

FLIGHT PLAN

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*"Connecting people,
forgetting no one.*

Together we change lives."

Air Serv International vision

February 2004

AIR SERV RESPONDS TO DEVASTATING TSUNAMI DISASTER

Within days of hearing about the earthquake and subsequent tsunami in southeast Asia, Air Serv was setting up programs in Sri Lanka and Sumatra to facilitate the massive response of the humanitarian community. Air Serv provided flights for assessment teams, project managers and relief teams throughout the affected region.

With a grant from the U.S. Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), a King Air 300 and a Puma helicopter were sent to Colombo, Sri Lanka, to provide air transport for OFDA and other relief agency assessment teams and high value cargo in Sri Lanka, southeast India and the Maldives. Air Serv provided emergency assistance for four weeks before completing our emergency mission and focusing on the ongoing response in Sumatra.

Two heavy transport planes (IL-76) and three Bell 407 helicopters were sent to Banda Aceh on the



Air Serv's helicopters maneuvered easily amidst the devastation.

Indonesian island of Sumatra to airlift relief workers and supplies throughout the island area. The IL-76 flights were made possible by a donation from the Republic of South Africa's Disaster Management Center. A second lift AN-124 from Billings, Montana brought an additional two Huey helicopters in January.



Damage was widespread throughout Sumatra.

"Most people assume that relief supplies are the only element of a response," said Air Serv President Stuart Willcuts, who spent two months onsite in Sri Lanka and Banda Aceh. "However, the people who plan, manage and evaluate these operations are equally important. Without them, there are no supplies sent out and none distributed."

Air Serv will continue operations in Indonesia until air transport is no longer a critical need.

CEO COCKPIT *By Stu Willcuts, president and CEO*

Colleagues,

As I departed from Banda Aceh, once again, I came away with good feelings for the excellent work the Air Serv team is doing there as well as what we did in Sri Lanka. All of us can be proud of this challenging effort and very significant participation in this humanitarian response:

- A \$5 million program set up and working in two countries in a short period of time.
- The surge effort of the team in Warrenton to add to the already existing work load and the field offices who shared staff.
- The first significant resource development pledge program via the Web and our partnership with the Aircraft Operators and Pilots Association.

As of this writing we may finish our helicopter program by the end of April, but will continue a fixed-wing component for at least another six months or longer. This will probably consist of at least two C-208 Caravans and perhaps three. The Indonesia portion of the tsunami response is unique in that we have direct relationships with various NGOs rather than an umbrella grant from a major donor. —Continued on page 2

Air Serv International Invited to White House to Attend State of Union Address

Don Cressman, vice president of international flight operations and a pilot for Air Serv International, was an invited guest of the White House at President Bush's State of the Union address. Cressman, who was among the honored guests seated in the gallery with the First Lady during the speech, was asked to attend in recognition of Air Serv's humanitarian relief work aiding tsunami victims.

Cressman returned to the U.S. on the morning of the speech, after having

spent over a month in Sumatra, where he oversaw Air Serv flights carrying relief workers and supplies into and out of the tsunami-stricken areas. As a guest of the White House, Cressman also had an opportunity to meet President and Mrs. Bush at a reception following the speech.

While in Sumatra, Cressman directed Air Serv flights of seven light helicopters transporting an average of 14 tons of supplies and 20 passengers per day, most often medical teams from

nonprofit relief agencies, to various sites along the coastal areas. Air Serv often brought in supplies by way of sling load—carrying supplies suspended underneath the Huey helicopter's belly—to inaccessible or severely damaged areas where victims needed assistance. In 1989 Cressman and his family joined Air Serv International, a job that has taken them to Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Kenya, among other places, to bring humanitarian relief to those in need.

CEO Cockpit (continued from front page)

While South African government grant funding got the helicopters there, NGO funds and private donations, like AOPA support, are keeping them there. Air Serv has again demonstrated our ability to the NGOs and the international humanitarian community to provide appropriate aircraft in a timely manner and manage them for each NGO. As a result we are discussing how we can manage individual NGO flight operations in the future. I also give credit to our aircraft provider, Naturelink of South Africa, for this quick response.



On the matter of Air Serv leadership we will be making final offers to a new vice president of programs and vice president of flight operations by the end of May. We have candidates for each role with the final stages of the selection process being completed. The board of directors will be part of this final process.

In many of the after hours fellowship times with the various humanitarian staff who are working in Sumatra, each expressed their appreciation to me for the Air Serv response. Through this short note, I share the credit with those who made the response possible and who continue to keep it going.

With Appreciation, *Stu*

NOTAMS - ASI RECRUITMENT

Aircraft Mechanics - Qualified A&P mechanics (IA certification preferred) needed overseas to fill long-term contract positions (6 months—1 year) or short-term 'fill-in' assignments (4—12 weeks). Experience with King Air and Caravan aircraft necessary. See our

Web site for additional required mechanic qualifications.

