

A FLYING B-47 AGAIN



A FLYING B-47 (THE B-47 MUST NOT BE FORGOTTEN)

Lt. Col. Charlie Brown, USAF(ret) was the founder of the B-47 Stratojet Association collected over 360 names and set up a committee to organize various activities, such collection of historical information and to plan reunions.

Charlie passed away in the fall of 1996, but his dream carries on with the B-47.

The purpose of flying a B-47 is to memorialize the veteran B-47 as the vanguard American's strategic nuclear deterrent during the cold war. THE B-47 MUST NOT FORGOTTEN.

Bob Robbins and Scott Osler, at the controls, flew the first XB-47 (46-065) on Decen 17, 1947. There were a total of 2041 Stratojets built, making the B-47 program the lar American bomber project since the end of World War Two.

There were thousands of American Air Force Personnel who worked on and manned B-47 Stratojets during the years from 1947 through the late 1970s. The B-47s were with following Wings (~50 airplanes each and 2000 men each):

2nd BW	B-47E	Hunter AFB, GA
9th BW	B-47E	Mountain Home AFB, ID
19th BW	B-47B	Pinecastle AFB, FL

22nd BW	B-47E	March AFB, CA
26th SRW	RB-47B	Lockbourne AFB, OH
40th BW	B-47E	Smoky Hill AFB, KS
43rd BW	B-47E	Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ
44th BW	B-47E	Lake Charles AFB, LA
55th SRW	RB-47H	Forbes AFB, KS
66th BW	B-47E	Lake Charles AFB, LA
68th BW	B-47E	Lake Charles AFB, LA
70th SRW	RB-47E	Little Rock AFB, AK
90th SRW	RB-47E	Forbes AFB, KS
91st SRW	RB-47B	Lockbourne AFB, OH
93rd BW	B-47E	Castle AFB, CA
96th BW	B-47E	Altus AFB, OK
97th BW	B-47E	Biggs AFB, TX
98th BW	B-47E	Lincoln AFB, NE
100 BW	B-47E	Pease AFB, NH
301st BW	B-47E	Barksdale AFB, LA
303rd BW	B-47E	Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ
305th BW	B-47E	MacDill AFB, FL
306th BW	B-47B	McCoy AFB, FL/McDill AFB, FL
307th BW	B-47E	Lincoln AFB, NE
308th BW	B-47E	Hunter AFB, GA
310th BW	B-47E	Smoky Hill 90th SRW
320th BW	B-47B	March AFB, CA
321st BW	B-47B	Pinecastle AFB, FL
340th BW	B-47B	Whiteman AFB, MO
341st BW	B-47E	Dyess AFB, TX
376th BW	B-47E	Barksdale AFB, LA
380th BW	B-47E	Plattsburgh AFB, N
384th BW	B-47E	Little Rock AFB, AK
509th BW	B-47E	Walker AFB, NM
3200 TG	B-47E	Elgin AFB, FL
3520th FTW	B-47B	Wichita AFB, KS
3540th FTW	TB-47B	Pinecastle AFB, FL
4347th CCTW	TB-47E	Wichita AFB, KS
4925th TG	B-47B	Kirkland AFB, NM
ARDC	TB-47B	Wright-Patterson AFB, OH

There were 37 Wings of B-47s operating in the USAF during these years which would

amount to more than 100,000 Air Force personnel involved in these operations. A flying B-47 could be taken to Air Shows for display which would be a great way of showing the public of the United States and the world how many people were part of the cold war in the USAF. These people are now in their late 50s to late 70s. It would be a great way of memorializing the airplane and the people whom kept them flying.

There are two aircraft, which I feel, could be brought back to flying status with the least amount of effort. (1) B-47E Tail No. 53-2104 located at Pueblo, CO at the Pueblo Historical Aircraft Society. This airplane is probably the last airplane to be in flying status and was flying up the late 1970s. The airplane started out in the 310th BW Smoky Hill AFB, KS in July 1954 and was taken to Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ in 1965. The airplane was then loaned to or turned over the US Navy and operated by General Electric for engine test at Edwards AFB, CA and China Lake, CA until the late 1960s or early 1970s. This airplane has been kept in rather dry environment (CA, AZ, & CO) since it was taken the Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ in 1965. This B-47E is closer to Wichita than the other one. (2) B-47E 52-0166 - This B-47E was the last one to fly on June 16, 1986 from China Lake Naval Weapons Center to Castle AFB, CA.

Boeing Wichita is currently refurbishing a B-29 back to flying status which was taken out of the bombing range at China Lake a few years ago. These two B-47s are in much better shape than the B-29 they are currently working on.

