these magnificent aircraft were ever made and unfortunately only seven remain in existence. They courageously served our Air Force from 1958 to 1971 until they were replaced by the C-141 Starlifter and later overshadowed by the C-5 Galaxy and C-17 Globemaster III. NASA referred to her as the first step into space as she carried booster engines for the Mercury Gemini Space program, and on several occasions she carried the Apollo space capsule. More than anything else though, the C-133 was the airplane of the 84th MAS stationed at Travis.

On Saturday, 15 May 2010, the 84th MAS celebrated their reunion at the Travis Air Museum where their honored guest was, their long lost love, the C-133 Cargomaster. This magnificent aircraft, tail number 56-1999, which flew out of Travis only from February to November 1960, was the main attraction for this occasion. Also on that day, the Travis Air Museum presented their newest display dedicated to the men and women who sacrificed, served and supported this beautiful aircraft and to those who donated funds to bring this beauty home.

So there it is, love lost, love returned and a love affair remembered. Like a match made in heaven, Travis and the C-133 Cargomaster reunited. And just like tales of old, it won't end here. Steps have already been taken to move this beautiful aircraft to the hospital gate this summer, where she will greet team Travis and all base visitors.

If you would like more information about the C-133 Cargomaster and you believe in love at first sight, make your way to the Travis Air Museum. Who knows, maybe even you will fall in love with the famed Cargomaster and live happily ever after.

For more information:



www.travisairmuseum.org