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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

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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 14th 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 as easy or convenient as finding the CAT Book on 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 CAT publications, and newly created articles by second- and third-generation CAT-ers.