

STAY UPDATED

Walker Aviation Museum

www.wafbmuseum.org

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER
2020



Please donate today to keep our museum running gofundme.com/WalkerMuseum.

509th Returns to Roswell

We recently had a second visit of two aircrews from the 509th Weapon Squadron, KC-135 WIC, Fairchild AFB, WA. They were conducting terminal area tactics phase of USAF Weapons School KC-135 syllabus on 29-31 August 2020 at the Roswell Air Center. We included aviation students from Eastern New Mexico University Roswell and Aviation Explorer Scouts who joined us for the crew mission briefing and a tour of the aircraft.



Exciting Things Are Happening

Become a member today!



YES!

I want to continue to support the Walker Aviation Museum by becoming a member.

Please fill out the form and include it with your payment.

If you love history, especially aviation and World War II history, you need to visit the Walker Aviation Museum. This unique museum makes history personal and highlights the role Southeastern New Mexico played in aviation and national defense during the Cold War.

Our plans to expand and include Science Technology Engineering and Math displays means you will want to return to the museum again and again. One visit won't be enough.

A private museum funded solely by public support, Walker Aviation Museum invites you to begin, or renew, an annual membership. Your membership fee will support the ongoing operations of the museum and lay the foundation for future growth.

Come Grow With Us... Walker Aviation Museum currently located in the terminal building of the Roswell International Air Center, 1 Jerry Smith Circle, Roswell, NM 88203



NEWSLETTER

Current Status of Walker Aviation Museum

The Walker Aviation Museum has been closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic since April 2020. We took advantage of the closure to conduct a detailed inventory of current items that are being displayed and those items that will be displayed in the future. Museum items were marked for current display, future display and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) display and use with our youth. We hope to be able to re-open the museum in be able to re-open the museum in October or November 2020.

Golf Tournament

Due to Covid-19 the golf tournament was cancelled for 2020 but is scheduled for Armed Forces Day, 2021.

Current Status of Securing a New Location

We currently are maintaining our current Air Terminal location until an available and affordable location is located on Roswell Main Street, within easy walking distance from the International UFO Museum. As in the past, money is a key issue in being able to move down town to a more accessible location.



F-105 Status

On 1 October 2010, the Walker Aviation Museum received the F-105D on permanent loan from the Texas Air Museum in Slaton, Texas. The loan agreement states that if at any time in the future the Walker Aviation Museum does not want the aircraft, it must be returned to the Texas Air Museum. Also the agreement states that we may not assign the aircraft to any other person or entity. Due to the fact that the F-105D has nothing to do with the history of Walker Air

Force Base, the Walker Aviation Museum is moving to get support from the local aviation industries, ENMU-R, the City of Roswell and other local organizations to assist in getting the aircraft repaired, painted and then mounted at a location on the Roswell Air Center that is agreeable to the City of Roswell, the Roswell Air Center and other governing entities. We would propose placing a large professional sign in front of the aircraft to recognize the significant and numerous aircraft industries and support organizations located on the Roswell Air Center. We are currently looking for support in this endeavor.

Contact

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Please donate today to keep our museum running
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WalkerMuseum

WAFB 2 Minute History Review

- With war looming in Europe, the United States decided to train 30,000 more pilots.
- Roswell was selected as one of the pilot training bases in 1941 and construction started in 1942 on 4,600 acres provided by a local rancher.
- Starting in 1942 and terminating at the end of World War II, the Roswell Army Flying School included seven 2-engine flying training squadrons and five bombardier training squadrons. Approximately 14,000 aircrew were trained during WWII.
- The 509th Composite Group to include the B-29's Enola Gay and Bockscar which dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki returned to the Roswell Army Air Field.
- Starting in May 1946 the three squadrons in the 509th located at the soon to be renamed Walker Air Force Base was the Strategic Air Command's (SAC's) only atomic bomb mission ready squadrons.
- Walker Air Force Base was named after General Kenneth N. Walker, a native of New Mexico who was killed during a B-17 bombing mission over Papua New Guinea on January 5, 1943.
- During the early years of the Cold War, Walker Air Force Base was SAC's premier atomic weapon base.
- Walker Air Force Base, including the Atlas F missiles, were fully operational during the Cuban Missile Crisis in October 1962.
- Walker Air Force Base was the home of 6th Bomb Wing and many other great military organization over its 26 years of operation.
- In 1963 and 1964 three Atlas missile silos blew up during propellant loading exercises contributing to the deactivation of the Atlas sites in 1965.
- Walker was the home of numerous bomber and tanker aircraft to include B-29, B-50A, B-36, B-47, B-52, KC-97, and KC-135.
- Walker Air Force Base closed June 30, 1967 after 26 years of service to the nation, the Air Force and the community of Roswell.



New Mexico Gas Company Grant

Thanks to Juliana Halvorson, we have applied for a NMGCo grant in late June 2020. This grant will help fund our goal to move downtown. We are still waiting on the outcome of this effort.

New Museum Employees

Johnny and Maralea Stites, our former full time employees, have moved to Kentucky. We will be looking to hire a couple of new employees for the museum in the next month or two. The museum is currently closed due to Covid-19.



Looking For New Board Members

We need a people interested in WAFB history and in providing or instructing STEM items or subjects for our local and visiting youth.

Always Looking for Support

We are still located on the right as you enter the Roswell Air Terminal from the main north door. (1 Jerry Smith Circle, Roswell, NM 88203) Visit our web site: www.wafbmuseum.org or face book at facebook.com/walkeraviationmuseum.

Please use Amazon Smile when shopping on Amazon.com so we can receive a small percentage of your purchase (see web site);

Membership categories: basic (\$50), student (\$25), family (\$75), senior 65+ (\$45), veteran (\$30) and corporate or group (\$200 - \$1,000).

Mailing address: WAMF, P.O. Box 4080, Roswell, NM 88202-4080
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More photos from the 509th visit



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Roswell, New Mexico 88203