



NEWS

A publication of the Jimmy Doolittle Air & Space Museum Foundation

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P O Box 1565 • Travis AFB, CA 94533 • (707) 424-5605 • DSN 837-5605



Brigadier General Thomas Kane, 60 AMW/CC greeted a large group of enthusiastic spectators, including Congressman Mike Thompson, on 15 June 2001 at the corner of Hickam Avenue and Parker Road for the groundbreaking ceremony for the Jimmy Doolittle Air and Space Museum.

REACHING FOR THE STARS

"I have concluded that we were put on this earth for a purpose. That purpose is to make it, within our capabilities, a better place in which to live."
-General James H. Doolittle



TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA
15 JUNE 2001



Wow! Jimmy Doolittle Air and Space Museum groundbreaking and "Reaching for the Stars" Luncheon" outstanding success!

By Gary Leiser

Readers of the previous NEWS may have surmised that there was a frenzy of activity concerning the Museum in June. The focus was a special

luncheon and groundbreaking ceremony for the new Jimmy Doolittle Air and Space Museum on the 15th. At the luncheon, the first "Reaching for the Stars Trophy" was presented to Col. Eileen Collins, the first female Space Shuttle commander and a former member of the Travis Team, and the plan to build the new

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Korean War
Exhibit Series
continues
inside!

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Comments and questions about the NEWS may be addressed to Editor, Jimmy Doolittle Air & Space Museum Foundation NEWS, PO Box 1565, Travis AFB, CA 94535

JIMMY DOOLITTLE AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM Mission Statement

The purpose of the Museum is to portray the history of Travis Air Force Base's contribution to the development of airlift in the Pacific.

It's primary objectives are:

- To provide and maintain an aviation and aerospace, educational, scientific, cultural, historical and inspirational facility for the general public.
- To provide to youth, students and scholars historical research facilities and inspirational exhibits.
- To serve as a meeting place and forum for aerospace oriented organizations and individuals for the benefit of all Northern California.

* In accordance with AFPD 64-1,
Air Force History and Museum Program.

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Walter Kane and Eric Schmidt, Docents



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*It's a collector's item now! A few of them are left.
Brass, red, white & blue...gorgeous!*

Jimmy Doolittle Air & Space Museum

Gift Shop

Bldg. 80, Burgan Blvd.
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 Fax (707) 424-4451

*The Museum Gift Shop
 is now offering **collectors coins**
 for the Travis Air Museum,
 the 60th AW Director Staff
 and the Solano County 150th year
 anniversary. The Solano county
 coins are available in bronze,
 silver, or gold.*

Volunteers needed.

CURATOR'S CORNER

Museum was formally announced. Following the luncheon, a groundbreaking ceremony, to launch the publicity campaign, was held at the future building site next to our F-4 and T-39. The ceremony included remarks by Wing Commander Brigadier General Thomas Kane and Congressman Mike Thompson. Among other dignitaries present was LTC Faisal Baqer from the Embassy of Kuwait. At the conclusion of the ceremony, a B-17 and a B-25 flew over the site.

AIR EXPO 2001

On the following two days, Travis put on its annual Air Expo. Most of the Museum volunteers and board members were out in force opening



the C-124, C-7 and C-123 for public viewing. As usual the Gift Shop had its best weekend of the year. During Air Expo, the Museum provided the venue for two evening banquets, one for Expo participants and one for the Air Force Association. I should add that prior to the Expo, the Wing helped organize a "washfest," in which Air Force members turned out to wash all the aircraft in the collection. Afterwards they were treated to a BBQ courtesy of **Walt Scott**, a long-time member of the Museum board. By the way, all board members received a "perk" in June when they boarded a KC-10 and set out on a mission to take fuel from another KC-10 and then refuel it and a C-5 over northern California.



Airmen from the base participating in the museum's "washfest".

VIETNAM WAR EXHIBIT

Meanwhile, back at the Museum, **Major Diana Newlin** completed her exhibit on Travis and the War in Vietnam. It received good coverage in the local press. At the end of June, she departed for Coast Guard Island in San Francisco Bay, but we hope to have her services again in the next fiscal year.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

In other personnel changes, **TSgt Richard Hoover** was promoted to master sergeant and returned to his unit. During his two years at the Museum, Rick participated in numerous projects including the Korean War exhibit, the movement of various aircraft, and the construction of partition walls. In early July **MSgt Joe Inocencio** arrived to take the place of **Mike Omler** who had retired in April.

