



Missions for
America

Semper vigilans!

Semper volans!

Publication of the Thames River Composite
Squadron
Connecticut Wing
Civil Air Patrol

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26 February, 2019

SQUADRON CALENDAR

22 FEB-TRCS Meeting

23 FEB-Special Olympics-volunteers needed

23-24 FEB-ICS300 Course & ICS400 Course

26 FEB-TRCS Meeting-squadron Down Day

26-27 FEB-CAP Legislative Weekend-
Washington

05 FEB-TRCS Meeting-Staff

12 FEB-TRCS Meeting-Commander's Call

19 FEB-TRCS Meeting

26 FEB-TRCS Meeting

16 MAR-CTWG SAREX

29-31 MAR-Cadet Competition-Camp Nianti06

06 APR-CTWG SAREX

17-19 MAY-USAF Evaluation of CTWG

15 JUN-Commander's Cup Rocket Contest

10-17 AUG-CTWG Encampment

CADET MEETING

19 February, 2019

Lt Drost presented a character development seminar.

A promotion ceremony was held.



Cadet Schantz was promoted to Cadet First Lieutenant



Cadet Martin was promoted to Cadet Senior Master Sergeant



Cadet Jeznach was awarded the Hap Arnold Achievement



Cadet Boudreau was awarded his Curry Ribbon

CADET/SENIOR MEETING

26 February, 2019

Maj Paul Noniewicz, Squadron Safety Officer, led the combined squadron in the mandatory annual safety down day discussions.

PRATT & WHITNEY TOUR

19 February, 2019

TRCS visited Pratt & Whitney's Customer Service Center and Engine Museum. Company docents spoke about the history of P&W and the technology support from the Customer Service Center. Cadets toured the engine museum and were able to see some of the important historical piston and jet engines produced by Pratt over the last 95 years.



Cadet attendees were Martin, Trinidad, Thornell, Ramsey, Burton, Schantz, Rathbone, Shaffer, and Higganson. The senior chaperones were Lts Thornell, Martin, Kopycienski and Maj Bourque.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

23 February, 2019

The Squadron assisted Pratt & Whitney in hosting the Special Olympics at Rentschler Field. Cadets Thornell, Wischman, Martin, Rathbone and Munzner assisted in food handling and food service.



CURRENT EVENTS

Commercial Space Flight

Virgin Galactic's SpaceShipTwo made its second successful flight into near space on the 22nd. The spaceship, *VSS Unity* was lifted aloft by its Scaled Composite mothership, *VMS Eve*, and released at 45,000 feet. One minute burn accelerated the the spacecraft to just over Mach 3 at which point it coasted to an altitude of 56 miles. The aircraft then glided to a normal landing at the Mojave Spaceport.



The Amazing Life of Opportunity, Mars Exploration Rover-B

On July 7, 2003, *Opportunity* was launched for a planned 90 operational life on Mars. *Opportunity* landed on Mars a year later and commenced an amazing journey, covering 28 miles and running a series of experiments involving geology, magnetic studies, and a search for clues of past hydrologic activity.



Quality engineering and the extraordinary ingenuity of Opportunity's operators at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory allowed Opportunity to continue operating despite dust storms and electronic failures. At one point, Opportunity was bogged down in a sand trap and it took six weeks to determine how to extricate her.

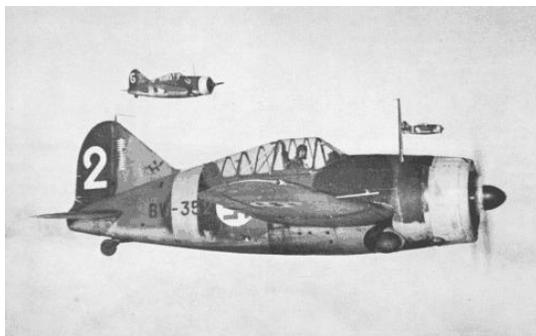
In the end, the 90 day missions continued for over 14 years, 55 times the planned operational life! In the end, probably the dust from a planetary wide storm deposited enough dust on her solar panels to prevent a sufficient recharge of her batteries and she went silent. After over a thousand attempts to renew contact, NASA declared the mission ended.

AEROSPACE HISTORY AND WEEKLY CHRONOLOGY

21 Feb., 1999 – Eino Ilmari Juutilainen goes West.



Juutilainen was a fighter pilot of the *Ilmavoimat* (Finnish Air Force), and the top scoring non-German fighter pilot of all time. He fought in two wars against the Soviets and had 94 confirmed victories in 437 sorties. He achieved 34 of his kills flying the much lambasted Brewster Buffalo.



