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# **CIVIL AIR TRANSPORT (CAT) BOOK:**

*Capturing the History of CAT  
Honoring Those Who Made Its History*



*From World War II Cargo Aircraft to the Mandarin Jet*

# **CIVIL AIR TRANSPORT (CAT) BOOK**

**Maj. Gen. Bill Chen, U.S. Army Retired  
Editor-in-Chief**

**CAT ASSOCIATION**

# **Civil Air Transport (CAT) Book**

**Maj. Gen. Bill Chen, Editor-in-Chief**

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# **Table of Contents**

**Dedication**

**Introduction**

## **PART I. CAT History and Overview**

CAT Historical Milestones

Overview of CAT's History

Relief and Rehabilitation Operations

Support of Military Operations

Covert Operations

Commercial Operations

## **PART II. CAT Beginnings to Korean War, 1946 – 1953**

The Beginning and Funding of CAT

How CAT Really Got Going

Looking Back

CAT's Start and Early Years

Linfen Rescue

The Weihsien Incident

Louise Peeks at War

CAT Sets World Ton Mile Record

World's Most Shot-at Air Line

Shansi Wants Larger CAT Fleet

Fall of Canton, Chungking, and Mengtze

Trip to Lhasa, Tibet

Admiral Willauer's Navy

China Mainland Overflight Mission

Flying China Mainland Overflight Mission

Accounting for CAT

CAT Inaugurates DC-4 Service

Flight Hostesses

CIA Honors: Captains Norman Schwartz and Robert Snoddy

Operation BOOKLIFT

Start of Korean Airlift

Korean Airlift – Operation BOOKLIFT

French Indochina Special Technical & Economic Mission

Man on the Spot in Saigon

### **PART III. Growth in Covert and Commercial Operations, 1954 – 1957**

Operation SQUAW II

CAT Brought into the French Indochina Conflict

C-119 Airdrops

Dien Bien Phu

Three Hours of My Life With a Hero

Earthquake's Final Flight

Flying into History: Wallace Buford's Final Flight

CAT Evacuations of North Vietnam and Operations in Laos

Seoul Inaugural Flight

First in the Far East

CAT Growth in Taiwan

CAT Reorganizes

But Memories Linger On

CAT With Many Lives

### **PART IV. Mandarin Flights, 1958 – 1968**

The New Era – and the Old

The Mandarin Jet is Here!

CAT's Veteran Pilots

CAT's Chinese Pilots

Twenty Years of CAT

The End of CAT

### **PART V. Legacy of CAT**

Chairman's Notes on History and Legacy

The Legacy of CAT

## DEDICATION

We dedicate this book to the men and women of Civil Air Transport (CAT) -- to recognize and honor their deeds and accomplishments and preserve their legacy. I

Initially started as China National Relief and Rehabilitation (CNRRA) Air Transport, co-founders Gen. Claire Chennault and Whiting Willauer recognized China's post-World War II need for air transport, where roads, bridges, and railways had been destroyed. Their vision resulted in CAT becoming an airline of distinction while also advancing United States national security objectives.

The CAT men and women carried on the legacy of Gen. Claire Chennault's American Volunteer Group/Flying Tigers and the 14<sup>th</sup> Air Force. They established and perpetuated the *Spirit of CAT* – a can-do reputation with a high degree of professionalism, ingenuity, and calm under pressure – a determination to get the job done no matter the odds.

# INTRODUCTION

Early on, our forebearers used CAT Bulletins not just as a means of communication to the workforce but for public relations to document the CAT's accomplishments, recognize CAT personnel involved, and promote CAT's contributions to the expanding airline industry. Recognizing its benefits and value, the CAT Association also undertook to publish CAT Association Bulletins. Consistent with the technology of the times, the Association established a website as a medium to deliver information, content, and experiences through the Internet.

The CAT Documentary film constitutes yet another medium by which we have captured the history of CAT, honored its personnel who made that history, and preserved the Legacy of CAT. The Association's Strategic Plan, approved in 2023, recognized the need to look beyond completion of the CAT Documentary toward further preserving the Legacy of CAT-- to continue to explore museums for permanent housing and display of CAT artifacts and memorabilia, and to compile a CAT Book.

As an illustrative album, CAT veteran executive Joe Rosbert's **CAT Pictorial** book is a valuable visual and narrative chronicle of our history and legacy. A CAT Book could serve as a companion book to the **CAT Pictorial**, but more so be a compendium of articles on CAT's accomplishments and the men and women of CAT. While CAT and CAT Association Bulletins are rich in articles on CAT and its personnel, they are not cataloged, and accessing these articles is not easy and convenient compared to reaching out for the CAT Book from a coffee table or bookshelf.

This CAT Book is a remembrance book with a compendium of articles on CAT. Beyond Part I on CAT History and Overview -- the articles are grouped by time-phased Parts of CAT's history and end with The Legacy of CAT. The articles are drawn from CAT and CAT Association Bulletins, other publications on CAT, and include newly created articles from second and third-generation CAT-ers.