NUTS AND BOLTS

As for nuts and bolts, **Don Austin** painted parts of the C-124 and worked on the right rudder and other parts of the C-119. **Ben Reed** painted sections of the F-101, C-118, and C-54. He and **Joe Tattersall** added birdproofing to the T-39. Joe also installed fairings

on both sides of the rear gunner's position in the B-29, continued his work on the canopy of the P4Y turret, and made some repairs to the CG-4A glider. **Mark Conner** worked on the cockpit of the F-84 and the F-100 trainer and washed the U3A and C-126. **Eric Schmidt** did considerable additional work

on the front entry door of the B-52. **Jim Martin** made some repairs on the C-45, reinstalled a window in the C-56 and two windows in the C-123. He also worked on our R-4360 engine. **Carl Bodin** made

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CURATOR'S CORNER CONTINUED

remarkable progress in rebuilding a crushed engine pod for the C-123. **Ned Fall** and **Bill Lancaster** helped build the Vietnam display. I'm sorry to report that Ned recently suffered a mild stroke. We wish him a speedy recovery. We miss his dry wit. We also wish a "get well soon" to **Bob Skinner**. **Justin Rosaaen** worked on the C-123. **Ryan Sobeck** worked on the F-100 trainer. **Phil Gilbert** started work to organize the photo archive. **Paul Lentes** helped prepare the C-124 for Air Expo. **Corey Graham**, **Carl Bodin**, **Jim Martin** and **Joe Tattersall** helped transfer our F-4 and T-39 to the site of the new Museum for the groundbreaking ceremony. In June, one of Brigadier General Travis' granddaughters, Virginia King, visited the base. **Walter Kane** gave her and her family a personal tour of the Museum.

VANDALISM

I am bit distressed to report that several of our aircraft, the F-104, C-118, C-123, C-56, T-28 and especially the B-29 have shown signs of vandalism or attempted forcible entry, apparently at night. Fortunately, the damage was minor and was repaired. There was no loss of parts.

DONATIONS

Recent donations to the Museum include coalition propaganda leaflets from the Gulf War, a German Army helmet from WW II, five reproductions of prints depicting aircraft from WW II in which crewmembers received the Medal of Honor, a large map of the world in Japanese dated 1942 showing Axis conquests, disparate pieces of wreckage of a B-17F that crashed in the mountains near Covolo, California, and a metal factory model of a C-133.

FEASIBILITY STUDY

With respect to the Jimmy Doolittle Air and Space Museum, the Travis AFB Historical Society, which has now changed its name to the Jimmy Doolittle Air and Space Foundation, plans to hire soon a consultant to do a feasibility study to determine if there are sufficient potential sources, especially private

sources, of funding. Once it is determined that there is sufficient potential funding, those sources that have been identified will be approached for support. Initially, enough funds will have to be raised to hire a full-time fund-raising staff.

SCALE MODEL

Meantime, **Peter Buffington** and **Gassia Salibyan** of Olive Architecture in San Francisco have completed a scale-model of the site for the new museum with the new facility, as depicted in the previous Newsletter, on the site. It is currently on view in the Museum. Gary Leiser is now revising the "master plan" for final AMC and Air Force approval. This will also be the key document for leasing AF land to the Jimmy Doolittle Air and Space Foundation, which will build and operate the new Museum.

BUILDING FUND: 4TH OF JULY PICNIC

And the new building fund continues to grow. On the 4th of July, Col. **Jack and Diane Peters**, **Ed and Suzanne Bruce**, **Walt Scott** and his grandson **Kenny**, **Warren Bailey**, and **Gary Leiser** served burgers and hotdogs on the lawn of the county courthouse—under a large banner ordered by Walt Scott—in Fairfield to raise funds for the new facility. **Emily Low** and **Rich Atkins** from the city of Fairfield coordinated the event. Local vendors donated all supplies. Approximately \$1,200 was raised. The **Fairfield Lions Club** donated \$500. Additional contributions have been gratefully received from **William Cox**, **Anne Kohutenyiz**, **Judith Hoger**, **Reginald Pattillos**, and **Clare Cumberland**.

FAREWELL AND THANKS

Finally, Brigadier General Thomas Kane, 60 AMW/CC, has received word of his new assignment. He will leave Travis for a NATO post in Germany in September. We wish him the best of luck and offer our most sincere thanks for his support for building a new museum. Indeed, he has been a very dynamic force behind this project. We are greatly indebted to him for the progress that we have made.

THE KOREAN WAR EXHIBIT SERIES: ON BASE

The Hospital on the Hill

The new “hospital on the hill” opened about a year before the beginning of the Korean War. Indeed, it was still unfinished when the war started. Located on a hill near the runway, the hospital was unprepared for the heavy flow of casualties from the war. Between July and December 1950, the number of patients increased from 514 per month to 5,475 per month. This required a major expansion of the medical facilities. The airman’s barracks for the hospital and other structures were temporarily converted to wards until new wings were completed in 1952.



