



AFD Software Ltd

PRESS RELEASE

Give-Away Kodiak Aircraft - N97 10M - To Visit Isle of Man

The revolutionary Kodiak 100 Aircraft donated by AFD Software to Mission Aviation Fellowship for its work in Kalimantan is now taking shape – and AFD has been delighted to learn that the aircraft will visit the Isle of Man on its delivery trip from the USA to Indonesia.

The Kodiak plane donation by AFD marked its successful 25 years in business last year – and construction is now completed at the factory in Idaho that developed the completely new design for bush aviation. The plane has been delivered to MAF – who are now undertaking flight tests, and adapting the aircraft for its specific role in Kalimantan.

AFD's aircraft, No 20 from the production line, has been registered as **N 97 10M** for its delivery trip:

“We moved to the Isle of Man in 1997 – and it's due to our great success here in Ramsey that our team has been able to provide the Kodiak for MAF, so it seemed very fitting that when she flies across the Atlantic to the Island – then heads across Europe and Asia - her registration number will clearly salute the Island” said David Dorricott, AFD's managing Director

Fellow AFD Director, Alison Dorricott added *“We so much wanted the chance for our staff team and others on the Isle of Man to share the thrill of seeing the Kodiak before she enters service, so MAF have kindly agreed to let her visit – and we're busy planning an open day on October 17th at Andreas Airfield so everyone can take a look – and learn more about the vital work she will undertake.”*

This will be the first time that a Kodiak aircraft has visited the British Isles – and the AFD Plane will also make appearances at air-shows in the UK and Channel Isles before completing her passage to Kalimantan.

Ruth Whitaker, MAF's UK Chief Executive returned from a recent visit to the factory in Idaho – having seen AFD's plane “in build”. The Manufacturers, Quest Aviation, invited her to write a text on the airframe, and she chose a reference from the Old Testament “Is. 40 v.31” – which reads:

“but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” ...highly appropriate to work in a country where a twenty minute flight can save a three-day trek through dense jungle!

AFD have provided a web page with more information about the Aircraft and the Isle of Man Visit at www.afd.co.uk/kodiak

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ADDRESS LIST MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS

AFD SOFTWARE LTD
LOUGH HOUSE
APPROACH ROAD
RAMSEY
ISLE OF MAN
IM8 1RC

AFD SOFTWARE LTD
DX 134796
ISLE OF MAN

T: 01624 811711
F: 01624 817695

E: postcode@afd.co.uk
W: www.afd.co.uk

Grueling Days!

Sweat, blood, and mud! That pretty much sums up the joys of trekking interior. Recently, my friend and fellow MAF pilot, Paul College, and I spent six grueling days deep in the jungles of northern Borneo. Our mission: to travel between various villages that we frequently fly to, using all possible means other than the normal one—the MAF airplane. The local Dayaks thought we were crazy. More than once we thought they were right!

There's a reason MAF flies out here. A typical flight between villages in the Krayan region where we trekked, usually takes 10 minutes or less. That same trip by foot, motorcycle or canoe is usually an absolutely exhausting one-to-three days of travel. During the course of our two, three-day trips, Paul and I passed through several different villages that depend on regular MAF service. If we had flown an MAF airplane on a round robin flight, passing through each of those same villages, we could have turned our sweaty, bloody, muddy, six-day journey into about 20 minutes of comfortable flight time. There's really no comparison!

Besides satisfying some strange, primordial, inner-drive to “conquer” the jungle, our expeditions served several other perhaps “higher” purposes. For starters, MAF has been here for years, and to our knowledge no other pilots have ever spent that much time and effort traveling the “old-fashioned” way between villages. As word quickly spread throughout the interior that we were serious in our endeavors and were actually making it alive to the villages, the people came out in droves to greet and congratulate us. Suddenly they seemed to feel a special connection with us, because now we knew the jungle trails.

Often, there's not room on the plane for everyone who wants to go along... we just don't have the time and resources to meet all the needs. That means that we frequently make decisions that result in some folks having to hike for several days as opposed to riding for 10 minutes with MAF. Though we'll still be making those tough decisions, we now have a new understanding of just what that entails, if we have to cancel a flight, or just can't fit everyone onboard. I think the people are more understanding now, knowing that we've also done it the hard way!

Each evening we also had the opportunity to visit for hours with various friends, pastors, and elders in the villages, as we'd sit around the cooking fire drinking syrupy coffee, and munching on everything from jungle deer and wild pork, to river ferns and little fried fish that are eaten whole. As usual, the people were excessively generous, and extremely grateful for our taking the time to stay with them. It was our hope that we would be an encouragement and blessing to them. I know they were to us! After doing a trip like this, there's no doubt about the need for MAF here in the jungles of Kalimantan, Indonesia!

Dave Forney, MAF, May 2008

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Photographs, video clips and fact sheets of the Kodiak Aircraft, Kalimantan and MAF's work there can be obtained on our special Kodiak web site:

www.afd.co.uk/kodiak

AFD Interviews and Further Details:

Contact David Dorricott
Telephone 01624 811730
Email david.dorricott@afd.co.uk

Further information on AFD Group businesses can be found on the following websites:

Friends & Heroes www.friendsandheroes.com and www.friendsandheroes.tv
AFD Software Ltd www.afd.co.uk
Spring Harvest Holidays www.springharvestholidays.com

Further information on MAF

Contact: Hilary Brown
Telephone 01303 850950
Email: hilary.brown@maf-uk.org
Web Site www.maf-uk.org

Further information on the Kodiak 100 Aircraft

Contact: Julie Stone
Telephone 001 912 898 8673
Email: www.questaircraft.com/index.php?filename=quest_press_contact.php
Web Site www.questaircraft.com
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