



1949 BERLIN AIRLIFT 2019 **THE RETURN OF THE CANDY BOMBERS**

Germany, The Netherlands, May 2017,

Concerns: Invitation Berlin Airlift 70

Dear DC-3/C-47/Li-2 owners & operators,

Introduction

A few months ago Peter Braun had a thought: "In June 2019 I may have thirty plus DC-3/C-47's in the UK and in France for an event which only lasts 8 days. Half of them may come from the US. Why not plan another event around 70 years Berlin Airlift?" Two friends were called and that resulted in a weekend-long hotel stay where plans were exchanged, calculations were made and the outline of the plan was made.

The Berlin Airlift – The story of how former enemies turned into friends

"Blockade ends. Airlift wins. Berlin is free!"

The Airlift has officially been declared ended. On the exact same day the Constitution of the Republic of Germany is approved by the Military Authorities.

In August 1949 the last Douglas C-54 Skymaster took off from Fassberg Airbase with a load of coal for Berlin. For over a year 2.2 million people living in the City of Berlin, which was closed off from the Soviets, were totally replenished through the air: from sugar to flour, to coal, medicines, tires and even steel parts for a new power plant. Everything needed for everyday life came in by air. The naked existence of this city totally depended on the „winged friends“. For the people of Berlin the constant drone of the radial engines was a sign of relief and security. During the peak of this immense relief action every minute, 24 hours, 7 days a week a load of relief materials landed in Berlin. The Berlin Airlift meant 1.000 landings a day with a total of over a quarter million and with that is up to today still the largest relief action in the World. However the numbers only make it hard to imagine the sheer need of the people and how big the humanitarian engagement and aid actually was. The „True Heroes“ of this humanitarian aid operation, which up to today is unequalled in terms of duration, size and importance were the pilots and the crews of the „Candy Bombers“.

We will fly the Berlin Airlift again!

We will again bring – symbolic- aid packages to Berlin. Schools and school children will be involved to educate and to tell about what happened. We will show and fly the aircraft over large parts of Germany! The "Candy Bombers" will come into their own again! Only this way can the Airlift be commemorated and will the size of the Airlift be made visible – to millions of people! Without a doubt, this once in a lifetime event will be the last time the Berlin Airlift will be commemorated in this size with so many of the original aircraft present. We want you to be present.



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Team and Planning

For the Berlin Airlift 70 event the organizers are putting together a project team which consists of a substantial group of volunteers. The Berlin Airlift 70 management team has 4 members:

Peter Braun	Initiator & Event Director International
Andrew Dixon	Chief Pilot & Aerial Coordinator
Thomas Keller	Event Director Germany
Jörg Siebert	Event Director Germany

Planning has been agreed upon with the following local parties: Luftfahrt Bundesamt (German Civil Aviation Authorities), Ministry of Defense / Bundeswehr (German Armed Forces), Fassberg Airbase, Berlin Schöneghagen Airport, United States Armed Forces Europe, local and regional governments.

This historically- and politically very significant event will take place from 10 to 19 June 2019, in three different locations.

From 10 to 12 June at Wiesbaden Erbenheim Army Airbase.

From 12 to 15 June at Fassberg Bundeswehr Airbase

From 15 to 19 June at Berlin Schöneghagen Airport.

In all three locations a show will be organized during which the Berlin Airlift 70 aircraft will take center stage. Scenic flights will be made and formation flights will be made over large parts of Germany. And between Fassberg and Berlin we will re-create the Airlift with an aircraft taking off every minute.

Note: all dates and actions mentioned are approximate and subject to possible change.

Wiesbaden Erbenheim Airbase

June 10th 2019

- * Morning arrival
- * Event opening ceremony
- * Airbase open to the public
- * Scenic flights / flying demonstrations
- * Captain's dinner

June 11th 2019

- * Airbase open to the public
- * Scenic flights / flying demonstrations

June 12th 2019

- * Departure preparations
- * Afternoon flight to Fassberg



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Planning (provisional)

Fassberg Airbase

June 12th 2019

- * Afternoon arrival at airport
- * Event opening ceremony
- * Captain's dinner

June 13th 2019

- * Pilots' briefings
- * Formation flying day
- * Possible stop-over for lunch at Airbus Industries Hamburg

June 14th 2019

- * Show airbase / Static show / Flying demos / Scenic flights
- * Evening- / night photo shoot for assembled (aviation) press

June 15th 2019

- * Day of the German Armed Forces
- * Show airbase / Static show / Flying demos / Scenic flights
- * Flight preparations
- * Late afternoon flight to Berlin Schönhagen Airport

Berlin Schönhagen Airport

June 15th 2019

- * Evening arrival at airport
- * Welcome & Official opening Berlin

June 16th 2019

- * Show airbase / Static show / Flying demos / Scenic flights
- * Regional formation flights
- * Evening- / night photo shoot for assembled (aviation) press

June 17th 2019

- * *The Day of German Unity – National Holiday*
- * Show airbase / Static show / Flying demos / Scenic flights
- * Regional formation flights

June 18th 2019

- * Show airbase / Static show / Flying demos / Scenic flights
- * Regional formation flights
- * Captain's Dinner – Official Closure

June 19th / 20th 2019

- * Specially organized "Berlin Days" for all crews.



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Funding

Because of the historical and the political significance, the Berlin Airlift 70 organization has started off with excellent support from civilian authorities. In Germany we have started an extensive corporate sponsoring request program. Obviously at this stage, we cannot foresee the budgets we will collect and afford to put into your costs, but the experience Peter and the rest of the Daks over Normandy team have from 2014 tells us that we will succeed in bringing in the required funding.

From the moment you will leave from Caen in France for Germany and for the duration of the event we will take care of your fuel, all landing-, parking- & handling fees. We will also provide your crew with accommodation and a rental car. And on top we will pay € 500,00 for every flying hour you make during the event. The historic significance of this event and the impact it will have on the aviation world will be enormous and Worldwide. But we are a non-profit organization and depend on you and on our sponsors to make it all happen!

Concluding

As said before this will be the very last chance we have together to bring so many of these beautiful aircraft together to the place where she saw her finest hour. This will be aviation history in the making and we are very sure this event is going to make a lasting impression on the people of Germany in general and Berlin in Particular, on all tourists and visitors, on all participants and last but not least on all those who were actively involved in the Airlift itself. It will certainly place a truly unforgettable mark on all participating parties and individuals. Together with you we want to make it a huge success and sincerely hope you share our opinion by helping us and to attend! We're looking forward to your answer and respectfully would like to receive such answer not later than 1 August 2017. That would give you a period of almost two years for your preparations.

With best regards,

Berlin Airlift 70

Peter Braun, Thomas Keller, Jörg Siebert, Andrew Dixon

NOTE!

For now please use the following e-mail address for all correspondence:

Peter Braun at: pgbraun@berlinairlift70.com

And for flying matters Andrew Dixon at: andrew@daksovernormandy.com