

MINNESOTA AIR NATIONAL GUARD HISTORICAL FOUNDATION
MINNESOTA ANG MUSEUM NEWS

*Minnesota Aviation History - Learn of the Past
Spring 2018*



The Collection Conundrum by Kirk Ransom

Over the past two years we have been inventorying the archive collection. Archives are paper items like letters, directives, histories, maps, newsletters, orders, and things like videos and pictures. Archives are sometimes referred to as two-dimensional or 2D items.

More than 15,000 items have been inventoried, and they take up lots of space. The next phase is to examine the databases and determine what items in the inventories are within the scope of the museum's collection and separate the items that are not within the scope. These excess items will be offered to other museums or institutions, sold in the gift shop, or they may be recycled/discarded.

For example, we have more than 2,000 books; many are very good books about all sorts of aviation events. Other books are interesting reads but are not directly about the Minnesota Air National Guard so they will also be offered to other museums, institutions and libraries. Some excess books will be sold in the gift shop. Any collection items sold in the gift shop support the collection program with shelving, boxes, conservation, etc.

One of the things we are doing with the inventories is looking for any items related to the history of the 109th Aero (1917), Observation (1921), Reconnaissance (1943), Fighter (1950), Interception (1957), Air Transportation (Heavy) (1960) and Airlift (1970) Squadron since its federal recognition in 1921.

Collection story continues on page 4

Museum Improvements 2018 by Jim Atwell

During the cold winter months museum volunteers and contributors have been busy. Our Photo Phantom that we take to various events across Minnesota and Western Wisconsin was stored at Herold Precision Metals in White Bear Lake.

Pat Herold, owner, donated time and materials to develop a greatly improved set of portable stairs and staircase for easy access into the F-4 cockpit. This will ease volunteer effort, improve visitor safety and expedite set up and preparation for transport of the aircraft exhibit.

Jim Atwell thanks Pat Herold (left) as the F-4 cockpit is taken out of storage at Herold Precision Metals.
photo by George Brown

We would like to thank Pat for his generous donation to the museum and the Foundation.

Additional plans are for volunteers to extend the new carpeting down the hallway from the foyer on the first floor. This carpeting will match the carpet tiles in the front area of the museum.

There is a project scheduled this year to apply new paint to the facility and also install a new roof.

Also inside:

- **Summer schedule information**
- **Tours and events at the Museum**
- **C-131H "Samaritan"**



Our volunteers: Dave McCarthy story and photo by Terry Morris

Dave McCarthy dreamed of being in aviation even while growing up in La Crosse Wisc. In 1970, Dave enlisted in the US Army with the hope of realizing that dream. Even though a vision issue prevented it from happening in the military, he never abandoned his dream. After receiving an honorable discharge following tours in Vietnam and Germany, Dave went back to school and obtained his A&P license.

He began living his dream when he was hired to work on vintage DC-6 aircraft for a smaller company in the Miami area. He soon secured an aviation mechanic position at Pan Am where he worked on 727s, 747s, L-1011s, A-300s, and DC-10s plus Air Force KC-10s under a special contract.

After Pan Am's dissolution in 1991, Dave was recruited by Northwest Airlines (NWA) to work on their 747s and moved to Minneapolis. He was employed with NWA for approximately eight years. The 2003 industry cut-backs forced Dave to make the tough decision to retrain and move into the medical equipment industry where he remained until his retirement in 2012.

Though Dave made this major career change, he never gave up on his aviation dream. He learned that a



former NWA coworker, Mike Drews, was a volunteer at the Minnesota Air National Guard Museum. After visiting the museum with Mike in 2016 he immediately decided to become a volunteer.

Since becoming a volunteer, Dave has provided support for a number of museum projects and is the museum's primary safety representative. Recently his focus has been on the restoration of an R-2800 engine exhibit. He is most proud of being able to participate in the restoration of the museum's P-51 cockpit exhibit with Ron Hokenson.

When asked what he likes best about being a volunteer, Dave answers, "The fun of interacting with the other volunteers, sharing stories about the aircraft and, of course, continuing to live my dream!"

BTW:His favorite plane is the F-4 Phantom, which he saw in operation when he was stationed at Bien Hoa in Vietnam.

Summer Offsite Schedule 2018: Photo Phantom & Gift Shop by Ray Pittman

Hello fellow museum members! It's that time of year again to commence our off-site trips to educate the public with our trailer mounted F-4 Photo Phantom (PP). Because of security restrictions on the Air National Guard base again this year, we are not able to entertain the public like we have in the past.

Members and guests can still come on base to view the museum but have to call and make arrangements to be vetted prior to the date they would like to visit. As a result, we take our show on the road, so to speak.

