



## Want to fly from Palmdale Airport? *Despite delays, hope remains for AV commercial flights*

by Larry Grooms  
special to Aerotech News

**PALMDALE, Calif.** — Palmdale Mayor Steve Hofbauer told *Aerotech News* that a critically needed program for linking passenger airline service from Air Force Plant 42 to one or more major national hub airports is trapped in a federal holding pattern, where the bureaucracy's default answer is "hell no."

In an exclusive Aug. 8 interview, Hofbauer said that in the nearly nine months since Aerotech first reported the story in November 2021, the city is still waiting to receive a crucial "go or no-go" decision from Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall.

Hofbauer said Kendall, although newly sworn at the time, was expected to sign onto negotiating a new Air Force Plant 42 Joint Use Agreement between the Air Force and the City of Palmdale.

Having recently returned from Washington, D.C., where he met with the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Infrastructure and Facilities, Hofbauer said, "We agreed to everything they wanted in the way of design and security," ranging from a terminal wall blocking the view of anything on Plant 42, to a curfew on night flights, to requiring passengers to close their window shades when the airliner was on the taxiway or runway.

The previous agreement, which included Air Force Materiel Command's Plant 42, the city of Palmdale and Los Angeles World Airways department, expired in 2017. And Hofbauer said LAWA continues to be a roadblock to air service in Palmdale by "giving up the operating certificate, but never acting to transfer it to the new operators."

A new Joint Use Agreement is needed to clear the way for development of an offsite but adjacent air terminal complex to be constructed on the 600-acre city-owned site bordering Plant 42, with passenger terminal access from East Avenue M just east of Sierra Highway.

According to Palmdale city documents and statements from officials, the planned civil airport terminal is to be built on portions of city property previously earmarked for what became a financially disastrous and ultimately abandoned natural gas-burning power plant.

As reported in the Dec. 3 edition of Aerotech, then City Manager JJ Murphy said bipartisan congressional support was expected to result in timely action to clear the way for development. Even before Christmas, Murphy said early letters of support for the next Joint Use Agreement were sent to the Air Force Secretary from Congressman Michael Garcia, and U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla.

Responding to Aerotech's request for a progress report, Garcia said in a statement from the Capitol, "I have been a supporter of commercial



Courtesy photographs

**Above:** An artists' impression of the proposed new airport terminal at Air Force Plant 42 in Palmdale, Calif. **Right:** An aerial view of Air Force Plant 42.

airline services from Plant 42 since my first day in office. I'll continue to work with Mayor Hofbauer and the Department of Defense to see that this vital program is approved. This can be done while still ensuring proper protections and security for the government programs based there."

Hofbauer said he and others were stunned by ongoing procedural delays. "Right now, the biggest speed bump is trying to move forward with the security people. Their standard answer is to say 'No,' because it's easy to say. We must find the way to 'Yes.'"

Establishing a new negotiated agreement will allow the city to break ground and begin construction, which Hofbauer asserted could, by now, be nearing completion had official approval not been waylaid.

Odd as it might seem, the regional heart of California aerospace research and manufacturing currently has zero scheduled airline service to anywhere, and hasn't had it for years. Hofbauer points the finger of blame at LAWA, which he characterized as never a friend to the Antelope Valley.

See PALMDALE, Page 2



## PALMDALE, from 1

He cited historic examples of LAWA's anti-Palmdale policies, which included "failed by design" regional airline promotions, which mostly failed by trying to sell tickets to places most locals had no need to visit: San Francisco, Reno and Palm Springs for example. And airlines responding to lucrative cash incentives, mostly took the money and ran when the subsidy did. LAWA blamed the Aerospace Valley market.

Hofbauer comments that occasionally LAWA offered Palmdale service incentives that misfired ahead of schedule, or were killed by bureaucratic neglect, as happened when LAWA failed to file a Palmdale Regional Airport air carrier's GSA rates for six months into the nine-month incentive period.

The mayor said that with LAX no longer at the table, Palmdale's new data-driven airline service strategy marks a major departure.

Hofbauer said two of three major airlines considering adding Palmdale to their routes would offer daily service to gates in hub airports with national and international connecting flights. And the outbound direction is east. "One of those airline hubs is Dallas/Fort Worth," the mayor said.

Palmdale's self-funded, data-driven feasibility study found significant demand for regional commercial air service to one or more major airports with scheduled flights to hub airports in major cities east of California with easy connections to destinations for both domestic and international business travel.

Palmdale continues to coordinate with the Air Force Materiel Command Headquarters at Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio, and Edwards Air Force Base, along with contractor companies on and around Air Force Plant 42.

Without scheduled airline service, residents primarily drive or ride buses between 60 and more than 100 miles to Bob Hope Airport in Burbank, or more distant Los Angeles International Airport, Ontario Airport, and recently added commercial airline service to San Bernardino International Airport —the former Norton AFB.

Establishing regular, reliable, affordable, and professional air carrier service at Palmdale remains a top priority for both the military and contractors. For example, avoiding 206-mile roundtrip drives from Edwards AFB to LAX



Courtesy photograph

The existing Palmdale Airport Terminal Building at Air Force Plant 42 in Palmdale, Calif.

would save the government \$2,389,600 in driving costs alone, save time for personnel and remove the additional driving hazards facing key people with specialized expertise.

