

BRAVO 369 Flight Foundation

Press



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BRAVO 369 Flight Foundation Announces 2020 Commemorative Alaska – Siberia Flight and Documentary Film Production

An American team will fly the historic Alaska-Siberia (ALSIB) air route from the United States, across Russia, to pay tribute to American and Allied war veterans; will create documentary film series.

Bellingham, Washington, USA. July 4, 2019

Citizen diplomats from both the United States and Russia are preparing to fly the Alaska-Siberia air route (ALSIB) in World War II aircraft to honor the brave men and women of the United States, Canada, Russia and our other Allied nations as part of the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II.

According to Jeff Geer, president and chairman of the BRAVO 369 Flight Foundation, “We selected this route to draw attention to this little-known aspect of World War II history. Few people know that the United States and the former Soviet Union were once Allies. In fact, even fewer know that between 1942 and 1945 nearly 8,000 military aircraft were flown from the United States to Russia using the ALSIB air route. This program played a pivotal role in the war, yet its full and comprehensive story remains to be told.” In 2015, BRAVO 369 teamed with Russian flight partner, RUSAVIA, to fly the extremely challenging 6,000-mile air route stretching from Great Falls, Montana through western Canada to Fairbanks, Alaska and then across Siberia to Krasnoyarsk, Russia.

The ALSIB route was created under the Lend-Lease Act which was enacted by the United States Congress in March 1941 just before the United States entered World War II. Under Lend-Lease, American factories, just emerging from the Great Depression, were rapidly converted to industrial powerhouses creating an "Arsenal of Democracy" in order to fight the Axis powers and overtake the highly advanced military technologies of both Germany and Japan. During the “The Great Patriotic War,” as it is known in Russia, Lend-Lease and the ALSIB program was a vital link in helping the Soviets defeat the Nazis who had invaded the Soviet Union in the summer of 1941.

From July through August 2020, BRAVO 369 will undertake this historic flight, known as *ALSIB 2020*, beginning in Great Falls, Montana – the original staging base for ALSIB operations – travel through Canada and Alaska, and then into Russia. “Although our team flew the route in 2015” Geer said, “We plan to fly it again not only to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, but also to create a documentary film series telling the complete story of the Lend-Lease program, American-Soviet allied cooperation during the war and the great importance that the ALSIB air route played in defeating the Nazi’s.”

Geer continued, “Even though the geopolitical landscape is much different than it was 75 years ago, citizen diplomacy and projects like this are embraced by both the people and governments of our countries. Perhaps, examples such as this can lead to improved diplomatic relations.”

On October 5, 2018 the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the United States, Anatoly Antonov, presented a letter to Jeff Geer and the BRAVO 369 Flight Foundation, giving his personal endorsement of the historic ALSIB 2020 project. Ambassador Antonov stated, “Intent to repeat the reenactment in 2020 honoring the 75th anniversary of the victory in the Great Patriotic War and the end of WWII, while making it a round-the-world flight with a greater number of planes, deserves the highest praise and support. I am confident that your project will meet the high standards of the humanitarian mission and will show a clear example to our nations of one of the renowned chapters in our ancestors’ heroic deeds, make a great contribution to the efforts aimed to preserve Russia – U.S. common historical and cultural heritage.”

Geer added, “ALSIB 2020 promises to be a landmark event as this is the last major commemoration that will be attended by our remaining veterans who served in the war. It is our chance to honor these brave men and women. ALSIB 2020 will tell their story and, as such, deserves to be supported.” He continued “It is a worthy undertaking; a noble cause that will help bring together the people of Russia and the United States by reminding us all of the shared sacrifice and cooperation in World War II.”

This challenging flight across North America and Russia will be made using vintage World War II aircraft – the same type that were flown during the ALSIB program. According to Geer, “During the war, U.S. pilots delivered the aircraft only as far as Fairbanks, Alaska. The planes were then handed over to the Soviet pilots who flew them, year-round in all kinds of weather, across Siberia to Krasnoyarsk. It is as large of a logistical effort now as it was then to move aircraft and crews over long distances with difficult terrain and flying conditions. We are truly honored to re-create and document this historical event so that it can be shared and preserved for future generations.”

The documentary film series “Warplanes to Siberia – *Code Name ASLIB*” is expected to begin production in late 2019 with release expected in late 2021.

“The structure of world peace cannot be the work of one man, or one party, or one nation...
it must be a peace which rests on the cooperative effort of the whole world.”

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

About BRAVO 369

The BRAVO 369 Flight Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization consisting of a dedicated group of business, education, and aviation professionals, committed to education and the support of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) programs by providing scholarship opportunities, preserving historical aircraft, military aviation history and inspiring youth worldwide to “Aim High!”
www.bravo369.org

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