Parts needed, if any, may be available from 24 other B-47's in museums in the US. These are:

XB-47	46-066	Octave Chanute Aerospace Museum, Rantoul, IL
B-47A	49-1901	Pima Air and Space Museum, Tucson, AZ
B-47B	50-0062	Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum, Savannah, GA
B-47B	51-2075	Air Force Flight Test Museum, Edwards AFB, CA
B-47B	51-2120	Whiteman AFB, MO
B-47B	51-2315	Grissom Air Museum, Peru, IN
WB-47E	51-2306	New England Air Museum, Windsor Locks, CT
B-47E	51-2387	Oklahoma City Fair Grounds, Oklahoma City, OK
WB-47E	51-7066	Seattle Museum of Flight, Seattle, WA
B-47E	51-7071	Hightower Park, Altus, OK
B-47E	52-0166	Castle Air Museum, CA
EB-47E	52-0410	South Dakota Air and Space Museum, Ellsworth AFB, SD
EB-47E	52-0412	Dyess Linear Air Park, Dyess, TX
B-47E	52-0595	Little Rock AFB, AR
B-47E	52-1412	SAC Museum, Omaha, NE
EB-47E	53-2104	Pueblo Historical Aircraft Society, Pueblo, CO

EB-47E	53-2135	Pima Air & Space Museum, Tuson, AZ
B-47E	53-2275	March Air Reserve Base, CA
B-47E	53-2276	Barksdale AFB, LA
B-47E	53-2280	USAF Museum, Dayton, OH
RB-47H	53-4299	USAF Museum, Dayton, OH
B-47E	53-2385	Plattsburgh, NY
B-47E	53-4213	McConnell AFB, KS
RB-47E	53-4257	Tinker AFB, OK
RB-47H	53-4269	USAF Armament Museum, FL

I'm sure there are other areas where B-47 aircraft parts may be available when one starts researching for these parts.

I currently have a B-47 Flight Manual T.O. 1B-47E-1 (B-47B/E, TB-47B and E-47E) and a Handbook Erection and Maintenance Instructions USAF Model B-47B AN 01-20ENB-2 in my possession. I have talked to the people at Castle AFB, Museum and they have a complete set of about 10 T.O.s for the B-47.

I have talked to several people, pilots and mechanics, who are interested in flying and maintaining such an airplane. These are people who flew and crewed B-47s and are still active in flying and crewing aircraft of this type.

THE BOEING B-47 STRATOJET ASSOCIATION

Former Pilots and Navigators, together with Ground Crew Chiefs and Maintenance Personnel, plus many Civilians who helped build the B-47s, as well as people who just loved this revolutionary aircraft, have now joined together to perpetuate the fond memory of the Boeing B-47 Stratojet and the many Air Force Cold War Casualties.

The 2,040 B-47s built by Boeing, Lockheed and Douglas presented a formidable threat to the Soviet Union in the days prior to the ICBM and served as the Vanguard of the American Nuclear Deterrent Force.

The Association invites Active Duty members of the U.S. Air Force, as well as Veterans and Civilians, regardless of age or gender, to join us in our endeavors.

B-47 STRATOJET ASSOCIATION
4767 SOUTH VIEW RIDGE DRIVE GREEN VALLEY, AZ 85614-5816

Dear B-47 Lovers:

The time has come to firm-up plans for our meeting to organize the:

B-47 STRATOJET ASSOCIATION!

Purpose: To memorialize the veteran B-47 as the vanguard of America's strategic nuclear deterrent during the Cold War. The B-47 Stratojet **MUST NOT** be forgotten. We will see to that!

We now have over 360 names on the roster. Our Publicity Chairman, Maj Bob Dennison, has been corresponding with and planning to write articles for several flying publications. He has received promises of help from Air Fan International, AIR & SPACE Magazine (with a Web Site), AF Magazine, Cowles History Group, Air Force Museum and other prestigious groups. Bob's greatest need is pictures of the B-47 parked in the Alert Area with other B-47's, parked on the ramp, taxiing, taking-off normally, ATO take off, in flight, air refueling with KC-97 or KC-135, in the pattern with drag chute deployed, landing with brake chute and/or any other views. Send to: Maj Bob Dennison, 11200 Kolina Ln., Sun City, AZ 85351-4300. He will return them, if desired.

George Larson, Editor, AIR & SPACE Magazine has a home page on the INTERNET web: "<http://.airspacemag.com>" and needs personal snapshots with ID's to foster a sense of family and to promote the formation of our association. Send what you have to: Editor, Air & Space, 901 D. Street, SW 10th Floor, Wash DC 20024-2518. Want them returned? Say so!

We will meet in Tucson, AZ May 15, 16 and 17, 1997. Other activities will be planned. You will receive the full schedule and costs later.

Regards, Lt Col (RET) Charles L. Brown, Founder

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