National Air & Space Museum Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center And Its "Big Five"

Col Scott Willey, USAF (Ret) Lifetime Learning Institute NoVA 3 November 2021

What Does UHC Have for Visitors?

- 200+ aircraft (all real)
- 150+ major space objects
- Display cases
- IMAX Theater
- Gift shop
- Engen Tower
- Flight simulators
- Innovations in Flight and other family days

Aircraft Hangar



South from the Scenic Overlook



North from the Scenic Overlook



Early Flight



West Mezzanine



West Ramp



East Ramp



Space Hangar



Space Hangar North Side



Space Hangar South Side



Scenic Overlook—Restoration



Restoration



Restoration



Donald Engen Tower



View from the Tower



View from the Tower



Free Public Tours







Display Cases





IMAX Theater



Innovations in Flight Day















Ample Parking



The Big Five

The Big Five

- What are they?
 - Boeing B-29 Superfortress Enola Gay
 - Anglo-French Concorde
 - Boeing 367-80 Dash 80
 - Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird
 - Boeing Space Shuttle Orbiter *Discovery*
- Why included?
 - Popular or well known
 - Famous event
 - Really look cool
 - Happen to be big, imposing artifacts

Boeing B-29 Superfortress Enola Gay



Three Prioritized Targets

- Hiroshima
- Kokura
- Nagasaki
- First one with good weather was the target



Aircraft on Hiroshima Mission

Serial No.	Name	A/C, Crew	Task
44-86292	Enola Gay, 82	Tibbets, B-9 (mod)	Strike
44-27353	The Great Artiste, 89	Sweeney, C-15	Instruments
44-86291	Necessary Evil, 91	Marquardt, B-10	Photo
44-27301	Straight Flush, 85	Eatherly, C-11	Hiroshima Weather
44-27298	Full House, 83	Taylor, A-1	Nagasaki Weather
44-27303	Jabit III, 71	Wilson, B-6	Kokura Weather
44-27354	Big Stink, 90	McKnight, B-8	Strike Spare

Enola Gay Crew 6 Aug 1945



Little Boy L-11 Loading 5 Aug 1945



Mission Briefing Parsons/Tibbets



Pre Departure 6 Aug 45



Bomb Assembly Completion





Arming Plugs



Hiroshima Before Attack



Attack Profile




Hiroshima Cloud

- About 30,000 ft over city 2 min after blast
- Picture by tail gunner Caron
- Used group photo officer's K-20 still camera



Hiroshima—Before and After



Under the Bomb



Industrial Promotion Hall (Atomic Bomb Dome)



Results—Hiroshima

• Little Boy

- 15 ± 20% kt TNT-equivalent yield
- Dropped at 31,600 ft, 328 mph
- 1903 ± 50 ft burst altitude

• City

- 6.33 sq mi—4.70 destroyed (75%)
- 245,000 people (343,000 before evacuations)
 - 60-70,000 killed (110,000 by end of year)
 - 50,000 injured
- 90,000 buildings—65,000 unusable

Anglo-French Concorde



History

- First studies early 1950s
- Study contract 1959
- Draft UK/FR treaty Nov 1962
 - 50/50 work split
 - Sud (FR) and BAC (UK)
- Ads predicting 350 acft 1967
- First flight: FR 2 Mar 69, UK 9 Apr 69
- Scheduled service start 21 Jan 76
- M2.04 (1350 mph) at 55-60,000 ft
- Final service
 - FR 30 May 2003, UK 24 Oct 2003
 - F-BVFA to NASM 12 Jun 2003





Fleet Size

• Only 20 built

- 2 proto, 2 pre-production
- 16 production (2 retained for test)
- 7 each to BA and AF
- Pic: BA fleet 1986
- 18 on display now

 Note: Boeing flew 747 same year (1969) and built over 1550



Interior

- 100 seats
- Lots of overhead in aisle
- Much like other acft
- A bit noisy
- Windows warmed up







Nose

- High AOA at low speeds
- Nose droops for fwd visibility
- Inner (yellow arrow) and outer windscreens
- Inner exposed when nose drops







Accident

- 25 Jul 2000
- AF 4590 Paris to NYC
- Conflicting views on cause
 - Hit part dropped from DC-10
 - Tire burst, fuel tank ruptured
 - Engines surged
 - Unable to maintain flight
- Hit hotel
- 109 in acft, 4 in hotel killed
- Fleet grounded over a year