E-mail cover letter and resume to Stephanie Dolinger at recruiting@airserv.org

Cressman Retires After 16 Years of Service

Don Cressman was honored at a reception March 22 at the Airlie Conference Center in Warrenton, Va. for 16 years of dedicated service to Air Serv International.

Don grew up on a cattle farm in northern Alberta, Canada, and after graduating from Hesston College in Kansas, Don flew for eight years as a bush pilot for a charter company in northern Alberta. In 1989, he began flying with Air Serv in Mozambique.

As the company then required pilots to relocate with their families, Don recalls it was a challenging decision for him and his wife Julie to bring their 5- and 7-year-old sons to a country in the midst of civil war. But for five years, they lived in Africa, returning in 1994 to the company headquarters in Redlands, Calif.

Since then Don has held the positions of director of human resources, director of international programs and most recently, vice president of international flight operations.

Don's knowledge of aviation, dedication and commitment to Air Serv and years of expertise will be missed at the home office in Warrenton.



ABECHE, CHAD - Pictures From a Forgotten Land

Desert living, cold showers, no Internet or TV and military rule all define what it is like to live in Abeche, Chad, home to Air Serv pilots who fly into the Darfur region to serve the refugee camps situated there. The photos tell the story ...



Left: Air Serv staff stands with Chadian soldiers and our Twin Otter at the airstrip in Tini, Chad.



Right: Paul Rusesabinga and Don Cheadle (star of the film, Hotel Rwanda) pose with Captain Gregory Miles at the ramp in Abeche. Cheadle and Rusesabinga were part of a U.S. delegation traveling to the refugee camps on the border of Sudan.



Air Serv Launches New 'FRIENDS OF AIR SERV INTERNATIONAL' Membership Group

Please join us as we launch a new group to support Air Serv International. If you love giving back to those in need and want to help a charity whose effect is felt the world over, we invite you to become a member of the **Friends of Air Serv International**.

As many of you already know, Air Serv International helps people in need around the world by flying relief workers and supplies into some of the most desperate regions in the world. With our fleet of small airplanes and helicopters, we fly where no one else can—or will—fly. Consider this:

- We are currently the only nonprofit, civilian air carrier flying humanitarian assistance into Iraq.
- We are still assisting with the vital relief efforts in Southeast Asia following the devastating tsunami last December.
- We are an established presence helping those in need in places like the Democratic Republic of Congo, Af-

ghanistan, Chad, Mozambique and Uganda.

We hope the **Friends of Air Serv International** will grow to become a group of people dedicated to humanitarian service and the value of making a difference in our world. Being able to leave your mark on world events is a rare opportunity. Help us raise awareness of global issues and of Air Serv's unique place in the humanitarian community.

Membership in the **Friends of Air Serv International** is \$25 per year. You will continue to receive the quarterly newsletter, special invitations to events and the opportunity to help grow our humanitarian organization. To become a member of the **Friends of Air Serv International**, contact Stephanie Kenyon, director of outreach, Air Serv International, 6583 Merchant Place, Suite 100, Warrenton, VA 20187, 540-428-2323, skenyon@airserv.org.

Thank you for your support!



This little girl from Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, was recently a passenger on an Air Serv flight from Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, to Kigali, Rwanda. Her family fled Rwanda in 1994, and after a two-year trek across the Congo, they settled in Brazzaville, RC. Air Serv was able to help her and her family return to their home in Rwanda.

Photo by James Graham



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Visit our Web site
www.AirServ.org

Flights That Save Lives.

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We'd love to hear from you.
Please send comments or suggestions to us at asi@airserv.org.

AIR SERV & AOPA PARTNER TO RAISE FUNDS FOR TSUNAMI DISASTER

When the devastating tsunami hit southeast Asia on Dec. 26, 2004, members of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association took action. The association rapidly arranged a partnership with Air Serv and encouraged its members to make donations online to the nonprofit organization, which for the past 20 years has provided air transportation to humanitarian agencies involved in global relief and development activities.

The organizations formed a partnership based on their mutual focus on aviation. Supporting Air Serv's humanitarian efforts was the perfect way for AOPA members to assist the tsunami victims as Air Serv carried out its mission using aircraft to provide relief to the stricken area.



Air Serv staff in Indonesia sends their regards to AOPA.

AOPA made a generous offer—the association would match up to \$25,000 of the funds donated by its members. Through the AOPA/Air Serv Web site partnership, members donated more than \$79,000, bringing the total gift to approximately \$104,000.

“The generosity of AOPA members has been phenomenal,” said Stu Willcuts, president and CEO of Air Serv International. “We are able to carry out our humanitarian work to help the victims of the tsunami thanks to the help of this association.”