

Guide to the
J.M. Dodds Collection
(1934 -)

1.5 linear feet

Accession Number: 22-04
Collection Number: CA22-04

Collection Dates: 1960 – 1975
Bulk Dates: 1962 - 1975

Prepared by
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Special Collections Department
McDermott Library, The University of Texas at Dallas

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Biographical Sketch:

James M. Dodds was born on October 24, 1934. In 1953 he joined the U.S. Air force where he served as a Crew Chief on the B-47 on active duty. He was honorably discharged with the rank of Staff Sergeant in December 1960. After leaving the USAF he went to work as a mechanic for America Airlines until 1963. From 1963 to 1967 he was manager of McCafferty Service, Inc., a company that was contracted to transport mail for the US Postal Service over various routes. In 1967 he went to Vietnam on a contract to Dnyaletron Corp. He served as a Quality Control Technical Representative with the US Army 1st CAV, and was responsible for inspection of their helicopter fleet.

In 1967 he went to work for Air America in Saigon as a crew chief, and in 1968 he was promoted to Superintendent of Quality Control Activities in Vietnam. In 1972 he transferred to flight duty and worked as a flight mechanic on CH-47C, Bell 204, and Bell 205 Helicopters in Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam.

Dodds left Air America in 1974 and went to work as an inspector for Trans-New England Airlines in Akron, Ohio. This was by work with Frakes Aviation in Cleburne, Texas until 1976. In 1978, Dodds was employed by European Helicopter Establishment as a Flight Engineer/Crew Chief assigned to the Libyan Air force. He continued to have a series of contract maintenance jobs working for T&G Aviation and Airgo Inc in 1978, Kalitta/American International Airways in 1984, and Kitty Hawk Air Cargo in 1996. Since 2001 Dodds has been contracted to Sports Jet LLC as a flight mechanic maintaining a B-757-200 and a B-737-400.

In 2003 James M. Dodds was the recipient of the Charles E Taylor "Master Mechanic" Award from the Federal Aviation Administration for my 50 year as an aircraft mechanic. He started out as a Mechanic in 1953, and that was the year they celebrated Wright brothers 50 years of powered flight. He received the award for his 50 years service in the year that they celebrated the 100th year of powered flight. He was given the award on March 11, 2004. It was presented by Charles E Taylor II, the Great-Grandson of Charles E Taylor. Charles E. Taylor was The Wright Brothers' engine builder and the first aircraft mechanic.

Sources

J.M. Dodds Collection, History of Aviation Collection, Special Collections Department, McDermott Library, The University of Texas at Dallas.

Additional Sources

The History of Aviation Collection at the University of Texas at Dallas is the official archive of CAT and Air America and has extensive holdings of archival material relating to Air America operations and aviation in Southeast Asia. Consult the finding aids of the CAT/Air America Collection for further details.

Series Description

The J.M. Dodds collection consists of one series of two boxes of material totaling 1.9 linear feet. It is comprised of loose material in folders. The collection is described at the folder level. See container list for the title of individual folders.

Scope and Content Note

The J.M. Dodds Collection includes material used by J.M. Dodds in servicing and repairing aircraft for Air America. This material is made up of log books, photographs, personal records, and articles of clothing.

Provenance Statement

The J.M. Dodds Collection was donated to the History of Aviation Collection, McDermott Library Special Collections by J.M. Dodds in August 2004.

Literary Rights Statement

Permission to publish copy, reprint, digitize, orally record for transmission over public airways, or use in any and all current or future developed methods or procedures, must be obtained in writing from the Special Collections Department, McDermott Library, The University of Texas at Dallas.

Container list

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J.M. Dodds: Container List

<u>Box 1</u>	<u>Titles, Dates, and Description</u>
<u>Folder</u>	
1	Photographs (1974)
2	Civil Air Transport Vouchers and Travel Orders (1973 – 1974)
3	Flight Mechanic Logbooks: November 1972 – June 1973; July 1973
4	Air America Inc., Employee Insurance Benefits (1974)
5	Payroll Stubs – Air America (1973 – 1974)
6	News Articles (1973 – 1974)
7	J.M. Dodd's Resume (2001)

<u>Box 2</u>	<u>Titles, Dates, and Description</u>
<u>Folder</u>	
1	Civil Air Transport (CAT) Briefcase
2	Wooden Nameplate Received in the Philippines
3	Air America Cap
4	ICCS Aviation Cap
5	Air America uniform Shirt
6	Air America Uniform Pants