Hofbauer remarked that Plant 42 contractors and military, NASA Armstrong Research Center at Edwards, as well as civilian aerospace personnel at Mojave Air and Space Port, each lose two days of job productivity for every person having to drive to LAX for a roundtrip flight.

"We're not giving up," Hofbauer said, "Hopefully, we can get a more positive response from the current federal administration."

He also mentioned additional partial solutions, including one idea generated from listening to aerospace industry professionals here on temporary duty assignments for weeks or months at a time. He said these folks feel like nomads, flying in and out almost every weekend, and disliking the disorientation of moving in and out of different motel rooms. Hofbauer says the TDY workforce might welcome the

feelings of permanence in renting a small, studio-like apartment unit or the same room in a hotel with a security feature for storing personal belongings on weekends when the room would be occupied by visitors.

In the 1960s, Palmdale was proclaimed by the Los Angeles Department of Airports as the future home of what was to be Palmdale International Airport, a plan that sold real estate, but not a single airline ticket on the 17,000-acre desert airport site and pistachio farm.

Years later, Los Angeles World Airways and the City of Palmdale, in cooperation with the Air Force, opened a Palmdale Regional Airport terminal, which saw a succession of feeder airline tenants, usually with subsidies and operating with various degrees of success, depending on shifts in the economy and having enough flights to the right destinations for passengers. Commercial carriers recruited to Palmdale Regional included America West, American Eagle, Horizon, SkyWest, and United Express — the last to depart.

## New COVID protocols enacted at Edwards

Due to increased community spread across L.A., Kern and San Bernardino counties, updated safety measures were enacted to protect the health and safety of the Edwards workforce.

This includes required indoor masking for everyone on the base population.

A new initiative at Edwards AFB includes randomized testing of a weekly sample size of base personnel (agnostic of vaccination status). This allows the base to:

1) Monitor the COVID-19 levels on the installation.

2) Allow for early isolation of positive individuals to minimize the mission impact.

Brig. Gen. Matthew Higer, commander of the 412th Test Wing at Edwards, was randomly selected last week to be tested for COVID-19 as part of this new health measure. This new testing is a critical tool for ensuring our test mission is continued for the warfighter.



Air Force photograph by Adam Bowles

Brig. Gen. Matthew Higer, commander of the 412th Test Wing at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., was randomly selected to be tested for COVID-19 as part of new health measures at the base.

## Reader's Services

### How to contact

#### Aerotech News and Review

- E-Mail: [editor@aerotechnews.com](mailto:editor@aerotechnews.com)
- Phone: (661) 945-5634
- Fax: (661) 723-7757
- Website: [www.aerotechnews.com](http://www.aerotechnews.com)

### Advertising

Corporate Headquarters:  
(877) 247-9288

Email: [sbueltel@aerotechnews.com](mailto:sbueltel@aerotechnews.com)

### Subscriber Services

Subscriptions to Aerotech News and Review are \$59 for six months or \$89 for one year. For more information, contact the subscription department at: (661) 945-5634

### Story ideas, letters, editorials

Please send all letters and editorials to Stuart A. Ibberson, Editor, at [editor@aerotechnews.com](mailto:editor@aerotechnews.com).

### Web Site

Access the Aerotech News web site at [www.aerotechnews.com](http://www.aerotechnews.com)

Submissions for upcoming events, air shows and museums should be emailed to [editor@aerotechnews.com](mailto:editor@aerotechnews.com).

For questions concerning the web site, contact the webmaster at [webmaster@aerotechnews.com](mailto:webmaster@aerotechnews.com).

### Where you can get Aerotech News and Review

For information on Aerotech distribution, call (661) 945-5634 or visit [www.aerotechnews.com/distribution](http://www.aerotechnews.com/distribution).

*Aerotech News and Review* is published every other Friday, serving the aerospace and defense industry of Southern California, Nevada and Arizona. News and ad copy deadline is noon on the Tuesday prior to publication. The publisher assumes no responsibility for error in ads other than space used. Your comments are welcomed and encouraged. Write to the address below.

- Publisher ..... Paul Kinison
- Business Manager ..... Lisa Kinison
- Editors ..... Stuart Ibberson
- ..... Jenna Bigham
- National Advertising Manager ..... Paul Kinison

*Aerotech News and Review*  
e-mail: [editor@aerotechnews.com](mailto:editor@aerotechnews.com)  
Visit our web site at  
[www.aerotechnews.com](http://www.aerotechnews.com)

# 461st FTS receives brand new F-35A

by Giancarlo Casem  
Edwards AFB, Calif.

The newest F-35A, straight out of the factory, found its new home here at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., Aug. 1, 2022.

The aircraft, Air Force serial number 338, is the first of six F-35s the 461st Flight Test Squadron and F-35 Lightning II Integrated Test Force will receive in the next few years. The upgraded fleet will be used to test the Technical Refresh 3 and Block 4 configurations of the Air Force's newest fighter that will create tactical and operational advantages over peer competitors.

"The 461st needs airplanes; our complex test missions require a four-ship of instrumented test jets to fully evaluate F-35 warfighting systems," said Lt. Col. Jonathan Bearce, an Air Force Reservist with the 370th Flight Test Squadron currently flying for the 461st "Deadly Jesters."