Going to off-site events with the PP and gift shop is a way to maintain the museum's financial needs. We had a very good season last year and we are hoping to do as well or better this year. The PP has been upgraded with a new set of access stairs and many items have received special attention to restore the cockpit to how it looked when the aircraft was being flown.

In 2016 the PP got a new paint job, and

with the help of many museum volunteers, new markings and signage were added. As in the past, the gift shop will accompany the PP to most of the scheduled events depending on logistics. We are always looking for volunteers to help us out at these events, so if any of the dates I've listed below will work for members, we'd love to see you there! Please call the museum and let us know if you would like to participate.

We are also actively seeking a heavy-duty pickup to transport the PP to off base sites. The vehicle we currently have is getting old and needs to be retired. If you know of a heavy-duty pickup or a dually that is reasonably priced, or if you know of anyone who would like to donate a truck for a good cause, have them contact the museum at 612-713-2523. We will provide the appropriate paper work and tax information.

May 19	Harley Davidson Rally, Crow River H.D., Delano, Minn., Time: TBA
June 9	Rush City Airport Fly-In Breakfast, Rush City, Minn., Time: 7:00-3:00
June 24	Red Bull Military Expo, North Branch, Minn., Time: 9:00-3:00
July 4	Delano Parade and Carnival, Delano, Minn., Time: TBA
July 7	Vets Fest, Oakdale City Park, Oakdale, Minn., Time: 12:00-6:00
July 14-15	Wings of the North Air Expo, Eden Prairie, Minn., Time: daily 7:00-4:00
July 21	Burnett County Airshow, Siren, Wisc., Time: 7:00-3:00
Sept. 9	Wheels & Wings - Osceola Air Show, Osceola, Wisc., Time: 7:00-4:00

Chairman's comments

As is often customary with the arrival of Spring, our attention turns to reducing clutter and thoughts of new ventures. Local vendors, seeking to capitalize on this healthy impulse of 'Spring Cleaning,' publish advertisements filled with incentives to purchase storage devices and cleaning supplies. Your board's attention also seems to follow this seasonal pattern.

For the short term, we are supporting the progress of museum operations to develop climate controlled fixed storage for the Minnesota Air National Guard artifacts identified and cataloged over the past several years. This is underway and in coordination with our host, the 133rd Airlift Wing. In addition, museum directors Jim Atwell and Anja Drescher are organizing the annual effort to establish operations priorities and plans for the 2018 museum season.

For purposes of guiding efforts over the mid-term two to three-year range, the board is seeking to soon establish a steering committee to provide plans and oversight in support of the 100th anniversary celebration of the federal recognition of the 109th Aero Observation Squadron. There are project proposals for some activity in which we do not routinely engage, for example: traveling exhibits, increased effort on oral history recordings, and planned publicity through contributions to historical periodicals. All of this is in addition to a focused effort targeting the 2020-2021 centennial events for our museum displays and Air Park aircraft.

Related to longer term objectives, AirSpace Minnesota has decided to dissolve and is currently undertaking that process. For almost 10 years AirSpace represented the long-term goal of the MNANGHF to find a permanent site for collections and display of artifacts. The impetus for that effort, the shutting down of museum operations due to a military need for the hangar space in the immediate aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, is still an important consideration for long-term planning.

Fortunately, we did learn some things from the AirSpace venture. I am particularly grateful to its acting board chair, Dr. Gregg Strathy, for his efforts to research and present the experiences of those who had successfully pursued large aerospace museums around the country. That effort provided a clear road-map, but unfortunately it was not one AirSpace was postured to follow.

Our current efforts in artifact cataloging and storage provide our organization with the agility to deliberately consider a broad range of long term goals with respect to future facilities. Thus, our short-term efforts support longer range preparation for that day when we may need to move from our dwelling. Even if that day comes unpredictably, as it did on September 11, 2001, we will be better positioned to respond. One way to

think of this is that our annual efforts inspired by notions of 'Spring Cleaning' provide pay-offs in both the near and long terms.

None of this is even remotely possible without the consistent efforts of our museum volunteers – so once again, please accept the board's thanks and our hope for a productive 2018 season.

Sincerely - your Foundation Board Chair,
Brian Wyneken

Mission Statement

The mission of the Minnesota Air National Guard Historical Foundation is to preserve the heritage and traditions of the Minnesota Air National Guard.

