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### **SQUADRON CALENDAR AND THE PANDEMIC PANIC**

By order of the National Commander, all CAP non-mission related activities are cancelled or postponed until after 11 May, 2020. Missions that involve the potential for loss of life or property such as search and rescue, disaster relief or other emergency response and recovery operations will continue.

*The Coastwatcher* will continue to be published during the CAP stand-down. Except for this issue, no mention will be made of the corona virus as you are no doubt tired of the incessant pestilent yammer.

However, I make no promises about the Spanish flu, Lyme disease, AIDS, Ebola, the Ten Plagues

Missions for  
America

*Semper vigilans!*

*Semper volans!*

of Egypt, SARS, Swine Flu, Poe's *Masque of the Red Death*, the black death, yellow jack or any other threats to end all life on earth up to and including asteroids impacts and the heat death of the universe. And a message to those hoarders of toilet paper. COVID-19 does not cause diarrhea!

14 APR-TRCS Commander's Call

16-18 APR-NER/CTWG Conference

21 APR-TRCS Meeting

28 APR-TRCS Meeting

05 MAY-TRCS Staff Meeting

12 MAY-TRCS Commander's Call

16 MAY-Commander's Cup Rocket Contest

23 MAY-TRCS Meeting

30 MAY-TRCS Meeting

### **ME AND THE SMALLPOX**

*How a Five Year Old Brooklyn Boy Faced Down  
the Pox*

*by Stephen M. Rocketto*

When I was a young tad, just five years old, I resided in the Borough of Brooklyn, N.Y. One day in March of 1947, a man who had traveled from Mexico was diagnosed with smallpox. This resulted in the largest mass vaccination in United States history. It was also the last outbreak of smallpox in the United States.

One morning my Grandpa Jack showed up and told me about the wonderful day we were about to have. First, we would walk down to the local firehouse and visit the firemen. My five year old mind went wild with excitement.

Next, we would go to the corner of McDonald Avenue and 65th St. where we would buy charlottes russ, a delicious confection of sponge cake and whipped cream topped with a maraschino cherry and served in a small cardboard cup. My five year old mouth watered and my stomach churned in anticipation.

Then the *crème de la crème* of all possibilities. We would take the trolley to Ebbets Field or Coney Island, I cannot remember which. Visions of Duke Snider, Pee Wee Reese, hotdogs at Nathan's and throwing up on the Thunderbolt roller coaster. This would be my greatest day since Br'er Rabbit

talked Br'er Fox and Br'er Bear into throwing him into the briar patch.

So off we went to the Bensonhurst fire house. I was a bit disappointed to see long lines of old people holding the hands of happy kids waiting to get in. The wait could only delay the pleasures ahead but it would be worth it. And then I noticed something disturbing. From another door in the fire stations, a steady stream of old people were emerging and they were holding the hand, even carrying, crying kids. Now Mother Rocketto did not raise a foolish child. Something was rotten in the Borough of Brooklyn!

“Gramps, let's not wait” but my pleaded did not move Grandpa Jack. What moved was me to the head of the line where white cloaked giants waited with sharp needles and little bottles. Well, to make a long story short, I got a vaccination and my kindly Grandpa Jack bought me a charlotte ruse and took me to Coney Island where I got to eat a Nathan's Famous, drink a Dr. Brown's cream soda and ride the Cyclone. If the rules of Nathan's Independence Day Hot Dog Eating Contest applied at that time, I would have also gotten a red penalty card for a “reversal of fortune” after the roller coaster ride. This how the Nathan's judges refer to the supposedly classic ancient Roman method of delivering stomach contents back into the world. But I did not get smallpox so I can call it a good week

The final count for the New York Smallpox Incident of 1947 was 6.3 million vaccinations. Twelve people contracted the disease and there were two deaths. Approximately a dozen deaths were attributed to side effects of the vaccine!

## WARNING

*The press room where this publication was written may contain peanuts or tree nut products and the data transmitted for this publication were bathed in an electromagnetic field. This warning is posted to comply with the requirements of California Proposition 65.*

## CURRENT EVENTS

### *Italian Air Evacuation of Virus Victim*

by

*C/AIC Stephen Buchko*

On March 7th, an *Aeronautica Militare* Augusta-Westland HH-101 Caesar of the 15th *Stormo* (Wing), Italian Air Force based at Cervia Air Base, was ordered to fly a 62-year old coronavirus patient from Cremona Hospital to the Morelli Hospital in Sandalo. This was the first bio-containment mission flow by the HH-101.



*HH-101 and Bio-Containment Unit (Credit: ItAF Air Force and MOD)*

Since March 10th, Italy has been locked down because of coronavirus. When Italy shut down, they had 9,172 cases with 463 deaths. On March 16th, Italy has 24,747 cases with 1,809 deaths. Because of this exponential increase in cases, the Hospitals in Northern Italy are inundated with patients whereas, the hospitals in Southern Italy still have room for patients in their Intensive Care Units. Because of this, the Italian Military is assisting in the transportation of patients.

