



February 12, 2015

The Strategic Air & Space Museum, along with a committee of volunteers, has developed a plan to restore one of the EC-135 Looking Glass aircraft (AF38049) and to create permanent exhibits in the Museum that tell the aircraft's history and the crew's role in fighting and winning the Cold War.

There was no other mission more important to the success of the United States winning the Cold War. The adversary knew as long as he saw the Looking Glass aircraft orbiting somewhere over the central United States that the total arsenal of the Strategic Forces were on alert and ready to respond at the direction of the Commander in Chief. The United States was successful in preventing nuclear war, a mission clearly articulated in SAC's motto "PEACE IS OUR PROFESSION."

Looking Glass was airborne, on alert, 24 hours a day, every day, for over 30 years. It was a significant, historical event when the Looking Glass mission was changed from airborne alert to ground alert. I was on the July 24, 1990, Looking Glass mission which ended the continuous airborne alert status. Aircraft 049 was used on that last sortie.

I am honored and excited to be the Honorary Chairman of the EC-135 Looking Glass Restoration Committee and ask that you assist and support the Co-chairs in completing this project.

The plan is to restore the aircraft, inside-and-out, to the configuration on that last mission. The project plan has been completed and progress is being made to move into restoration by early spring 2015 with projected completion in the summer of 2017. With the completed planning and some minimal local publicity, we are getting letters and emails expressing your appreciation and encouragement. A small number of local people, and organizations from across the U.S. have volunteered to help. We will need all the volunteers we can round up, plus donations, to make this happen.

The Museum has established a restricted account specifically for restoration of the EC-135 Looking Glass aircraft. Currently, it has a very small amount of money already on deposit. There will be an aggressive fund raising effort from the DoD industry base as well as from other donors.

It is estimated the Museum will need \$25,000.00 to begin the restoration and the Museum has committed the first \$5,000 to the project. A program plan and manager have been established to move this project forward.

A Looking Glass restoration kickoff event has been set for March 13, 2015 from 4 P.M. to 6 P.M. at the Strategic Air & Space Museum and all are invited to attend. We need an aggressive commitment from you now so that restoration can begin in mid-March 2015. Every dollar will help.

You can donate through a secured site on the Museum's website (select the Donate Now tab at the top of the website and "designate" to the EC-135) or call Deb Hermann at the Museum for assistance: 402.944.3100 ext. 220.

Sincerely,

// Original Signed //

John T. Chain
General, USAF (Ret.)
CINCSAC June 1986 – Jan. 1991