"Competition"

- USSR Tupolev Tu-144 "Concordski"
 - Flew before Concorde (31 Dec 1968)
 - Cargo service: Dec 1975 Jul 1983
 - Pax service: Nov 1977 Jun 1978
 - 16 built, 103 scheduled flights, 2 crashes



• US – Boeing 2707

- Far bigger, faster, longer range
- Mockup built
- Never produced for many reasons



Why Concorde Stopped Flying

- Aging airframes and design
 - Maintenance costs rising
 - Airbus declined to provide spare parts
- Very limited market
- Limited routes because of sonic boom
- Reduction in passenger service after 9-11
- Crash in Paris 2000
- Economics
 - Far better subsonic aircraft competition
 - Fuel cost rising

Boeing 367-80 Dash 80



Dash 80

Idea conceived 1950

- Boeing development of podded-engine, swept-wing B-47
- Introduction of de Havilland Comet
- Model 367-80
 - Approved by board 1952
 - First flight 15 Jul 1954
 - Used for demos to civil and military reps
 - Led to development of KC-135 and 707
 - To NASM with 2350 hrs and 1691 flights



The Big Demonstration

• Seafair

- Annual Seattle event
- Neighborhood and city events
- Parades, block parties, etc.
- Seafair Cup hydroplane racing
- Boeing invited AIA and IATA reps to 1955 Seafair Cup
 - 6 Aug 1955
 - Dash 80 to do flyover
 - "Tex" Johnston gave viewers a bit more



Blue Angels over Lake Washington Seafair 2007



The Famous Roll



Results

- 800+ C/KC-135/derivatives built
- 1000+ 707/720 airliners delivered
- "Most socially significant aircraft in NASM collection"—Willey
 - Fundamental transportation change
 - Ocean liners/piston airliners/longdistance trains gone



• World shrank



Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird



Blackbird Fleet

• A-12 (15)

- Reconnaissance
- Single-seat
- CIA 1967-68

• YF-12A (3)

- Interceptor
- USAF—not produced

• SR-71 (32)

- Reconnaissance
- Two-seat
- USAF—1968-1990







SR-71 Records

July 1976 Bicentennial

- Absolute speed 2193 mph
- Absolute sustained altitude 85,069 ft
- Absolute 1000 km closed coarse 2092 mph

• UHC SR-71 972 records

- New York to London 1 hr 57 min
- London to Los Angeles 3 hr 47 min
- Los Angeles to Dulles 1 hr 4 min
 - St Louis to Cincinnati 8.5 min
 - Kansas City to Dulles 26 min
- Coast to coast 1 hr 8 min (unofficial)
- First operational mission in Europe (RAF Mildenhall)

Aircrew Mission Responsibilities

Pilot – Aircraft Commander

- Aircraft and mission
- Flies A/C
- Engine Inlet control
- Air refueling/fuel mgt
- Reconnaissance Systems
 Officer Navigator
 - Navigation
 - Sensor controls
 - Tanker rendezvous
 - Defensive systems operation
 - Checklist execution
 - Most radio calls
- Joe Kinego



SR-71 Sensors

- Multiple sensor combinations
- Noses: training, synthetic aperture radar, optical bar camera
- Side bays: technical objective cameras, electromagnetic (ELINT) reconnaissance system, mission recorders, radar recorders, et al.
- Center bay: terrain camera



Optical Bar Camera

- Wider area coverage
- 100,000 (eventually 150,000) sq mi coverage in an hour



Optical BAR Camera (OBC)





Camera Mounted on Nose Hatch Door



ASARS-1

- All weather, day-night
- Stationary and moving ground targets
- 100,000+ sq mi coverage in one hour







Technical Objective Camera (TEOC)

- Seattle Kingdome from 80,000+ ft
- Black & white film
 - Most used
 - Best picture resolution (4-6 in)
- Processing time 1-3 hr depending on film type





Operating Locations

- Beale AFB CA (home base)
 - Cuba, Nicaragua, Panama, USSR
- Kadena AB Japan
 - North Korea, North Viet Nam, China, Eastern USSR, Middle East
- RAF Mildenhall UK
 - USSR, East Germany, Baltic, Libya, Middle East
- Eielson AFB AK
 - USSR
- Seymour Johnson AFB NC
 - Arab/Israeli 1973 war
- Diego Garcia, Indian Ocean
 - Middle East, Far East

