

Today's Presentation

Program: Bus Tour at Wright Patterson Air Force Base - Air Force Museum

Arranged by: Jim Bettner

Attendance: About 50

Guests: Many

Scribe: Dick Carter

Tour Photos: Jack Patterson

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Monday's touring bus traveled to the National Museum of the US Air Force located at Wright Patterson AFB near Dayton, Ohio. It provided a grand review of the history of flight techniques, vivid examples, and exciting memories for us visitors. This immense collection would actually take many days of visiting in order to be able to see and absorb all the displays and information details that are available here. Free admission, parking, and Wi-Fi are available for visitors. If you missed this tour, you may wish to take some time for your own personal visit to this museum in the near future! It contains an outstanding series of exhibits and information. A virtual web based tour prior to visiting this museum can facilitate planning your time there. Museum contents can be glimpsed by clicking on a gallery name to see exhibits, including aircraft, engines, equipment, and weapons of the USAF

Their web site is: <http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/Visit/MuseumExhibits.aspx>

The museum galleries present military aviation history. Boasting more than 360 aerospace vehicles and missiles on display (many are rare and one-of-a-kind) along with thousands of historical items and powerful sensory exhibits that bring history to life and even connect the historic Wright brothers' legacy with today's stealth and precision technology. . Once there, self-guided audio tours are available, too. Their exhibits are categorized as follows: [Early Years Gallery](#), [World War II Gallery](#), [Korean War Gallery](#), [Southeast Asia War Gallery](#), [Cold War Gallery](#), [Missile Gallery](#), [Space Gallery](#), [Research & Development Gallery](#), [Global Reach Gallery](#), [Presidential Planes Gallery](#), [Air Park](#), [Memorial Park](#), and [Other Exhibits](#).

This National Museum of the United States Air Force is the oldest and largest military aviation museum in the world. It began in 1923 at McCook Field near downtown Dayton, Ohio as a collection of the U. S. and foreign WWI aircraft and related equipment items. In 1927 the artifacts were moved

to Wright Field, and exhibited in a corner of a laboratory building. In 1932, the collection was renamed the Army Aeronautical Museum. It was closed to the public in 1940 and converted to wartime office use a short time later. In 1954 the Museum received permission to acquire and display full-size aircraft. In 1956 it officially became the United States Air Force Museum. The Air Force Museum Foundation, Inc. was organized in 1960 by a group of private citizens as a nonprofit corporation. Several millions of dollars of bequests/donations have been raised to match appropriated funds, allowing expansion construction to be built and updated through the ensuing years. The museum is a lasting tribute and memorial to all women and men who have served our nation in the Air Force and its predecessor organizations. The museum is a popular destination for many military reunion groups each year. For information about planning a military reunion at the museum or dedicating a plaque, bench, or statue in Memorial Park, contact the Museum.



The elevator that emplaned FDR in his wheelchair onto the first presidential airplane nicknamed the Sacred Cow, 1943-'47



B-52 Late 50's early 60's technology, still flying today.



Converted C-54 ((DC-6) Truman's transport was now pressurized, & allowed nonstop travel anywhere in the U.S. His first use in Aug. 1948 took him to a international conference in Rio de Janiero, and later to meet in Guam with MacArthur. He named it the Independence after his hometown in Mo.



Ike named his VC-121 (Super Constellation) Columbine after his favorite flower. Higher speed, more range, this was the pinnacle of piston powered flight until displaced by the advent of jet transports.



Recovered capsule from the 3rd to the last moon mission.



Bockscar is the a/c that carried the 2nd atomic bomb (fat boy) to Nagasaki



Foreground is X-15 supersonic rocket-powered testbed. In the background the XB-70, supersonic high alt. bomber, the only one of its kind remaining.



The infamous Mach 3 spy plane made with 1965 technology & never surpassed in performance. L.A. To Wash. D.C. in 1 hr., 6 min.

Images courtesy of Jack Patterson

