



# Air-Log

The  
University  
of Texas  
at Dallas

## THE HISTORY OF AVIATION COLLECTION

The Admiral Rosendahl Collection  
The CAT/Air America Archive

Spring 2009

The James H. Doolittle Library  
The George H. Williams Library

## Air America: Upholding the Airmen's Bond

### *A Joint CIA-History of Aviation Collection Symposium*

At the Air America Reunion in Portland, Oregon in June 2008, Dr. Tim Castle of the Central Intelligence Agency's Center for the Study of Intelligence announced that the CIA is about to release the rest of the Air America CIA Corporate Records. These records comprise 300 documents totaling 10,000 pages. Copies are being donated to the History of

Aviation Collection, the official repository for the Civil Air Transport and Air America Associations.

In conjunction with the release of these records, the CIA and the History of Aviation Collection are co-presenting a symposium on April 18, 2009 focusing on the rescue exploits performed by Air America pilots in Laos and Vietnam.

The symposium, sponsored by Raytheon Co., will be held at the UT Dallas Conference Center, 800 West Campbell Road, Richardson, Texas, and will begin at 12:30 p.m. for check-in. The symposium starts at 1 p.m.

#### **See Page 2 for program details**

The first part of the symposium will focus on Laos and Lima Site 85. Site 85 was a radar complex situated on top of Phu Pha Thi Mountain in Laos by the United States Air Force to assist Operation Rolling Thunder, the bombing operations carried out on North Vietnam. The site was overrun by the North Vietnamese Army in March 1968.

The second part of the program will focus on search and rescue operations carried out by Air America in Vietnam.

Additional speakers planned include senior CIA officials speaking on the importance of openness and the release of declassified documents, senior military officers, pilots, and aviation historians.

The reception will include an opportunity to personally meet and talk

#### **Air America : Upholding the Airmen's Bond**

**What:** A symposium acknowledging and commemorating Air America's rescue efforts during the Vietnam War.

**Occasion:** The donation of 10,000 copies of recently declassified CIA documents relating to Air America's role in Southeast Asia to McDermott Library's History of Aviation Collection.

**Date:** April 18, 2009

**Time:** 12:30-1 p.m. (check-in)  
1 to 5:30 p.m. (symposium)

**Location:** UT Dallas Conference Center Auditorium

**Admission:** Free to the public

**Seating:** Limited (please RSVP to Special Collections, 972-883-2570 or the website:  
[www.utdallas.edu/airamerica/](http://www.utdallas.edu/airamerica/)

**Reception & Exhibits:** Follow the symposium in the Conference Center lobby

Prolific author, historian,  
creator of TV aviation  
series to present 2009  
Jalonick Lecture July 18



**Col. Walter Boyne, USAF (Ret.)**

*See page 3 for details*

to many Air America pilots and employees, those who worked with Air America, and those rescued by Air America, as well as the opportunity to view Air America exhibits from the CIA and UT Dallas. The Association of Former Intelligence Officers

*Please see Page 2*



(AFIO) is sponsoring the reception.

Each attendee will receive a commemorative booklet highlighting the symposium. The booklet will include articles on Air America, photos, and a selection of recently declassified documents that will include first-hand accounts of rescues and evacuations, letters of thanks from President Nixon and others, *The Airmen's Bond*, and the article *Why We Care* by L. Michael Kandt, chaplain and general secretary of Air America Association, Inc.

Each attendee will also receive a DVD containing electronic copies of the entire collection of newly declassified and heretofore unavailable documents. The DVD will also contain video interviews with Air America pilots, rare footage of Lima Site 85, and photos from the CIA and McDermott Library collections.

The government documents coming to McDermott Library's Special collections augment existing Air America archives given to the university by the Air America Association. Now with the addition of the CIA materials, this collection is destined to become one of the finest resources in the nation to study this fascinating period of Cold War History.

For registration questions please contact Paul Oelkrug at 972-883-2553 or email [oelkrug@utdallas.edu](mailto:oelkrug@utdallas.edu), or call the Special Collections main number at 972-883-2570.

Please check the UT Dallas webpage for online registration or email [jwakefield@utdallas.edu](mailto:jwakefield@utdallas.edu):

<http://www.utdallas.edu/airamerica/>

### Mementoes of the Symposium Available

- The UTD Bookstore will occupy several tables in the Conference Center lobby to offer books about Air America-related activities. Booksigning by authors in lobby.
- A 39-millimeter commemorative coin featuring the symposium title will also be available.
- Collectible envelope cachets noting the occasion along with a special pictorial cancellation provided by the U.S. Postal Service available with April 18, 2009 date.

## Air America : Upholding the Airmen's Bond

April 18, 2009 - UT Dallas Conference Center

12:30 p.m. Arrival, check-in

1 p.m. *Opening Remarks*  
Larry D. Sall, UTD Dean of Libraries

*Welcome*  
David Daniel, UT Dallas President

*The Importance of Openness,  
Official Presentation of Documents*  
Mr. Al Tarasuick, CIA Chief Information Officer

*Air America's Role in National Security*  
Honorable Silvestre Reyes  
U.S. House of Representatives, Chair Permanent House Select  
Committee on Intelligence

*Overview of CIA's Association with Air America*  
Mr. Jim Glerum, Senior Operations Officer, CIA (ret)

1:45 p.m. **Panel Discussion:** *Laos Rescues - Lima Site 85 and Other Military Rescues*