The 461st FLTS is the Department of Defense's lead developmental flight test unit for sensors, weapons, and software on all three variants of the F-35. The team has been behind every previous test project that has fielded new capabilities to operational F-35 units around the world.

"The F-35 is modernizing from a Tech Refresh 2 configuration to a



Air Force photographs by Chase Kohler

An F-35A Lightning II arrives at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., Aug. 1, 2022. The aircraft, Air Force serial number 338, is the first of six F-35s the 461st Flight Test Squadron and F-35 Lightning II Integrated Test Force will receive in the next few years. The upgraded fleet will be used to test the Technical Refresh 3 and Block 4 configurations of the Air Force's newest fighter that will create tactical and operational advantages over peer competitors.

Tech Refresh 3 configuration. But we are still developing capabilities for both configurations for the next few years. Developmental testers need to evaluate those capabilities using four-ship formations in each configuration, which drives an increase to our total fleet size," Bearce explained.

The software and hardware upgrades are aimed at increases the Lightning II's capabilities and survivability in contested combat environments.

"Your iPhone gets upgraded all the time, this is kind of the same thing for the F-35," Bearce said. "The F-35 is

Below: An F-35A Lightning II, serial number 338, lands at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., Aug. 1, 2022.



getting more computing power so it can host new capabilities as well as future weapons as we need them."

These future upgrades will benefit the 826 fielded F-35 aircraft in the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Navy as well as the eight partner nations in the F-35 program

and the 15 total nations participating in the F-35 program. Brand-new Tech Refresh 3 aircraft will be rolling off the assembly line starting in the summer of 2023. The Deadly Jesters will use their bigger test fleet to ensure those jets are combat-ready from the outset.

## Edwards officially completes educational complex

The Department of Defense and Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., celebrated Aug. 9, 2022, during the ribbon cutting for the Desert Junior Senior High School the base in Kern County, Calif.

The event completes a \$180 million, 220,000-square-foot, replacement educational complex in response to the Secretary of Defense prioritizing the location to remedy condition and capacity problems at the facility.

The overall effort was enabled through the Department's Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation's Public Schools on Military Installations Program, and will support the education of 1,600 students in grades K-12 annually.

"With completion of this complex, our service members and the civilians and contractors

who support them can be assured their dependents will have access to quality state-of-the-art educational facilities for years to come," said Patrick J. O'Brien, Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation Director. "We are happy to have enabled the completion of this 10-plus year effort by the Muroc Joint Unified School District in partnership with the local Edwards AFB leadership and countless state officials over this period to respond to these needs."

The Muroc Joint Unified School District, the Local Education Agency, operates five schools across 550 plus square miles in Kern and San Bernardino Counties. Three schools — Forbes Elementary, Desert Junior Senior High, and Irving L. Branch Elementary are on Edwards Air Force Base and were replaced with Office of



Air Force photographs by Giancarlo Casem

Junior Miss Edwards Hailey Shartzter cuts the ribbon to officially open the new Desert Junior/Senior High School at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., Aug. 9, 2022.

Local Defense Community Cooperation support after being prioritized by the Secretary of Defense for improvement due to serious condition and capacity issues.

The District received \$142.5 million in grant funding from the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation that was matched with \$37.2 million from non-Federal state and local sources. These funds helped to address several serious condition and capacity issues, including expired building systems, seismic concerns, foundation failures, localized flooding, and functional deficiencies in food service, information center, special needs, and music.

Without the continued support and advocacy from Congress, the Department of the Air Force, partnerships between the community, service members and their families, the District,

and the State of California, this project would not have come to fruition.

"This new school is a reflection of the Muroc Joint Unified School District's commitment to world class education for our local communities, notes Kevin D. Cordes, Superintendent. We are proud of the collaborations and work that took place to make this vision into a reality."

The new educational complex will significantly improve the quality of life for military dependents and families, help with recruitment and retention of pilots, and improve the mission readiness of the base. It will also provide incentives for retired pilots to remain and seek employment opportunities in nearby Palmdale, Calif., continuing support for the Edwards mission.



Pamela Balch, a representative of Assemblyman Tom Lackey, presents a certificate to Kevin Cordes, Muroc Joint Unified School District Superintendent, inside the new performing arts theater at Desert Junior/Senior High School at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., Aug. 9, 2022.

# How first B-2s to fly became extinct

by **Larry Grooms**  
special to Aerotech News

**RIVERSIDE, Calif.**—Back in the early 1930s, March Field was home to a small fleet of Curtiss Aircraft Company bombers identified as the U.S. Army Air Corps B-2 Condors.

Although the March Field Air Museum displays a scale model of Northrop Grumman's B-2 Spirit stealth bomber, it is believed none of the 12 B-2 Condors and the prototype XB-2A have survived. And in one of those historical quirks, the Condor's most serious competitors was the Keystone XB-1.

Advances in technology came so rapidly in the early 1930s that the B-2 Condor type introduced in 1929 was obsolete and retired from service by 1934, but not before heroically performing a mission far from its intended purpose.