Finnish Buffalos!

22 Feb, 1932 – During the Shanghai Incident, Chinese fighting Japanese aggressors, three Imperial Japanese Navy Nakajima A1 N2 fighters from the aircraft carrier *Kaga* score the first air-to-air kill in Japanese history. The aircraft was a Boeing 218 fighter flown by an American, Robert M. Short.



Robert Short and a Boeing 218. The 218 was prototype of the P-12E/F4B-3.

Short had been hired by the L.E. Gale Company to deliver aircraft to the Chinese but on February 19th during a ferry flight decided to take a more direct action in the fray and attacked a Nakajima A1N flown by Lt. Kidokoro Mohachiro. Short was credited with a shoot-down but Mohachiro managed to fly his damaged aircraft back to his base.

On the 22nd, Short encountered three Mitsubishi B1Ms escorted by a trio of A1Ns. Short attacked the bombers and shot one down but was then shot down by Lt. Ikuta Nogiji, the first victory by the IJN Air Service.

23 Feb., 1997– Be it in Antarctica or in flight or on a space station, the most terrifying incident is a fire. The Russian space station Mir suffered on such incident. A solid fuel oxygen-generating canister malfunctioned when ignited and an uncontrolled fire started. The six man crew, one of whom was an American, Jerry Linenger, donned oxygen masks and extinguished the blaze.

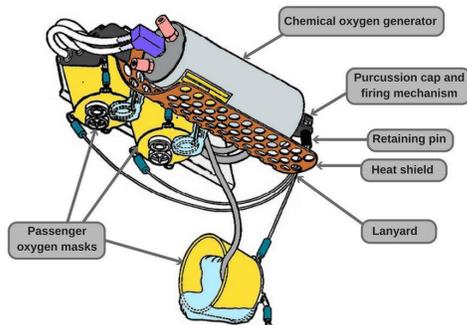


Linenger on oxygen.



Mir

Chemical oxygen generators are used to supply supplemental oxygen aboard submarines as well as space stations. In fact, commercial airliners use a similar system for the passengers' emergency oxygen supply. The “sharp tug” which one gives the mask when it is deployed releases the firing pin and initiates the chemical reaction.



Aircraft Emergency Oxygen Generator

It seems counter-intuitive that a “fire” can generate oxygen. The devices are commonly called “oxygen candles” and generally use a chlorate based compound which when burned releases enough heat to break down and release oxygen.

24 Feb., 1973 – As part of the deal to end the U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War, U.S. forces cleared the mines in North Vietnamese territorial waters and harbors and commenced sweeping mines using “sleds” towed by helicopters.



Sea Stallion and Counter-Mine Sled (Credit: US Navy)



CH-53E towing sled in the Persian Gulf (Credit: Lt. Cmdr. John L. Kline)

Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron Twelve, the Sea Dragons, on board the *USS New Orleans* used Sikorsky CH-53A Sea Stallions borrowed from the USMC to tow the sleds.

25 Feb., 1930 – World War I Ace Ralph O’Neill lands in Miami on the first mail service by the New York, Rio, and Buenos Aires Airline (NYR&BA). The flight from Argentina to Miami took six days using a series of Consolidated Commodore flying boats.



The airline was not allowed to carry the mail to New York since the U.S. Postmaster General Walter F. Brown refused to allow NYR&BA an air mail contract unless the merged with Pan American. There is strong evidence that Brown was in collusion with Juan Trippe of PanAm and his influential company officers. Brown has a vision of a unified airline service, not only overseas but over United States routes. Air mail was the life blood of the early airlines and Brown controlled the awards of routes.

Ultimately, the machinations of the predatory Trippe, the conflict with Postmaster General

Brown, and the Great Depressions did force NYRBA into an unfavorable merger with PanAm.

In April, Congress passed the Air Mail Act of 1930. Brown met with the executives of the major airlines and established a set of criteria which effectively prevented the unfavored smaller carriers from bidding. The meeting, later dubbed the "Spoils Conference," was subject to a Senatorial investigation which led to the cancellation of all of the contracts. An unprepared, ill-equipped, and inexperienced Army Air Corps were ordered to carry the mails until new contracts could be put in place. Winter flight conditions resulted in the deaths of 13 flyers and the service was cancelled.

Within a few months, new contracts were awarded, the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Aeronautics was sanctioned, and the a new Air Mail Act passed. Many of the airline executives which had participated in the "Spoils Conference" were forbidden to engage in the business, companies were broken up and a forced reorganization led to some slick corporate maneuvers which allowed them to re-enter commercial aviation under different names.

