



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UPDATE

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Curtiss P-40 Warhawk Featured in “The Flying Tigers” New Exhibit Opening October 27 in Hangar 79

A Curtiss P-40 Warhawk Flying Tiger, which was one of the most popular and successful American aircraft of WWII, joined the aircraft collection at Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor in July of 2010 and has become the centerpiece of a new “The Flying Tigers” exhibit which officially opens Thursday, October 27, 5:00 to 7:30PM, with a dedication and gala reception, by invitation to press and dignitaries.

The event will also feature a special tribute to Senator Ted Stevens, who was a lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Force and flew the Curtiss C-46 and Douglas C-47 cargo transports “over the Hump” into China, 1944 and 1945.

The P-40 is on loan to the Museum from donor corporation FedEx. At a \$1.5 million value, the aircraft is preserved in flying condition and is powered up periodically at the Museum. The Museum worked with the Flying Tiger Museum in China to create the exhibit, coordinating efforts among the state of Hawaii, the Museum, and the People’s Republic of China.

Built in 1942 for the Royal Canadian Air Force and used primarily for training during WWII, the aircraft changed ownership before being shipped to Hawaii in 1969 to be used in the filming of *Tora! Tora! Tora!*

The aircraft is a memorial to Flying Tiger Line founder Robert Prescott, American Volunteer Group (AVG) ace and the member of Flying Tigers in China. The AVG consisted of pilots recruited from U.S. Forces and contracted with the China National Aviation Corporation to fly for China. The Tigers are credited with 299 confirmed enemy aircraft destroyed during their service from 1941~1942. The FedEx aircraft on loan to the Museum is the P-40E model painted to resemble the Flying Tigers P-40B and is signed by many of the pilots. The pilots signed the left and support crew the right horizontal tail assembly during a reunion in 1981.

According to Executive Director Kenneth DeHoff, “More than 14,000 P-40 aircraft were built during WWII. Although often slower and less maneuverable than its counterparts, the P-40 could withstand amazing amounts of battle damage and could out-dive most of its adversaries. It’s the aircraft in our logo and now, the star of an exceptional new exhibit. We’re thankful to the generosity of donor corporation FedEx and their Chairman/CEO Fred Smith.”

The P-40 carried a crew of one and was powered by an Allison 12 cylinder V-1710 engine. Made by the Curtiss-Wright Corporation, the P-40 had a top speed of 362 mph. The “67” on the side of the plane represents the original number which crashed early in the fighting. A red stripe on the rear fuselage represents the Third Pursuit Squadron, “Hells Angels.” An insignia on the wings represents the Chinese Air Force.

Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization. Rated the “One of the top 10 aviation attractions in the nation” by TripAdvisor®, it is open 9am to 5pm daily and is accessed by shuttles from the USS Arizona Memorial/Pearl Harbor Visitor Center. Tickets and a free combat simulator flight coupon are available online at www.PacificAviationMuseum.org. 808/441-1000.

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