Major Cold War Theaters of Operation



War in Vietnam Enemy SAM & Troop Movements



Petropavlovsk – Vladivostok Soviet Naval Movements



Cuba / Nicaragua Missile and Aircraft Deployment and "Politics"



Warsaw Pact Missions – Baltic Troop Rotations and Placement



Murmansk USSR Ballistic Missile Fleet



Libya April 1986 Post-Strike Reconnaissance



Refueling

- Integral part of almost all missions
- KC-135Q or KC-10A
- Most takeoffs
- Longer range missions



Farewell to Fleet 1990

- Cold War over (threat diminished)
- Too costly (\$85,000/flight hour)
- Never had real-time datalink


Boeing Space Shuttle Orbiter *Discovery*



US Human Spaceflight Before Shuttle

- Mercury
- Gemini
- Apollo
- Apollo Applications



Why the Shuttle?

- Longtime dream of reusable spacecraft
- Von Braun Paradigm

 Shuttle-station-Moon-Mars
 From early 1950s
- Serious studies from 1950s
- Many political considerations
- Formal NASA program 1969
 - Economics—fully reusable
 - Ready access to space
 - Fascination with spaceplane

Space Shuttle System



System Statistics

- Total Stack
 184 ft high
 - -4.5M lbs
- Orbiter
- 122 ft L, 78 ft S, 57 ft H
 Payload Bay 60 x 15 ft
 Engines
 SSME ~400k lbst each
 SRB 3.3M lbst each
 Max Speed 17,800 mph

6 orbiters - 5 space rated - 2 lost w/14 crew 1 aero test orbiter 135 missions 21,152 orbits, 537M mi 1,333 days (3.65 yr) Crew – 306 men, 49 women – Age 28-77







The Orbiters







Challenger (1986)



Columbia (2003)

Examples of Space Shuttle Missions



A sample of why the Shuttle was such a tremendous asset

Spacelab

- Designed/built by ESA—on 32 missions
- Interim space station—modular laboratory
- NASM lab 9 trips 1983-97 (other one 7 trips)
- Components
 - Lab module
 - Igloo
 - Pallets
- Joined by tunnel



Spacelab

- Joggle tunnel
- Instrument Pointing System
- Igloo







Spartan 201

- US payload
- Taken up 5 times (Apr 93 – Nov 98)
- Solar observations
 - Put in parallel orbit
 - Retrieved
 - Occulted photosphere to observe corona
 - Helped understand
 Solar Wind





Hubble Space Telescope

- A NASA Great Observatory
- Launched by *Discovery* Apr 90
- Five servicing missions
 - Two by *Discovery*
 - 1993/97/99, 2002/09
 - Repairs, new instruments, etc.
- Vast discoveries
- Development test unit displayed at NMB











Manned Maneuvering Unit

- Backpack propulsion device
- First non-tethered EVA 7 Feb 84
- Flown by 4 astronauts on 3 missions





TDRS

- Tracking and Data Relay Satellite
- 12 orbited (first Apr 83); 3 from *Discovery*
- Real-time, continuous comm coverage
- Served Shuttle, ISS, Hubble, et al.





Shuttle Radar Topography Mission

- Endeavour, 11 days, Feb 00
- Mapped 80% of Earth in 3-D
 56°S to 60°N
 - 30m resolution over US
- Two radar antennas
- Displayed at UHC







S99E5476 2000:02:16 06:09:3

Classified DoD Payloads

- Examples
 - Magnum SIGINT
 - DSCS communications
 - Lacrosse radar imaging
 - SDS communications
 - Misty reconnaissance
- All military crews
- Special control procedures
- *Discovery* last orbiter that performed these missions



International Space Station (ISS)

- Inhabited microgravity and space environment research lab
- US, Russia, Japan, Canada, Europe
- First component 1998
- Manned since 2000
- About 220 mi above Earth
- 37 Shuttle flights to ISS

• *Discovery* delivering module



Why Did Shuttle Program End?

- Political/public perceptions
 - Orbiters getting old
 - Safety
 - Interest
- Confined to low-Earth orbit
 - Hadn't been away from near-Earth for 40 years
 - Need to get on with interplanetary work
- Resource allocation

Questions?