

BRAVO 369 Flight Foundation

Press



Release

For Immediate Release

Russian Geographical Society Partners with BRAVO 369 Flight Foundation to Support ALSIB 2020 Flight Project

The Russian Geographical Society signs agreement, joining BRAVO 369 Flight Foundation to celebrate the historic World War II Alaska-Siberia (ALSIB) air route.

Bellingham, Washington, USA. August 9, 2019

The BRAVO 369 Flight Foundation, a United States 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, and the Russian Geographical Society have committed to jointly facilitate the implementation of a project known as ALSIB 2020. This will be a re-creation of the World War II / Great Patriotic War flights from the United States using the historic Alaska-Siberia Air Route (ALSIB), known in Russia as the Krasnoyarsk Air Route.

As part of the 75th anniversary celebrations in 2020, this “friendship flight” will be used to draw attention to our allied cooperation and accomplishments from World War II and tell the history of this little known, yet critically important military air route through documentary film.

The ALSIB air route was created after the Lend-Lease Act was enacted in March 1941 by the United States Congress. Approximately 6,000 miles long, it stretches from Great Falls, Montana through western Canada to Fairbanks, Alaska and then across Siberia to Krasnoyarsk, Russia. During a three-year period from 1942 through 1945, nearly 8,000 military aircraft were flown year-round from the United States to the former Soviet Union using this route. Created practically from scratch in sparsely populated areas, and faced with challenging geographic, economic, and meteorological conditions during the very difficult first few years of the war, it is considered, even today, an engineering feat second only to the creation of the Panama Canal.

Jeff Geer, President and Chairman of the BRAVO 369 Flight Foundation said of the agreement, “It is my distinct privilege and honor to announce our partnership with the Russian Geographical Society, one of the oldest geographical societies in the world. We warmly welcome their participation in the ALSIB 2020 project”. From June through August 2020, BRAVO 369 will undertake the historic ALSIB 2020

flight in original World War II aircraft, beginning in Great Falls, Montana – the original staging base for ALSIB operations – travel through Canada and Alaska, with plans to go as far as Krasnoyarsk, Russia.

“BRAVO 369’s partnership with RGS is vitally important on many levels” said Geer. “I especially want to recognize their generous commitment to provide support and resources to the ALSIB 2020 project, one which holds great potential to bring Russia and the United States closer together through this cooperative citizen diplomatic event. I believe the work of this great effort will provide the foundation for a better understanding of our common history and act as an impetus toward improved relations between our two countries.”

First Vice-President of the Russian Geographical Society, Mr. Nikolay Kasimov said, “The Russian Geographical Society pays great attention to the subject of Lend-Lease. In recent years, with grant support from the RGS three documentary films that told about the contribution of the Allies to our common victory have been made. As part of one of their recent expeditions, members of the RGS discovered and removed the C-47 Douglas aircraft - one of the few remaining aircrafts delivered to the USSR under the Lend-Lease program from the tundra on the Yamal Peninsula. Now we are restoring the aircraft. Worth to notice that amazing stories and the fate of people lay behind each of these findings. The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Flight Foundation "Bravo 369" is another step in the revival of historical memory. We are happy to support the ALSIB 2020 project, and we hope that it will remind the residents of Russia, the United States and other countries about the pages of our common history.”

“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.” said Geer “Only through listening and learning from others can we hope to share our history, our culture, our identity, and our future. We hope the work of this great effort becomes a solid foundation for a lasting peace and cooperation between our countries. We thank the Russian Geographical Society for their support of ALSIB 2020 and the preservation of our common history.”

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, and inspiring youth worldwide to “Aim High!” www.bravo369.org

About Russian Geographical Society

The Russian Geographical Society was established by the highest authority of Nicholas I in 1845. It is one of the oldest geographical societies in the world. It continues to follow the time-honored traditions established by its founders. Geographers, ecologists, geologists, ethnologists, statisticians, photographers, mass-media representatives, travelers and those, eager to learn about Russia and ready to help to preserve its natural riches cooperate with the Society.

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