Board Members

Chairman: Brian Wyneken
Vice Chairman: Karen Wolf
Secretary: Terry Morris
Executive Dir./Dir. of Operations: Jim Atwell
Assistant Dir. of Operations: Anja Drescher
Treasurer: Tom Simonet
Members: Rick Dow, Mike Drews, Brig. Gen. Greg Haase, Rick Heinecke, Herb Ketcham, Ray Pittman, Jerry Schultz, Lowell Ueland
Wing Advisor: Col. Dan Gabrielli
Legal Counsel: Kelly & Lemmons, P.A., Joe Kelly and Kevin Beck

Newsletter Editor: Jim Atwell
Assistant editors: Sharon Drews and Mark Moss

Past Newsletters can be accessed on the museum website at: <http://mnangmuseum.org>

Museums Hours and Access

Tours can be arranged by email at (toursmnangmuseum@gmail.com) or call 612-713-2523. Special events, such as a birthday party, can be arranged through Nancy Wilson (nanc.mn.ang.museum@gmail.com) or call 612-458-8012. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday 9:00a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Address all correspondence to:
Minnesota Air Guard Museum
P.O. Box 11598
St. Paul, MN 55111-0598

(The Minnesota Air National Guard Historical Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization and not affiliated with the Dept. of Defense, Minnesota Air National Guard, or the 133rd Airlift Wing.)

CONVAIR C-131H SAMARITAN USAF SERIAL NUMBER 55-4757

by Gregory Bastyr

This military version of the Convair 340 airliner was used to transport personnel, staff transportation and support missions at Duluth by the Minnesota Air National Guard's 148th Fighter Group during the late 1970s and early 1980s.

The Convair CV-240/340/440 series design began life in a production requirement by American Airlines for a pressurized airliner to replace the classic Douglas DC-3. Convair's original design had two engines and 40 seats, thus it was designated the CV-240.

The Convair 240/340/440 series was used by the USAF for medical evacuation, VIP transport and light cargo. The first model Samaritan, the C-131A, was derived from the CV-240 model and was delivered to the USAF in 1954.

An earlier trainer model designated the T-29 "Flying Classroom" was also based on the CV-240 and was used to instruct USAF navigators for all USAF aircraft and later was also used for aeromedical evacuation.

A total of 472 T-29/C-131 aircraft were built for the USAF.



Above: The museum's aircraft undergoing maintenance when still operational with the "Flying Yankees."

Right: The "Project Tailchaser" C-131B gunship test.

On the cover: The museum's C-131 in the air park.
submitted photos

Cost: \$316,000

Crew: 4

Passengers: Up To 44

Length: 74 Feet, 8 Inches (CV-240)

Wingspan: 91 Feet, 9 Inches (CV-240)

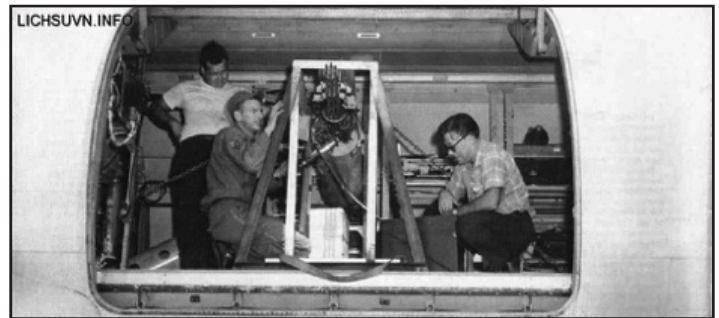
Height: 26 Feet, 11 Inches (CV-240)

Engines: 2 Pratt and Whitney R-2800 "Double Wasp" 18 cylinder air cooled radial engines, 2,100 HP each

Maximum Speed: 315 MPH

Range: 1,200 Miles

Service Ceiling: 16,000 Feet



Interesting Facts: The museum's C-131 last flew with the 103rd Fighter Wing, the "Flying Yankees", Bradley ANGB, East Granby, CT. It is also known that this aircraft was once fitted for aeromedical evacuation with some of the fittings still mounted in the passenger compartment and a red cross painted on the tail.

A C-131B, serial number 53-7820, was the first aircraft used as a flying gunship testbed in mid 1963 in a program known as "Project Tailchaser" at Eglin AFB FL. The aircraft had a gunsight mounted in the pilots side window and a General Electric SUU-11A/A 7.62 mm Gatling style Minigun installed in the passenger compartment, all tests were successful.

Collection story continued from page 1

There are still a lot of items on shelves to be inventoried. The next phase is called 'cataloging' where much more information about each item is gathered and attached to the database such as any history related to each item and scanned official documents or photographs of every book cover.

There are many opportunities for volunteers to search

the databases for material that can be used for the history and celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the 109th in 2021. If you can support this effort with just one day a week (or more) for five hours that would be great.

To explore a volunteer opportunity with the museum's collection program, please visit our website at mngm-museum.org to submit a volunteer form. If you have any questions about the collection program or engagement, contact our subject matter expert Kirk Ransom at kirk41ransom@gmail.com.