

BRAVO 369 Flight Foundation

Press



Release

For Immediate Release

WARPLANES HEADED ACROSS SIBERIA

A JOINT US/RUSSIAN PARTNERSHIP WILL RE-TRACE AND DOCUMENT THE HISTORIC AND LITTLE KNOWN ALASKA-SIBERIA AIR ROUTE AS PART OF THE COMMEMERATIVE *WARPLANES TO SIBERIA* PROJECT

Bellingham, Washington, USA. May 9, 2014

The BRAVO 369 Flight Foundation proudly announced today that it has partnered with the Moscow-based Russian Aviation Company, Ltd. (RUSAVIA), supplier of aviation parts, instruments, and equipment for Russian-built aircraft and helicopters worldwide and, Wargaming.net, the award-winning online game developer and publisher as well as leader in the free-to-play MMO market.

Warplanes to Siberia—is the story about the secret delivery of nearly 8,000 military aircraft from the United States to the Soviet Union during World War II along the Alaska-Siberia air route (ALSIB). The route is approximately 6,000 miles (9,700 kilometers) long and runs from Great Falls, Montana through Canada and Alaska, across the Bering Strait, and through Siberia to Krasnoyarsk, Russia. As part of the Lend-Lease program under the Roosevelt administration, it was one of the great logistical efforts of the 20th century and a vital aircraft supply route to the Soviet Union. To this day, few people have heard of ALSIB or know the vital role it played during the war.

Jeff Geer, BRAVO 369's president and executive director, said "Partnering with RUSAVIA will allow us to tell the story of ALSIB from both the United States and Russian perspectives. This project is historically significant in that it will draw global attention to not only the untold story of ALSIB but it will shed light on the friendship and mutual cooperation between our two great nations that existed both then and now." Geer continued, "We are also delighted to partner with Wargaming.net, who shares our passion for aviation history, restoration and conservation of historic warplanes, and educational outreach."

According to Sergey Baranov, RUSAVIA's general director, "(2015) - The 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, or the Great Patriotic War as it is known in Russia, promises to be a landmark event. This is the last major commemoration that will be attended by veterans who served in the war. It is our chance to say goodbye and pay honor to the last of these brave men and women. *Warplanes to Siberia (ALSIB 2015)* will tell their story and, as such, deserves to be supported." He continued "It is a worthy undertaking 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." RUSAVIA will also secure all necessary permissions from the Russian government and military to fly the ALSIB route and then continue on to Moscow.

Tracy Spaight, director of special projects at Wargaming.net, said "Wargaming.net is a strong supporter of military history. We work with museums around the world to recover, conserve, and exhibit the vehicles of World War II. We are thus proud to partner with BRAVO369 and RUSAVIA on this historic joint heritage project. It is our hope that by honoring the shared sacrifice of the men and women of the United States, Canada, and Russia who built, maintained, and flew these airplanes, people will reflect on the history of cooperation between our nations – particularly in aviation and space. This tradition includes the first transcontinental flight over the North Pole, from Moscow to Portland, Oregon in 1936, the successful Apollo-Soyuz mission in 1975, and the current International Space Station."

Wargaming.net will provide one of the single engine fighter airplanes that will complete this historic journey. The Wargaming.net team will also provide logistics support, technology, and media resources as well as help organize events along the ALSIB route during the 2015 flight.

Geer said "What makes our project so special is we are actually re-creating the flight using same vintage aircraft types that flew the route 70 years ago. Our goal is to be as historically and technically accurate as possible. A project of this magnitude cannot be achieved by one person, one organization, or one country acting alone. This is why our partnership with RUSAVIA and Wargaming.net is so vital. "

The BRAVO 369 Flight Foundation, RUSAVIA, and Wargaming.net recently presented the *Warplanes to Siberia* project to an international audience during the Mutual Concerns Conference at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum in Washington, DC.

In 2015, the combined flight team will fly the entire ALSIB route as part of a joint formation across Siberia and beyond, and then participate in the International Aviation and Space Salon (MAKS-2015) in Russia, celebrating the end of World War II in Europe. Geer, who will be leading the U.S. flight segment, said “This will be the first time that a joint Russian and U.S. team will be making the flight to Krasnoyarsk and Moscow together. During World War II, U.S. pilots delivered the aircraft only as far as Fairbanks, Alaska and then the Soviet pilots took the aircraft from there to Krasnoyarsk along the ALSIB route. 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.”

Geer concluded “We are truly honored to be working with RUSAVIA and Wargaming.net. Together we will re-create and document this historical event so that it can be shared and preserved for future generations.”

“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

end

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 educational scholarship opportunities, preserving historical aircraft, and inspiring youth worldwide to "Aim High!" www.bravo369.org

About RUSAVIA

Russian Aviation Company, Ltd. (RUSAVIA) is a Moscow based supplier of aviation parts, instruments, and equipment for Russian-built aircraft and helicopters worldwide. In addition to its commitment to history and the preservation of historical aircraft, RUSAVIA is dedicated to the development of small aviation, strengthening the friendship between Russia and the United States, honoring veterans, and the education of the younger generation. <http://en.rusavia.com/>

About Wargaming

Wargaming is an award-winning online game developer and publisher and one of the leaders in the free-to-play MMO market. Founded as a privately held company in 1998, Wargaming has shipped more than 15 titles. Currently, Wargaming is focused on its team-based MMO war series dedicated to the mid-20th century warfare that will include the armored World of Tanks, the flight combat World of Warplanes, and the naval World of Warships. The three intertwined titles will form a common gaming universe integrated within the portal www.wargaming.net.

Contact Information

Jeff Geer
BRAVO 369 Flight Foundation
<http://www.bravo369.org>
360-922-0036

Craig Lang
BRAVO 369 Flight Foundation
<http://www.bravo369.org>
360-201-1917