26 Feb., 1942 – The Boeing 307 Stratoliner were pressed into military service and designated as the C-75. Essentially, Boeing built a circular fuselage and then adopted the wings, tail, landing gear, and engines of the B-17C to create the first pressurized airliner. Only ten were built, five each for Pan American Airways (PAA) and Trans World Airlines (TWA).

The long range of the Stratoliner made it ideal for transporting valuable cargo and personnel overseas so the Army Air Force purchased TWA's aircraft and they were operated by the Air Transport Command with TWA pilots on service over the Atlantic Ocean. Pan Ams's three aircraft were operated by the airline over South American routes.

One aircraft had been destroyed during flight tests.

Another had been heavily modified for long range flight by Howard Hughes who planned to use it on a record breaking circumnavigation of the world which was cancelled when Germany invaded Poland. Hughes hangered the aircraft at Union Air Terminal in Burbank. As far as can be determined it stayed there until Hughes hired Raymond Loewy to convert it into a luxurious "flying penthouse" and then sold it. It passed through a number of owners, was damaged in a hurricane and converted into a houseboat!

The eight others survived the war. One ended up in Southeast Asia and flew for Aigle Azur and Air Laos. Another, *Clipper Flying Cloud*, was acquired by the Haitian Air Force for "Papa Doc" Duvalier, the murderous "President for Life" of Haiti.



Royal Air Lao 307 which was flying during the Vietnam War. (Credit: Christian Volpati)

The sole survivor, *Clipper Flying Cloud*, is now displayed in the National Air and Space Museum's Udvar-Hazy Annex. After a long sojourn in the Arizona desert, she was restored by Boeing. On its last test flight before going to the east, it crashed into Seattle's Elliot Bay but was salvaged, repaired, and made it final journey to the Smithsonian.



Flying Cloud in the Arizona Desert



Flying Cloud in Elliot Bay



Flying Cloud, re-restored and in the National Air and Space Museum

27 Feb., 1942 – *USS Langley*, the first U.S. aircraft carrier, converted to a seaplane tender was carrying 32 U.S. Army Air Force P-40 aircraft for the defense of Java when it is attacked by Japanese aircraft and severely damaged.



Above: Langley in 1938

Below: Langley after conversion



Damage is so severe that after the crew abandons ship and are rescued by the accompany escorts, destroyers *USS Whipple* and *USS Edsall*. The *Whipple* then sinks the *Langley* with gunfire and torpedoes to prevent it from falling into the hands of the Japanese.



The Langley takes one from the home team. Note the torpedo wake. (Credits: US Navy)

The unlucky crew were transferred to the oiler *USS Pecos* which is sunk two days later with most of those onboard lost. *Whipple* picked up the *Pecos* survivors. Others are lost when the *Edsall* is sunk.

28 Feb., 1988 – First flight of the Northrop Grumman RQ-4 Global Hawk.



NASA flies two Global Hawks

01 Mar., 1948 – First flight of the Curtiss-Wright XF-87 Blackhawk and the last of the line of almost 100 aircraft which bore the Curtiss name.



Designed to replace the P-61 Black Widow, only two were built. An unusual fighter with four engines.

02 Mar., 2001– First flight of the Prototype General Atomics RQ-1 Predator B, which was later later re-designated MQ-9 Reaper.



Customs and Border Patrol operate around a dozen Predators, part of a fleet of 250 CBP aircraft.



Clyde Cessna

03 Mar., 1982– A Mil Mi-26 helicopter sets a world helicopter record, lifting 57 metric tons to 6,500 feet.



(Credit: Alex Beltyukov)



Walter Beech

04 Mar., 1946– First flight of the Republic XF-12 Rainbow.



A Republic Rainbow, P-47 Thunderbolt, and RC-3 Seabee (Credit: Republic Aircraft)



Lloyd Stearman and a Stearman C-1

06 Mar., 1983 – Cyril Nelson “Kit” Lowe goes West. Lowe was a WW I ace, an international rugby player and the model for W.E. Jones' character “Biggles,” the fictional pilot and protagonist of nearly 100 adventure stories.

Lowe remained in the Royal Air Force and served with the RAF Reserve and Auxiliary Air Force and retired as a Group Captain in 1944.



Lowe tackled in 1913 by a French player.

05 Mar., 1925 – Clyde V. Cessna, Walter Beech and Lloyd Stearman founded Travel Air Manufacturing Company Ltd.

