



COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE

**Commemorative Air Force
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World's Only Flying B-29 Superfortress to Visit El Paso

(Addison, Texas – February 13, 2013) The Commemorative Air Force's (CAF) famous Boeing B-29 Superfortress bomber, *FIFI* -- the only remaining flying example of the aircraft in the world -- will be landing at El Paso International Airport this Thursday, February 21, for a four day stay. El Paso is the first of eleven stops for the *CAF AirPower History Tour* featuring a combination of CAF historic warbirds at each of its stops in Arizona, California, Nevada and New Mexico. The B-29 will be accompanied by a C-45 Expeditor, *Bucket of Bolts* at the El Paso stop.

Events are open to the public and will allow attendees to get up close to these famous military aircraft. Gates are open from 2:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Thursday and 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Cockpit tours of the B-29 will be available when the aircraft are not in motion. There are opportunities for attendees to purchase a ride in the airplanes. Ride reservations are recommended. Visit www.AirPowerTour.org for more information about the tour schedule and to make ride reservations. Seats in the C-45 are \$65 and B-29 seats range from \$595 to \$1595. There is a discount if you purchase your seats on line.

The mission of the Commemorative Air Force is to honor the men and women who built, maintained and flew in these airplanes during World War II. The organization believes that mission is best accomplished by maintaining the airplanes in flying condition; taking the airplanes to the people allowing them to experience the sight and sound of the aircraft in flight.

About the CAF's B-29 Superfortress, *FIFI*:

The Boeing B-29 Superfortress, first flown in 1942 and began active service in 1944, is perhaps best known as the aircraft whose missions over Japan helped bring about the end of World War II. It was designed as a replacement for the older B-17s and B-24s, with longer range and greater bomb loads. The B-29 was also used in the Korean War in the early 1950s and was a staple of the U.S. Air Force until the late 1950s.

FIFI was acquired by the CAF in the early 1970s when a group of CAF members found her at the U.S. Navy Proving Ground at China Lake, California where she was being used as a missile target. The airplane was rescued and restored and flew for over thirty years until 2006 when the chief pilot made the decision to ground her pending a complete power plant re-fit. What followed was an extensive four year restoration that included replacing all four engines with new custom built hybrid engines. *FIFI* returned to the sky in 2010 and since that time has traveled coast to

coast attracting large crowds at every tour stop. Learn more about *FIFI* and her tour schedule at www.AirPowerTour.org.

About the Commemorative Air Force:

Collecting, restoring and flying vintage historical aircraft for more than half a century, the Commemorative Air Force ranks as one of the largest private air forces in the world. The CAF is dedicated to Honoring American Military Aviation through flight, exhibition and remembrance. A non-profit educational association, the CAF has more than 8,000 members and a fleet of 153 airplanes distributed throughout the country to 70 units located in 27 states for care and operation. For more information, visit www.commemorativeairforce.org.