On Jan. 17, 1932, six Curtiss Condors, each built to deliver 2,500 pounds of bombs, took off from March Field and flew to the Navajo Tribal Reservation near Winslow, Ariz., where the aircraft delivered 30,000 pounds of food and supplies to 20,000 Navajo and Hopi tribes families isolated by winter storms.

In recognition of that successful humanitarian and hazardous mission, March Field's 11th Bombardment Squadron, commanded by 1st Lt. Charles H. Howard, became the first group ever to be awarded the Mackay Trophy for Most Meritorious Flight of the year.



A Curtiss B-2 Condor in flight.

Courtesy photograph



**#1 Homebuilder in the Antelope Valley!**

**\$5,000 INCENTIVE\***

for active military, retired, and service personnel to use towards options or upgrades

**NEW HOMES SELLING IN LANCASTER AND PALMDALE**

**Pacific Creekside Encore**  
**GRAND OPENING AUG. 13**  
2105 Cork Oak Street  
Palmdale, CA, 93536  
(661) 742-6255

**Pacific Marigold Encore**  
**FINAL OPPORTUNITY**  
1758 East Holguin St  
Lancaster, CA, 93535  
(661) 946-3523

**Pacific Wildflower**  
**NOW SELLING**  
E. Ave. R and 35th Street  
Palmdale, CA 93552

**Pacific Del Lago**  
**COMING SOON 2023**  
E. Barrel Springs Road  
Palmdale, CA 93550

**LARGE 1 & 2-STORY HOMES**  
**West Palmdale**  
2,207 - 2,741 Sq. Ft.  
Up to 5 Beds, Up to 4 Baths  
**Join the Interest List Online**

**SINGLE-STORY HOMES**  
**CHALLENGER WAY AND AVE. I**  
1,867-2,462 Sq. Ft.  
Up to 5 Beds, Up to 3 Baths  
**From the Mid \$500,000's**

**1 & 2-STORY HOMES**  
**CLOSE TO SCHOOLS**  
2,179-3,230 Sq. Ft.  
Up to 5 Beds, Up to 3 Baths  
**From the High \$500,000's**

**1 & 2-STORY LUXURY HOMES**  
**Acre + Homesites**  
3,968-4,798 Sq. Ft.  
Up to 5 Beds, Living Suite  
**Join the Interest List Online**

**PacificCommunities.com**



Prices, terms, and features are subject to change without notice. Homes are subject to prior sale. Photos are representational only. Buyer must sign contract and close escrow per the purchase agreement on a home at one of the above listed communities. \*\$5,000 incentive and can be used towards options and upgrades. This promotion begins August 9, 2022 and expires December 31, 2022. Proof of employment must be presented to obtain incentive (recent paystub and/or military identification will be required). Only one promotion per purchase contract can be used. Cannot be combined with broker co-op. Terms and conditions are subject to change without prior notice. Pacific Communities reserves the right to change features, elevations, community information, materials and pricing without notice or obligation. Drawings, renderings, square footages, floor plans, elevations, features, colors and sizes are approximate and for illustration purposes only and will vary from the homes as built. Not all features available in all plans. CA BRE License # 01154693; Contractor's License # 660968.

# Breaking Barriers theme of Nov. 12 Gathering of Eagles



by Larry Grooms  
special to Aerotech News

**AEROSPACE VALLEY, Calif.** — Celebrating the 75th Anniversary Year of Breaking the Sound Barrier and marking its own 40th year of sharing the amazing story of America's heart of aerospace research, the Flight Test Historical Foundation will host its annual signature event, The Gathering of Eagles, on Nov. 12.

The event in the Hunter Pavilion of the Antelope Valley Fair & Events Center in Lancaster, Calif., will begin with a 5 p.m. reception, followed by the dinner program beginning at 6 p.m.

Going where no Gathering of Eagles panel discussion has ever gone before, the 2022 theme, "Breaking Barriers," will take the audience from the beginning of flight testing in the Mojave Desert to visions of barriers just over the horizon for the young pioneering breed of aerospace explorers at Mojave Air and Space Port, Edwards AFB, NASA Armstrong Re-

search Center, and Air Force Plant 42 in Palmdale, and current aerospace industries including SpaceX, Blue Origin and Virgin Galactic.

The panel will answer the questions of how we got where we are today, where we are going, and how we will get there?

FTHF founding members recognized the Aerospace Valley as the genesis of flight test and aerospace innovation, and since 1983 the FTHF has been honoring luminaries in the aerospace world at events and award dinners.

The Gathering of Eagles was established in 1997 to acknowledge significant achievements in flight test and to honor the individuals who made these achievements possible with the award of Eagle.

Tickets are \$100 per person, with sponsorships and full table purchases also available. For additional information, contact [info@flighttestmuseum.org](mailto:info@flighttestmuseum.org).

## Every Delivery Is Special



The arrival of a new baby is an exciting experience for the whole family. The Birth Place at Palmdale Regional provides quality care and a homelike setting.