To transport the patient, the Italian Air Force used the Aircraft Transit Isolator (ATI). The ATI is a frame mounted transparent containment barrier which isolates the patient. Air transfer is filtered and the unit is maintained under negative pressure compared to the ambient atmosphere. This precludes contaminated air from leaking out into the atmosphere.

## *Air Force Replacing Two Helicopters*

The USAF is in the process of replacing two of its helicopters.

The venerable UH-1N will be replaced by the Boeing-Leonardo MH-139 Grey Wolf in an initial contract worth 2.38 billion dollars for 84 units. The aircraft are used to guard nuclear missile fields and storage facilities and provide VIP transport. The MH-139 design beat out entries by Sikorsky and the Sierra Nevada Corporation.



*Huey and Greywolf Credits: (USAF/Samuel King, Jr.)*



The Sikorsky entry was the HH-60U Blackhawk equipped with a rescue hoist and an electro-optical sensor system. Sierra Nevada's entry was a former Army UH-60A Blackhawk upgraded to a modified HH-60L equipped with a new engine, modern avionics and a glass cockpit.

What remains to be seen is if one or both of the losing companies file legal protests challenging the Air Force decision.

The second helicopter coming on line is a replacement for the aging Sikorsky HH-60G Pave Hawk, a combat search and rescue helicopter. The replacement is the HH-60W Jolly Green II.



*Pave Hawk (Credit: Airwolfhound) and Jolly Green II (Credit: Lockheed-Martin)*



The “Whiskey” is equipped with a more powerful engine and nearly double the fuel capacity. The doubling of its range is seen as the most important improvement but the new bird is also equipped with composite rotor blades a new communications suite and an integrated missile defense system. The Air Force expects to order 112 units at a cost of 7.9 billion dollars. Spare parts and training devices are included in the price.

## **THE PUZZLER**

*Aircraft companies and organizations sometimes use specific patterns when naming their aircraft. Here are some examples. Can you identify the companies or organizations? Answers will be found at the end of this edition.*

1. Can you name two organizations which name their aircraft after American Indian tribes such as:  
*Pawnee, Comanche, Seneca, Apache, and Arapaho?*
2. Which company named a series of aircraft after royal houses of England?  
*Windsor, Lancaster, York, Tudor*

3. What company has a line of aircraft named after moths?

*Gypsy Moth, Tiger Moth, Puss Moth*

4. Here are some prefixes: Name the companies:

*Sky...  
Thunder...  
Strato...*

5. Here are some suffixes:

*...cat  
...master*

6. What company uses royal titles?

*Duchess, Baron, Duke*

7. What company uses animals indigenous to Canada?

*Beaver, Otter, Buffalo, Caribou, Chipmunk*

8. What company uses celestial objects as names?

*Sirius, Starfire, Lodestar, Neptune, Galaxy,  
Jetstar, Shooting Star, Vega*

9. Some Companies like the first letter of the aircraft name to be the same as the first letter of the company name.

*Marauder, Mariner, Marlin Mauler, Mars  
Hind, Hart, Hurricane, Hunter  
Vanguard, Valiant, Vimy, Viscount*

10. What company uses creatures you ought not bump into when in a haunted graveyard in the dead of night?

*Voodoo, Goblin, Demon, Banshee, Phantom*

11. And what about the pirates of Stratford and Dallas?

*Corsair, Sea Wolf, Pirate, Cutlass*



*A diorama at the Southern Museum of Flight displays one of the last two surviving "Dusters."*

Gradually Delta acquired more aircraft and carried passengers. Their passenger transport and freight history might be divided up into six growth phases: single engine props, pre-WWII multi-engine aircraft, WWII and post war propeller driven aircraft, turboprops, and turbines and turbofans. Some sample aircraft from each phase.



*Phase One  
Travel Air 6000B*

*Phase Two  
Stinson T*



### **THE WEEK'S AEROSPACE ANNIVERSARIES**

*Bad Days and Good Days at Delta Airlines*

Mar 18, 2008 – Delta Airlines offers voluntary severance to 30,000 employees, which is half of their workforce. Delta was recovering from a Chapter 11 bankruptcy in 2005 and the cost of fending off a hostile take-over in 2007.

Delta began in 1925 using a modified Huff-Daland Petrel dusting boll weevils which were attacking cotton crops.



*Phase Three  
Douglas DC-3*

*Phase Four  
Lockheed 749  
Constellation  
(Credits: Delta Museum.org)*





*Phase Five  
Lockheed  
L-100  
Hercules  
(credit:RuthAS)*

Delta's first turbine powered aircraft was the Douglas DC-8. Today, Delta's fleet consists of over 900 turbine powered aircraft which range in passenger capacity from the smaller twins such as the newest, the Airbus 220-100, to the Airbus and Boeing wide-bodies.



