

AIR FORCE MUSEUM NEWS RELEASE

COURTESY OF DON CANNON



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ... One of the two Bell H-13J helicopters assigned to Presidential service during former President Eisenhower's administration, was turned over to the Air Force Museum at Dayton, Ohio, today.

Visiting from Washington to officially present the helicopter to the museum was Major General Rollen H. Anthis, Commander of the Headquarters Command, United States Air Force. The aircraft was accepted on behalf of the Air Force Museum by museum director, Colonel Joseph D. Hornsby, who stated "he was extremely pleased to add the H-13 to the museum's collection, and that the staff would



VISIT THE AIR FORCE MUSEUM

take immediate steps to preserve it for future generations to view".

The U. S. Air Force acquired the two Bell H-13J Helicopters in March of 1957. President Eisenhower became the first U. S. President to fly in a helicopter on July 13th, 1957, at 2:10 in the afternoon. That helicopter, one of the two H-13s, is being given to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, while the "back-up" or reserve helicopter becomes a part of the Air Force Museum collection.

Helicopters have been used extensively by recent Presidents of the United States, primarily to eliminate the danger and delays of traffic jams in getting to airports.

Although the museum's newly acquired helicopter did not carry a President of the United States, it served its purpose by being available for use as a reserve helicopter for the President. It was used on occasions by members of the President's party such as his Physician or Secret Service men, and is therefore considered historically important.

On March 1st, 1962, the two H-13Js were reassigned from the 1254th Air Transport Group at the National Airport to the 100st Helicopter

Squadron at Bolling Air Force Base. Although they never again carried a President of the United States, they did continue flying and have carried many high ranking Department of Defense personnel both civilian and military. Numerous foreign dignitaries have also been flown in both aircraft.

As far as specifications of the H-13Js, they carried a pilot and three passengers, with a maximum speed of 105 miles per hour, and with long range fuel tanks had a three hour range.

With the addition of the H-13J helicopter today, the Air Force Museum collection totals 93 aircraft. Also included in the collection are former President Truman's plane, the "Independence" and former President Eisenhower's plane, the "Columbine".

The museum's H-13 was flown into Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, from Washington by Captain John F. Kiffler and Staff Sergeant Richard Long, both of the 1001st Helicopter Squadron, based at Bolling AFB in Washington D. C.