We offer:

- All private labor, delivery and recovery suites
- Two surgical suites
- A highly skilled staff
- Easy drop-off and parking ... and more

Visit [palmdaleregional.com/maternity](http://palmdaleregional.com/maternity)

Paid Advertisement. No Federal endorsement of advertiser(s) intended. Physicians are independent practitioners who are not employees or agents of Palmdale Regional Medical Center. The hospital shall not be liable for actions or treatments provided by physicians. For language assistance, disability accommodations and the nondiscrimination notice, visit our website. 22601521-1088688 8/22

Meet   
**Skyla Liberty**

 Born July 4  
7 pounds,  
2 ounces



**PALMDALE REGIONAL**  
MEDICAL CENTER

THE **Birth Place**

# Student experiments sought for TechRise challenge

by Sarah Mann  
NASA Armstrong

NASA is calling on middle and high school students to join the second NASA TechRise Student Challenge, which invites student teams to develop, build, and launch science and technology experiments on high-altitude balloons.

Students in grades six to 12 attending U.S. public, private, or charter schools — including those in U.S. territories — are challenged to team up with their schoolmates to design an experiment under the guidance of an educator. Administered by Future Engineers, the NASA TechRise Student Challenge offers hands-on insight into the design and test process used by NASA-supported researchers. It aims to inspire a deeper understanding of Earth's atmosphere, surface features, and climate, as well as space exploration, coding, electronics, and the value of test data. Teams should submit their experiment ideas by Oct. 24, 2022.

"We are thrilled to offer the second NASA TechRise Student Challenge," said NASA Administrator Bill Nelson. "The quality of the experiments and the creativity we saw from students in the last challenge are exactly the kinds of problem-solving and hands-on learning NASA hopes to inspire. We're eager to see what innovative ideas pour in from students around the nation this year."

To participate in the challenge, visit <https://www.futureengineers.org/nasatechrise>



A total of 60 winning teams will be selected to turn their proposed experiment idea into reality and launch their technology on a suborbital flight test. The winning teams will each receive \$1,500 to build their experiment and an assigned spot on a NASA-sponsored high-altitude balloon flight operated by one of two commercial providers: Aerostar of Sioux Falls, S.D., or World View based in Tucson, Ariz. Both high-altitude balloons provide exposure to the stratosphere at altitudes of approximately 9-19 miles and variable duration of flight time of hours to days. The challenge is led by NASA's Flight Opportunities program, which rapidly demonstrates technologies for space exploration and the expansion of space commerce

through suborbital testing with industry flight providers.

The winning teams will also receive technical support and mentorship from Future Engineers, including the opportunity to learn or improve technology skills such as soldering, coding, and 3D design. NASA encourages students and their instructors to submit experiment ideas even if they have no prior experience with these activities.

"We could not do a project like this in our classroom without the support of NASA TechRise," said Jill Davis, Superintendent-Director of the Greater Lowell Technical High School in Tyngsborough, Mass., which had one of the winning teams in last year's challenge. "It is something that is truly out of this world! This challenge helped students develop their own

unique ideas for future inventions, which adds a new layer of meaning to what they learn."

To enter the competition, teams will propose their experiment idea online using the design guidelines and proposal template on the competition site. NASA plans to announce the competition winners in January 2023. The selected student teams will build their payloads from January to May, and the final experiments will take flight in summer 2023.

Educators interested in TechRise are strongly encouraged to join the virtual educator workshop on Saturday, Aug. 27, to learn more about the challenge, high-altitude balloons, and how to develop a NASA TechRise proposal. Attendees will also have an opportunity to ask questions of TechRise educators

who recently participated in the winner build experience.

NASA also is seeking volunteers to help judge the entries anticipated from across the country. U.S. residents with expertise in engineering, space, and/or atmospheric research who are interested in reviewing NASA TechRise Student Challenge submissions can apply to be a judge on the Future Engineers website.

NASA's Flight Opportunities program, based at the agency's Armstrong Flight Research Center at Edwards, Calif., and part of NASA's Space Technology Mission Directorate, is leading the NASA TechRise Challenge, with support from the NASA Tournament Lab, also part of STMD.

## Museum moves Strikefighter from restoration hangar

The Air Force Flight Test Museum at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif, with assistance from the 412th Operations Support Squadron's Airfield Management, recently moved the Vought YA-7F Strikefighter from the restoration hangar to its new home for a new mission.

The aircraft will now provide the 812th Civil Engineer Squadron Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Flight a physical training aid for its EOD technicians.

EOD techs may sometimes be called on to "render safe" an aircraft and have to be cognizant of hazards on or around an aircraft.



Air Force photographs

*On this date...*



**Aug. 21, 1944:** The Grumman F8F Bearcat made its first flight. The Bearcat is an American single-engine carrier-based fighter aircraft introduced in late World War II. It served during the mid-20th century in the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Marine Corps, and the air forces of other nations. It was Grumman Aircraft's last piston-engined fighter aircraft.



**Aug. 23, 1948:** The McDonnell XF-85 Goblin parasite fighter made its first flight. On this flight, McDonnell test pilot Edwin F. Schoch successfully detached from trapeze carried on Boeing EB-29B Superfortress named "Monstro," but when he tried to hook up after free flight, the small fighter, buffeted in turbulence from the bomber, swung violently forward, smashing the canopy against the trapeze, and knocked the pilot's helmet off. Schoch made a successful belly landing on a dry lakebed at Muroc Air Force Base, Calif., suffering little damage.