*Phase Six  
Boeing 777*

On Valentine's Day, 2020, Delta paid out more 1.3 billion dollars in profit-sharing to employees, about 14% or seven weeks of a yearly salary or wage. This is the fifth year in which Delta has paid bonuses of over a billion dollars. Delta has also announced that it will begin paying employees to volunteer for one day a year with a non-profit organization. Delta, won't you be my Valentine.

*The First and the Last*

Mar 19, 1921 – The Douglas Cloudster broke the Pacific Coast altitude record by climbing to 19,160 feet. The one-off Cloudster was the first Douglas product and the first aircraft capable of lifting a payload equal to its own weight.



*Cloudster I and Cloudster II*



Twenty-seven years later, March 12, 1947, the Douglas Cloudster II, another one-off, made its first flight. The post-war aviation market fell far short of what had been anticipated and this was the last attempt of Douglas to enter the general aviation market

*Orestes Lorenzo disses Raul Castro*

Mar 20, 1991 – Cuban Air Force pilot Major Orestes Lorenzo defects in his Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-23BN and lands at Naval Air Station Key West, Florida. He left his wife, Victoria, and young sons, Reyneil and Alexandro behind.



*(Credit: Orestes Collection)*

Eighteen months of efforts failed to convince the Cuban government to grant them exit visas. Raul Castro taunted him saying “If Lorenzo had the guts to steal one of my MiGs, maybe he has the guts to come back and get his family!” Lorenzo had the guts.

On the 19th of December, 1942, Lorenzo returned in a Cessna 310 and landed at a prearranged time on a highway east of Havana. Within an hour, he and his family were all free, landing at Marathon, Florida.



*Victoria, followed by Reyneil disembark in Florida.*

*“Flying Blind” can be more than a metaphor*

Mar 21, 1951 – While on an attack mission, ground fire shattered the plexiglass canopy of Ensign Floryan Sobieski's F9F Panther. Sobieski is blinded by fragments hitting his eyes. Wingman Lt (jg) Pat Murphy calmly reassures Sobieski and instructs him to turn back to their carrier, the *USS Princeton*.



*Two F9F-2 Panthers from VF-191. Sobieski's squadron, fly by the Princeton.*

*(Credit: Lt (jg) George Elmies)*

As they near the ship, they decided to attempt a landing. After four or five practice passes, a decision is made to land. Murphy interprets the paddle signals of the landing signal officer and Sobieski lands, missing the arresting wires but gets stopped by the barricade. After medical treatment, Sobieski recovers full vision.

*“Gyro” Sperry Duns Congress*

Mar 23, 1921 – Lawrence Sperry flew and landed his Sperry Messenger at the steps of the U. S. Capitol. Sperry, inventor of the autopilot and first member of the Mile High Club, was incensed that Congress had failed to honor contractual payments to his company. After landing, he then flew to the Treasury Building to collect his money.



*Supersonic Airliner  
The Concorde was not First.*

Mar 24, 1960 – Douglas test pilot William Magruder departed Edwards AFB in a Douglas DC-8-43 escorted by an F-104 flown by none other than Chuck Yeager. Magruder was no novice to unusual maneuvers in airliners. He was in the right seat when Tex Johnston barrel-rolled the Boeing 707 prototype (367-80) in full view of his boss, Boeing President Bill Allen and the potential customers whom Allen had invited to watch what they believed was going to be a simple fly-over.

Magruder knew he had to dive to break Mach One so he climbed to 52,000 feet, an unofficial altitude record, and executed a ½ G pushover. Around 45,000 feet, the DC-8 reached Mach 1.01. But recovery became difficult. In attempting to pull-out, the aircraft stalled. His “test pilot” intuition sensed an overloaded stabilizer so he increased the dive angle, reducing the load on the stabilizer and managed a recovery at 35,000 feet.



The aircraft, N9604Z, was delivered to Canadian Pacific Air, registered as CF-CPG and served for 20 years after which an unsentimental CPA sold it to the airplane knackers in Opa Locka, Florida.



### PUZZLER ANSWERS

1. Piper, U.S. Army
2. Avro
3. DeHavilland
4. Douglas and Cessna, Republic, Boeing
5. Grumman, Douglas
6. Beech
7. DeHavilland of Canada
8. Lockheed
9. Martin, Hawker, Vickers
10. McDonnell
11. Vought

Can you think of others?

### *Erratum*

*Readers Dr. Eric Thompson of Groton and Capt Robert Colley, Maxwell Composite Squadron, ALWG, CAP spotted a mistake. The picture on page 5 is a Douglas EA-3B Skywarrior, not a Grumman EA-6B Prowler*



*The Skywarrior and the plaque dedicated to the seven crewmen who died while carrying out a signal intelligence mission for the National Security Agency are at National Vigilance Park by Fort Meade and the National Security Agency headquarters.*



The Prowler, pictured below is based on the A-6 intruder attack aircraft. The Prowler is an electronic countermeasures aircraft designed to jam enemy radars and collect signal intelligence data.

