

# A MISSION OF MONSTER PROPORTIONS!



**The historic return of the Douglas C-54 "Spirit of Freedom" to the Rafael Hernandez Airport (formerly Ramey Air Force Base), Aguadilla, Puerto Rico, on March 20, 2007.**

(Note: Photo taken by Jerry M. O'Neill at the 2006 Terre Haute, Indiana Air Show)



## 100% FOCUSED ON THE MISSION TO PUERTO RICO

by Founder and President of BAHF, Timothy A. Chopp.



Berlin Airlift Historical  
Foundation  
Founder and President,  
Timothy A. Chopp

We wish the best to all of the Foundation members and supporters in the New Year of 2007. Thank you for your continued support and for making 2006 a successful year. Let's hope 2007 will bring the opportunity to improve and expand our mission of history, education, and remembrance.

What a great way to begin the 2007 event season, with a challenging mission for the Douglas C-54 "Spirit of Freedom" to the former Ramey Air Force Base in Puerto Rico. Due to the International nature of this mission, plus the fact that 12 hours of flying (based on a round trip flight) will be over water, the entire Foundation staff will be busy throughout the months of January, February, and March to ensure the C-54 is fully airworthy for this mission; ensure the crew is ready; coordinate all activities planned during our visit with the US Coast Guard Air

Station Borinquen and the Ramey Air Force Base Historical Association; and meet the requirements for approval of this historical flight with the Federal Aviation Administration. As a result, the comprehensive newsletter normally sent during this period will be delayed a few months to provide more time to focus on the many problems associated with the preparations, not to mention the expenses involved.



### HELP NEEDED WITH FUNDING, FUEL, OIL / WHERE DO WE STAND NOW?

You will read in this report that we now have \$4800 for the mission in the form of contributions and pledged contributions which will be due by March 1, 2007. These funds are being provided solely by members and supporters. To date, we have received no corporate help but are optimistic some help will arrive. The goal is to raise \$75,000, of which \$25,000 is to be raised from members and supporters and the remaining \$50,000 is to be raised from Corporate Contributions/ Sponsors. As for fuel and oil, we know that we have at least 1000 gallons of donated fuel at this time available in North Carolina and feel certain that an undisclosed amount will present itself from our patriotic friends in Winchester, Virginia. We are now searching for fuel sponsors in Florida and Puerto Rico for the return flight to Florida on March 25, 2007.



#### **Berlin Airlift Historical Foundation**

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The Berlin Airlift Historical Foundation is a non-profit, tax exempt corporation which meets the charitable requirements of Section 501 (3) (c) of the Internal Revenue Code.

#### **Berlin Airlift Historical Foundation Officers:**

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## FOUNDATION MEMBERS AND INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS WHO ARE HELPING AS OF JANUARY, 2007.

The Foundation wants to say a hearty thank you to the following patriots for their generous support. Because of you, the Foundation is able to expand our mission to Puerto Rico in March of 2007. We need more names to be added to the list. At the time of writing, \$4800 has been received in the form of contributions and pledges from the following:

David Hafer of Auburn, Pennsylvania  
Lawrence D. Thomas of Deatsville, Allabama  
Charles C. Vanderburg of New Boston, Texas  
George Anthony of Fort Worth Texas  
Earl Block of Long Branch, New Jersey  
Edward H. Anderson of New Smyrna Beach, Florida  
Ken and Bonnie Coombs of Andover, New Hampshire  
James H. Logue of Warner Robins, Georgia  
John J. Rahl of Fort Lauderdale, Florida  
Forrest E. Ott of Summerville, South Carolina  
Ralph G. Dionne of Dracut, Massachuttes  
Eugenia M. Lyle of Port Ludlow, Washington  
Thomas J. Murphy of South Bend, Indiana  
Mary L. Bash of Washington, Pennsylvania  
William C. Perkins of Hollywood, California  
Douglas Braeuer of Toms River, New Jersey  
Beryl D. Peck of Waverly, Iowa  
Ann Tunner of Ware Neck, Virginia ★Wife of General William H. Tunner  
Helga Johnson of Belvidere, New Jersey  
Anthony and Nita Chopp of Washington, Pennsylvania  
John Passanante of Cherry Hill, New Jersey  
Albert Lowe of Charleston, South Carolina  
Ed J. Rothermund of Washington, Pennsylvania  
Michael Shay of Morris Plains, New Jersey  
Margaret R. Watkins of San Antonio, Texas ★Ramey family member  
Samuel Latorre of Chicago, Illinois  
Anna Amick of West Columbia, South Carolina  
Robert L. Moore of West Alexander, Pennsylvania  
Marjorie J. Armstrong of New Castle, Pennsylvania ★ see note below  
Your name here ★★ ★★ ★★