**Aug. 26, 1944:** The Martin AM Mauler made its first flight. The was a single-seat carrier-based attack aircraft built for the U.S. States Navy. Designed during World War II, the Mauler encountered development delays and did not enter service until 1948, in small numbers. The aircraft proved troublesome and remained in frontline service only until 1950, when the Navy switched to the smaller and simpler Douglas AD Skyraider. Maulers remained in reserve squadrons until 1953.



**Aug. 21, 1961:** A Canadian Pacific Douglas DC-8 commercial airliner broke the sound barrier — the first time a civil airliner had done so. The Douglas DC-8-3 climbed to 50,090 feet near Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. Placing the DC-8 into a dive, it reached Mach 1.012 while descending through 41,088 feet. The airliner maintained this supersonic speed for 16 seconds.



**Aug. 23, 1990:** The Boeing VC-25 made its first flight. The VC-25 is a military version of the Boeing 747 airliner, modified for presidential transport and commonly operated by the U.S. Air Force as Air Force One, the call sign of any U.S. Air Force aircraft carrying the president of the United States. Only two examples of this aircraft type are in service.



**Aug. 26, 1975:** The McDonnell Douglas YC-15 made its first flight. The YC-15 was a prototype four-engine short take-off and landing tactical transport, and was McDonnell Douglas' entrant into the U.S. Air Force's Advanced Medium STOL Transport competition to replace the Lockheed C-130 Hercules as the Air Force's standard STOL tactical transport.

**TIMES CHANGE — TRUTH DOES NOT**



**WESTSIDE**  
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

**Westside Christian Fellowship**  
**West Palmdale**  
**Leona Valley**

**Find more at [WCFAV.org](http://WCFAV.org)**

# A coyote, a P-47 and World War II: The story of Jeep!

by Bob Alvis  
special to Aerotech News

Writing my articles each month has always been a team effort. For as long as I have been writing, I have always had a wingman who was there with me through thick and thin, and would be at my feet as I put together articles that I hoped would find favor with readers.

Ziggy was my soulmate for 14 wonderful years of my life and this past week I sadly had to say goodbye as he fell victim to illness. With a heavy heart, I sat down to write without his companionship. The weeklong heartache of moving on without him has really taken a toll on my heart and soul, not seeing him under my desk or behind my chair like he always did leaves me feeling lost and empty.

In his honor for this week, I prefer to share a story I wrote a while ago about another beloved soul mate that found favor in the skies with his keeper. The story reaffirms our love for pets, and is a prayer for healing and peace of mind. The love we have for our pets and their unconditional love for us is one of the greatest gifts we can ever have. God speed Ziggy, I love you buddy!

Thinking about Veterans Day coming up on Nov. 11, I would like to step away from the local aviation history and just share the story of a couple of World War II veteran aviators who have a unique story.

I hope you enjoy this and that it will bring a smile to your face, and by all means, don't try this these days or your neighbors and commanding officer will not look kindly on you.

Bill Crump flew more than 25,000 hours in his life, but none were quite like his time in Europe as a P-47 fighter in the 356th Fighter Squadron in England.

He and a close friend were in



Courtesy photograph

My wingmen in formation. My best buddy Ziggy, the German Shepherd-mix, is behind my chair, bringing so much joy to my life as he did for many years.

gunnery training in the desert when a local farmer flagged him down coming back one day, wondering if Bill could use the 50 calibers to thin out the local coyote population raiding his chicken coops at night! Bill said that was out of the question, but he asked about the chance of finding a coyote pup for he always wanted to see if he could domesticate one. The farmer took him to a den, and in short order, he picked out a funny looking bowlegged pup and set about his project much to

the displeasure of the others in his outfit.

Bill worked with the pup and before long "Jeep," as he called him, became a strange lap dog in a military man's world.

Training over, orders came, and Bill was being sent to England with the other pilots on the Queen Elizabeth. Jeep was not going to be left behind, so with a little GI ingenuity a gasmask bag with holes cut in it became a hiding place for the little coyote pup. Once on board it did not take long for word to get around that a coyote was on the ship. It worked out good for Bill and his other bunkmates as every girl aboard wanted to come by and see Jeep!

One day while he was sleeping, he heard a noise and popped up to see the tallest, meanest-looking bird colonel he'd ever seen in his life.

"He was Army, not Air Corps and had worked on two tours of combat," recalled Bill. "When he came in everybody popped to stiff attention. He walked down the line. He knew I had the coyote, so I stepped forward, and he said: "Let me see the damn thing."

"I reached down, grabbed the chain and pulled Jeep up and sat him in my arms and went back to attention. I noticed [the colonel] wouldn't approach me to pet it or touch it. Finally he said "Well I'll be damned." Then he told a story about how, when he was a kid, he



Courtesy photograph

tried to train a coyote, but it never worked out and he had to let it go. After that he disappeared as fast as he had arrived. The rest of the trip went on without a hitch and Bill and Jeep arrived ready for combat.

"When we arrived at our base, I was told that when the English got Jeep they would kill him, because they would put him in quarantine for a year," Bill said. "I went to a squadron that was off the base. There we lived in temporary quarters until we could move into this castle, and I could keep Jeep out of sight. The coyote slept with me, and it was damn cold in England. With only two blankets you would shiver most of the night. Some nights it was a two-coyote night!"