New Base Hospital, CA. 1949



Family Practice: New Base Hospital



Surgery: New Base Hospital.



Dental Clinic: New Base Hospital, CA

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THE KOREAN WAR EXHIBIT SERIES: ON BASE CONTINUED

Hospital Staff

When the hospital on the hill opened, shortly before the outbreak of the Korean War, it was staffed with 26 officers, 10 nurses, 72 enlisted personnel, and 42 civilians. The hospital staff, which was racially integrated, included several African-American doctors. This was unusual in 1950 when most American military units were still segregated. The flood of American casualties overwhelmed the staff who had to develop new methods and procedures in order to handle the many wounded soldiers in a quick and orderly fashion. At the same time, they struggled with shortages of people in critical specialties, such as radiology and orthopedics.



After a patient has been treated at a rear hospital, he is transferred to a C-54 skymaster and flown to a hospital in Japan.



Air medic adjusts patients so that they will be as comfortable as possible on a C-54.



Wounded soldier is carried aboard a C-54.



Patient is transferred to a flight to Japan.



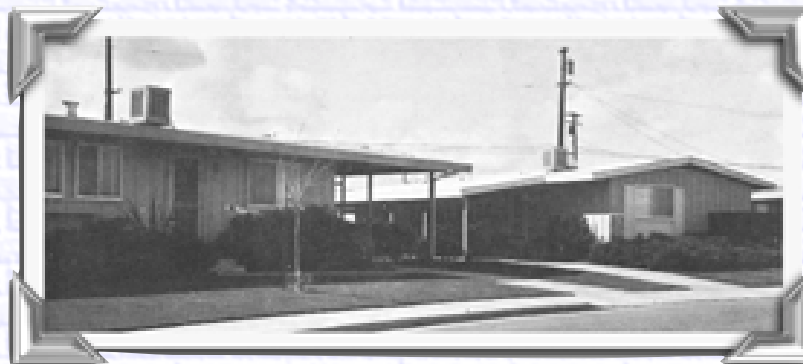
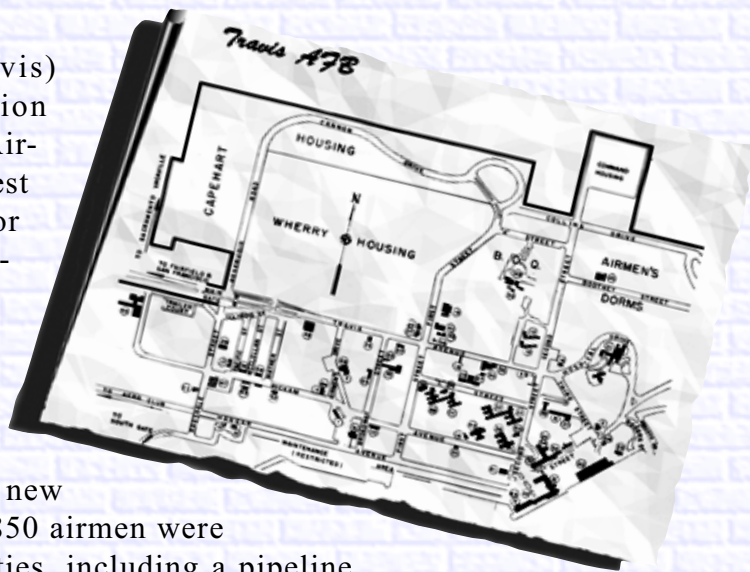
Patients arrive in Japan on a C-124.



Patient arrives in Japan and is transferred to nearby hospital.

Base Construction

Fairfield-Suisun AFB (later Travis) underwent a massive construction program during the Korean War. Airfield improvements consumed the largest share of the \$12.5 million allocated for base improvements in 1951. Hospital expansion and improved housing were also expensive. On March 24, 1951, construction was started on Wherry housing units. Completed in 1952, this project provided family housing for officers and enlisted personnel. In addition, 17 new barracks along with mess facilities for 850 airmen were constructed. New aircraft fueling facilities, including a pipeline to a barge dock in Suisun, rail and truck unloading facilities, a new storage tank and hydrant style refueling points were constructed to cope with the increased operations tempo of the Korean War and the conversion to RB-36 type aircraft.



Wherry Housing



Ground breaking at Wherry Housing



Bachelor Officers' Quarters

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THE KOREAN WAR EXHIBIT SERIES: ON BASE CONTINUED



Christmas at the terminal 1951.