Dr. Timothy Castle Panel Chair, Center for the Study of Intelligence, CIA

John Daniel USAF Retired, Site 85 survivor, rescued by Air America

Loy "Rusty" Irons Air America flight mechanic on Site 85 rescue helicopter

John "Woody" Spence Paramilitary Officer, CIA (ret), Site 85 survivor, rescued by Air America

Rear Admiral Donald Boecker USN Retired, A6 pilot, shot down July 1965, rescued by Air America

Sam Jordan Air America pilot, participated in rescue of Admiral Boecker

3:00 p.m. Break, Viewing of CIA-UTD exhibits

3:30 p.m. **Panel Discussion:** *The Final Day: 1975 Rescue Efforts During the Fall of South Vietnam*

Dr. Joe Guilmartin Panel Chair, Professor, Ohio State Univ., Ex-USAF combat rescue pilot

Ed Adams Air America pilot. Conducted rescue operations in Laos & South Vietnam

Marius Burke Air America pilot. Conducted rescue operations in Laos & South Vietnam

Robert Grealy CIA, Retired. Senior Operations Officer in Vietnam

4:45 p.m. *The Role of Declassified Information in Providing Historical Content*

Joseph W. Lambert, CIA Director of Information Management Services

5 p.m. Appreciation Presentation to CIA, Closing Remarks  
Dr. Larry D. Sall, Dean of Libraries, UTD

5:15 p.m. Reception, Viewing of CIA and UTD exhibits

# *Jalonick Memorial Lecture to welcome Boyne*

The annual Jalonick Lecture is scheduled for July 18, 2009 and our speaker will be Col. Walter Boyne, USAF (Ret.). The lecture is free and will begin at 4 p.m. in the ground level auditorium (MC 2.410) of McDermott Library at The University of Texas at Dallas in Richardson, Texas.

A reception will follow the presentation in Special Collections on the third level of the library.

Col. Boyne is a well-known aviation historian who has written 41 books on military topics and 10 historic novels and is one of the few writers to have fiction and non-fiction books on the *New York Times* Best Seller Lists. He received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA) with honors from the University of California at Berkeley, an MBA with honors from the University of Pittsburgh, and an honorary Doctorate in Aerospace Sciences from Salem College, West Virginia.

Boyne enlisted as a private in the United States Air Force in 1951 and entered the Aviation Cadet Program. He won his wings and was commissioned in 1952. During 23 years in the Air Force his flying experience covered everything from Piper Cubs to the B-1B supersonic bomber.

After retiring from the Air Force, Boyne joined the Na-

tional Air and Space Museum (NASM) as an assistant curator. At NASM he worked his way through the ranks to become Director, serving in this position from 1983 to 1986 when he retired.

Among his many achievements while serving with NASM is the transformation of Silver Hill, the museum's restoration facility, into a world-class operation, and renamed it after his friend and mentor, Paul Garber. He also founded Air and Space, and persuaded NASA to fly an IMAX camera on a space shuttle mission.

Realizing that the museum would eventually need room for growth, he negotiated with the Federal Aviation Administration to secure land to build a new facility. That facility has since been built and is named the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center located at Dulles International Airport.

Boyne became involved in television in 1991. He wrote scripts and directed production of the successful series *Wings*, which appeared on the Discovery Channel. He co-founded the cable television channel *Wingspan: the Air and Space Channel* that went on the air in 1998 and a year later was bought by Discovery Channel. Boyne serves as a consultant for *Discovery Wings* and is the Discovery Channel's "Aerospace Expert in Residence."

## *HAC Digital Archive becomes library 'Treasure'*

**By Thomas Allen, Curator**

Visitors to the History of Aviation Collection's website may be familiar with The Digital Archive, which made digital versions of images in the collection available to the public. For a number of reasons, not the least of which included the discontinuation of support for the software that ran the Digital Archive, the History of Aviation Collection will no longer use the Digital Archive for digital images. It has been replaced by the new *Treasures@McDermott* Library system, the University of Texas at Dallas' portion of the Texas Digital Library (TDL) consortium.

*Treasures* provides the same digital material that was in the Digital Archive, but also allows for the display of digital copies of other types of media including digital documents and sound files. *Treasures* also features

the ability to search for images by names, types of aircraft, locations, and other information. Images can also be browsed by collection, and all results feature a thumbnail of the image that allows one to see a small version of the image at a glance. *Treasures* functions in a similar manner as The Digital Archive, but offers improvements in many ways. As of now objects from the Civil Air Transport/Air America Archives and the Ferko/Williams World War I Collection are online, and items from other collections will be added soon.

*Treasures* represents The University of Texas at Dallas' participation in The Texas Digital Library (TDL) Consortium. The TDL is a group of Texas Universities who have joined together to share resources, computer storage space, and expertise. The member universities of the TDL share the equipment, resources, and data storage

necessary to run digital archives, allowing each member to have a more powerful system than it could have on their own. This provides not only a large amount of space to store data, but also creates backups and duplication that will prevent the loss of information. The History of Aviation Collection is proud to be a participant in this consortium.

*Treasures* not only contains the History of Aviation Collection's materials, but materials from all parts of the University and represents a great way of establishing a digital presence for The University of Texas at Dallas. There are help files available within *Treasures* that will answer questions and provide directions for searching, but if you are having trouble accessing the History of Aviation Collection's materials, e-mail [libspco@utdallas.edu](mailto:libspco@utdallas.edu) and we can provide assistance in using the *Treasures* program.

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