"Now the amazing part of this story is that if it was a low altitude mission when we started flying combat, I would take Jeep along. He ended up flying five combat missions with me. One of those missions will always stand out for Jeep saved my life.

"We were up about 5,000 feet on a mission to Arnhem, Germany, when he just lurched real fast. I didn't know what was going on, but I looked in the rearview mirror and saw two bursts of flak trailing me. Then I saw a third burst coming up my tail; I broke hard left and luckily it missed. The burst went off right where I would have been if I had not broke away. That night Jeep ate very well." Sad to say, Jeep's life in the war zone only lasted about a year because one day after a mission Bill came back and Jeep was nowhere to be found.

After a nightlong search they found him. He had been hit by a car. Bill was on his bike, so he put him in his jacket and pedaled back to the base, Bill was devastated.

When he got back to the base the commander said "Crump, you and I are going to the bar." Then he turned to the others and said, "Build him a casket."

Not long after a chaplain showed up, and the next morning Jeep was laid to rest in English soil with full

Editor's note: This High Desert Hangar Story first appeared in the Nov. 6, 2015, issue of Aerotech News and Review.



to England two times to visit his friend's grave.

People ask where Jeep is buried, and Bill shared the following:

"Right there at the castle. It's called Playford Hall. People will come to see the 800-year-old castle and the first thing they'll ask the owners is 'Where is the coyote buried?' He rests under a tree, and he has a headstone with his picture on it and the words that the chaplain recited on the day we laid him to rest."

Bless our veterans on this Veterans Day and we will remember the men and women of today and yesterday who served on behalf of we citizens of the United States, and also remember a citizen of the Southwest with four legs who rests in foreign soil who, in his own very small way, helped to secure the victory in World War II.

The spirit of the American Airman lives on in our history and the men and women who fly today.

Until next time Bob out ....



Courtesy photograph

Bill Crump and Jeep.





**TWO GREAT LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU**

**UP TO 30% OFF**  
3 MONTHS ON  
SELECT UNITS

<p><b>LANCASTER</b> 825 W Ave L12 (661) 535-1246 Tue-Sat 10am - 5pm Sun-Mon Closed</p>	<p><b>PALMDALE</b> 3305 E Palmdale Blvd (661) 797-8034 Mon-Fri 10am - 6pm Sat-Sun 10am - 5pm</p>
--	--

**Safe - Clean - Well-Lit - Secure**  
BEST SELF-STORAGE IN THE AV

Individual Unit  
Alarms/Security  
Extended Access  
Drive-up Convenience

**NovaStorage.com**

**CIRCUS VARGAS**  
THE ONE IS BACK!

*All Aboard!*

Save 15%  
on your tickets!  
Use code:  
15AD22

**PALMDALE**  
Antelope Valley Mall  
AUG 19 - SEPT 5

**BUY NOW!**

[CircusVargas.com](http://CircusVargas.com)

**Alan Jackson Pools Inc.**

**Managing Partner**  
**California's Custom Pool & Spa Builder**

**661-273-7231** **HAYWARD**

[www.alanjacksonpools.com](http://www.alanjacksonpools.com)



**3% Broker Referral\***

**NEW  
HOMES IN  
QUARTZ  
HILL**

**The Enclave at Quartz Hill**  
2,537 to 2,929 sq. ft.  
Up to 5 Beds & 3 Baths  
From the Mid \$600s

**ASK ABOUT OUR QUICK MOVE-IN SPECIALS!**

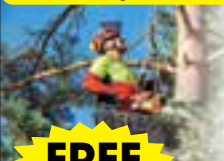
**8 7 7 - 3 3 1 - 8 3 7 1**

**DRHORTON.COM/SOCAL**

# WE GO OUT ON A LIMB FOR YOU!

Exceptional Tree Care at a Fair Price

Summer Time is here



**Chads Chippers**  
The Service

CA State License #962407

**FREE**  
Estimates

**661-468-0528**

Proud to serve the AV!



- Lowest Rates Guarantee! • **FREE ESTIMATES!**
- Special rates for tree trimming, stump grinding and tree removal!

Tree Removal • Tree Trimming & Stump Removal • Locally Owned & Operated

## VICTORY Baptist Church

10173 South Loop  
California City

Ron Smith, Pastor

- Sunday School 10:00 am • Morning 11:00 am
- Sunday Evening 6:00 pm • Wednesday 7:00 pm

For transportation from Edwards AFB call

**(760) 373-7314**

Independent - Fundamental  
[www.victory-baptist.org](http://www.victory-baptist.org)

Finding cures.  
Saving children.®  
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital®  
800-822-6344 • [stjude.org](http://stjude.org)



St. Jude patient Isabelle with her mom, Abigail, SFC, U.S. Army National Guard  
A CFC Participant. Provided as a public service.



**JOIN TODAY!**

[www.ducks.org](http://www.ducks.org) 800-45-DUCKS

## ROOM FOR RENT

Great for someone who works on base

Private, furnished room for rent  
with shared bathroom in Rosamond.

**\$650.00 monthly** on a month-to-month  
contract. Includes utilities, wi-fi, kitchen  
and laundry privileges. Street parking.  
**Call 661-860-2054** for a showing.