★ Note: Marjorie J. Armstrong contributed \$1000 towards the flight to Puerto Rico in memory of her son, Randy McConahy, the first vice-president of the Berlin Airlift Historical Foundation. Randy was in a car accident on the Garden State Parkway on May 9, 2006 and died on May 14, 2006. There will be more details in the next comprehensive newsletter.

As the time is rapidly winding down for the historic flight to the former Ramey Air Force Base, Puerto Rico, please consider adding your name to the above list with a contribution. It will be history in the making while providing the opportunity for our friends in Puerto Rico to tour the "Spirit of Freedom".







## C-54 INSPECTION/ MAINTENANCE IN PROGRESS AT FLOYD BENNETT FIELD, BROOKLYN, NY.



In the meantime, the Foundation is delighted to report our dedicated maintenance team is working hard to ensure that the # 3 Service Inspection is completed and all discrepancies corrected in time for the flight to Puerto Rico. Departure from the hangar could be as early as March 15th, 2007 and will be the earliest date ever for departing the hangar following winter maintenance. We hope you enjoy the enclosed photos of our maintenance team in action. Each of our technicians cares greatly about the airworthiness of the "Spirit of Freedom" and each gives much of their valuable time to make the trip to Floyd Bennett Field to work on the C-54, as well as the C-97.

*(Photos by Foundation Volunteer Walter Henry)*



**THE MORNING MAINTENANCE BRIEFING.** Back Row, L to R: Dan MacManus, Kevin Kearney, Bill Rumpf, Jeff DeKonty, Arnie Mig, Frank DeStefano, Cedric Morrison. Front Row, L to R: Glenn Skidmore, Frank Benson, Steve Grubesich, Jim Reed and Art Kunhardt



**PARDON ME, GOVERNOR.** Foundation Volunteer and A&P Mechanic Dan MacManus works on the #2 propeller governor.



**KEEPING IT COOL.** Foundation Secretary Jeff DeKonty adjusts the cowl flaps on the #2 Engine.



**FLOORED.** Foundation Volunteer Art Kunhardt removing the cabin floor access panel for an inspection



**MAINTAINING THE TOOLS FOR MAINTENANCE.** Foundation Volunteer Glenn Skidmore working on the Foundation's ground support equipment.



**STOPPING POWER.** Foundation Volunteers Frank Benson and Cedric Morrison and A&P Mechanic Joe Tesoriero inspect one of the C-54's 4 brakes.



**AT THE CONTROLS.** Foundation Vice President and A&P Mechanic Kevin Kearney works on the control pedestal in the cockpit of the C-54.



**MONOTONOUS, ISN'T IT?.** Foundation President and A&P Mechanic Tim Chopp works with Foundation Volunteer Steve Grubesich to remove over a hundred screws in order to access a fuel valve.



**MAKING ADJUSTMENTS.** Foundation Volunteer Jim Reed works to adjust the cowl flaps on the #3 engine of the C-54.



# HISTORY IN THE MAKING: GIVING OUR BEST TO THE "SPIRIT OF FREEDOM"



(Photo by Foundation Volunteer Walter Henry)



(CUT HERE AND MAIL TO THE FOUNDATION)

## PLEDGE FORM FOR THE 2007 FLIGHT TO PUERTO RICO

**Yes, Tim, I want to help** with the planned historic flight of a C-54 to the former Ramey Air Force Base scheduled for March 20th through March 25, 2007. Below is my pledge to be due by March 1st, 2007.

I pledge the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help bring the mission of history, education, and remembrance of the "Spirit of Freedom" to Ramey AFB Puerto Rico.

My name will be added to the growing list of patriots and supporters to help make this historic return possible

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

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