Replacements

In order to support combat operations, the United States needed to transport large numbers of critically needed specialists and replacements to Korea by air. The number of spaces available were few and often the terminal building at Fairfield-Suisun (later Travis) was filled with men sleeping on the floor because billeting was saturated. Feeding and entertaining these men were also problems as the personnel at Fairfield-Suisun struggled to shift from peacetime to the demands of war. B-29 units at the base were also called on to furnish qualified crewmembers for vacancies in other bomber units headed for Korea. This drain of qualified crewmembers directly effected training and disrupted squadrons based at Fairfield-Suisun.

The Rededication of the Base

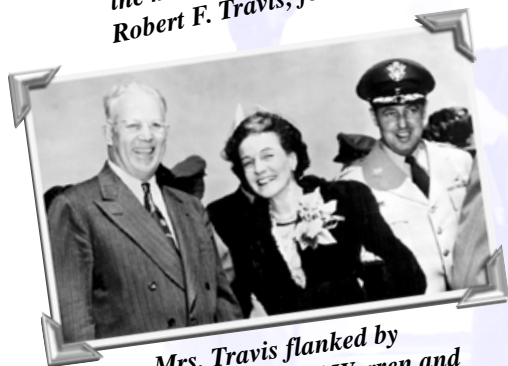
During the Korean War, the name of Fairfield-Suisun AFB was changed to Travis AFB in honor of Brigadier General Robert F. Travis who was killed in the crash of a B-29 on base on October 2, 1950. Initially, local businesses opposed the name change because they feared it would have a negative economic effect. Nevertheless, their opposition was overcome, and on April 20, 1951, the Governor of California, Earl Warren, presided over a rededication ceremony on base.



A B-36 flyover marked Travis AFB dedication.



Officers and Airmen pass in review to honor the memory of the late Brigadier General Robert F. Travis, former base commander.



Mrs. Travis flanked by California Gov. Earl Warren and Brig. Gen Joe E. Kelly.



Family Group Members of the family are pictured following the renaming ceremonies. Left to right are Mrs. Robert J. Travis and her husband Major General Travis. USA (ret.), Mrs Edmund A. White, Mrs Robert F. Travis, Jayne Travis and Lt Col William Travis.



Notables on the reviewing stand.

continued on next page

THE KOREAN WAR EXHIBIT SERIES: ON BASE CONTINUED

Atomic Deployments

During the Korean War, B-29 units from Fairfield-Suisun AFB (later Travis) secretly deployed with atomic weapons to Guam. This provided the United States with an atomic option in case the Korean War widened into a global conflict. The B-29 crash that killed Brigadier General Travis on August 5, 1950 occurred at the beginning of the first atomic deployment from Fairfield-Suisun to Guam.

In April 1951, a regular temporary duty (TDY) rotation of atomic capable aircraft from Travis to Guam was established. At Guam these aircraft practiced aerial refueling, electronic counter measures (ECM), and special weapons training.



A B-29 from 15th Air Force.



"Secret City" at Travis Air Force Base.



Bomb storage igloos at Travis.



Casing for a Mark IV Atomic bomb.

SAC Training



At the start of the Korean War, the B-29 units based at Fairfield-Suisun AFB belonging to the Strategic Air Command (SAC) were busy practicing long-range training missions in which they made simulated atomic attacks on cities in the United States. These cities were specially chosen to resemble target cities in Russia. On March 8, 1951 an engine on B-29 on a training mission from Travis caught fire and fell off. All but one crew parachuted to safety. The sole casualty landed in the Sacramento River and drowned. During the Korean War, units at the base converted from B-29s to the massive B-36. This change created many training and supply problems. At the same time, the base was straining to support the Korean War. The B-36s were not allowed to participate in the Korean War and were employed on training missions for the duration.



B-36 above a B-29 with Korean War camouflag colors.



B-36



B-36 over Cincinnati, Ohio.



B-36 next to B-17 at Travis AFB.

MEMBERSHIP: JIMMY DOOLITTLE AIR & SPACE MUSEUM FOUNDATION

A membership in the Jimmy Doolittle Air & Space Museum Foundation is an excellent gift for birthdays, holidays, thank yous, retirements or memorials. Being in on the ground floor is always fun. Being a part of history is great!

Mail this form and check to: Jimmy Doolittle Air & Space Museum Foundation
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New Renewal

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*Operation Homecoming, 1973
Travis AFB, CACrowds wait to welcome returning prisoners of War.*

“The course of history begins each day....come be a part of it.”