## ASSISTED LIVING AND MEMORY CARE OPENING SOON!

CALL ABOUT OUR INTRODUCTORY RATES STARTING AT \$3,100



**REGENCY PALMS**  
SENIOR LIVING  
PALMDALE, CA

License #197610273

38722 Orchid View Place • Palmdale, CA 93550  
[RegencyPalmsPalmdale.com](http://RegencyPalmsPalmdale.com) • 661.860.6331

TREVINO

LAW FIRM

**Injury Attorney • 661.526.5012**

**FREE CONSULTATIONS**

Car • Truck • Motorcycle Crashes

Proudly serving our Military & Aerospace Community.



**AEROSPACE VALLEY**  
OPEN HOUSE, AIR SHOW & STEM EXPO  
Featuring the  
**U.S. AIR FORCE THUNDERBIRDS**

**OCTOBER 15-16, 2022**  
EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, CA

**BREAKING TOMORROW'S  
BARRIERS TODAY**

[AVAIRSHOW.COM](http://AVAIRSHOW.COM)

## ASK ABOUT OUR MILITARY DISCOUNTS

**STORAGE SOLUTION**

**WE HAVE YOUR STORAGE SOLUTION!**

Electronic Gate Access	Online Bill Pay & Auto Pay
Individual Door Alarms	Safe, Secure & Convenient
Surveillance Cameras	Uhaul Rentals & Moving Supplies

**CALL US TODAY!**

42738 4th Street East • Lancaster, CA  
**661-952-7864 • [www.storagesolution.com](http://www.storagesolution.com)**



## Lancaster Baptist Church

Experience community. Discover truth.



Pastor Paul Chappell

Lancaster Baptist is a church with  
a friendly, family atmosphere,  
compassionate vision, and strong  
commitment to Bible truth. We offer  
classes specifically designed for military  
families and single. **Join us this**

**Sunday at 0830 or 1100.**

[lancasterbaptist.org](http://lancasterbaptist.org)

Only 15 minutes from Edwards South Gate

661.946.4663 4020 E. Lancaster Blvd. Lancaster, CA 93535

## Metro-floors

"The Floor Improvement Store"

Contractor's License # 482566



**Carpet • Hardwood • Laminate  
Tile • Waterproof Floors • Countertops**

**FREE ESTIMATES**  
Installation always available

44109 N. Yucca, Lancaster  
**942-1185**  
[www.metrofloorsinc.com](http://www.metrofloorsinc.com)

**jiffylube**

**\$20 OFF**

**PENNZOIL** **Shell ROTELLA**

**ANY SIGNATURE OIL CHANGE**  
No other offer or discount applies

**JIFFY LUBE ROSAMOND**  
3100 N. Sierra Hwy. • 661-256-6008

**JIFFY LUBE TEHACHAPI**  
550 Tucker Rd. • 661-822-5300

**ACTIVE MILITARY  
DISCOUNT**

**\$3.00 off at door**



**EXPERIENCE  
MOVING • BREATHING • WALKING  
DINOSAURS!  
AT JURASSIC EMPIRE**

**The Ultimate Family Dinosaur Event - Jurassic Empire!!**

**August 20 • 11 am-9 pm | August 21 • 10 am-7 pm**

**Buy tickets day of event at the venue or online at [www.JurassicEmpire.com](http://www.JurassicEmpire.com)**

**AV Fair & Event Center 2551 W. Avenue H • Lancaster, CA**



***Whatever you can do, or dream you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, power, and magic in it.***



**JUST LISTED**  
**GEM IN THE DESERT - \$250,000**  
Live in one and Rent one out  
4 bedroom 2 bath well kept duplex  
Near Edwards Air Force Base and  
Mojave Space Port.  
13115 Davenport Street,  
North Edwards, CA  
MLS #22002472



**JUST SOLD**  
**\$520,000**  
**\*\*\*Beautiful Single Story Home\*\*\***  
This property is located in the highly  
sought after Rancho Vista area. 3  
bedrooms, Bonus Room, 2 Full Baths  
4128 De Anza Drive  
Palmdale, CA  
MLS #21007538

**Free Property Inspection Report when purchased with us**



**Jackie Contreras**  
661.317.1577  
eXp Realty of California Inc.  
Realtor DRE: 01764910  
[JackiesHomes4U.com](http://JackiesHomes4U.com)  
190 Sierra Hwy Suite B209 Palmdale, CA



**Celeste Montoya**  
818.266.9626  
eXp Realty of California Inc.  
Realtor DRE: 01296567  
[Celestemontoya.exprealty.com](http://Celestemontoya.exprealty.com)  
190 Sierra Hwy Suite B209 Palmdale, CA

A COMMUNITIES FOR CHRIST EVENT

# 2022 GRACEFEST



Presented By  
CITY OF PALMDALE & CITY OF LANCASTER



PALMDALE AMPHITHEATER

PHIL WICKHAM



DANNY GOKEY



BLESSING OFFOR



CHARITY GAYLE



CENTRAL LIVE



SEPTEMBER 10

DOORS 3PM | SHOW 4PM

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

[WWW.GRACEFESTAV.COM](http://WWW.GRACEFESTAV.COM)

