



British Columbia Aviation Council



**The Glenn L. Martin
Maryland Aviation Museum, Inc.**

**For Immediate Release:
Tuesday, January 23, 2007**

Canadian Aviation Organization and U.S. Aviation Museum Create an Alliance for the Acquisition of Historic Aircraft – The Martin Mars Water Bombers

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Announce the Following:

Middle River, MD January 23, 2007 -- The British Columbia Aviation Council (BCAC), a not for profit organization with charitable status in Canada and the non-profit Glenn L. Martin Maryland Aviation Museum in Middle River, Maryland, USA announce their alliance to acquire both of the Martin Mars Water Bombers currently for sale by the TimberWest Forest Corporation in British Columbia, Canada. The BCAC is dedicated to the safe and orderly development of aviation in British Columbia and the preservation of the Province's aviation history. The Maryland Aviation Museum's scope includes the Glenn L. Martin Company, which built all the Martin Mars flying boats at the Museum's location in Middle River.

The objective of the alliance is to acquire the two aircraft as historical artifacts and heritage attractions by ensuring they are immediately retired from operational service; and one aircraft is acquired by each of the two communities with the primary heritage claims to the aircraft - the City of Port Alberni on Vancouver Island in British Columbia and Middle River, Maryland. The "Mighty Mars" Water Bombers are an integral part of the culture of Port Alberni on Vancouver Island. Many residents, who have grown up seeing them float on Sproat Lake and fly the sky of their community for almost 50 years, will be greatly saddened with their retirement, but eagerly anticipate the opportunity to preserve the Mars in the community for generations to come. Likewise, the Martin Mars is an icon of the community in Middle River, Maryland where the planes were built in the 1940s. Acquiring a Mars will give the Maryland community a significant cultural and historic attraction that will serve as a monument to the workers of the Martin Company and to the community that built the aircraft.

If the communities are unsuccessful in the attempt to acquire the aircraft, there is a major risk of a loss to history and a denial of educational and tourism opportunities for the two communities. These concerns include:

- Leaving the region for a new operating territory.
- Accelerating obsolescence through tightening US and Canadian government aircraft fire-fighting policies, new technology, and new competitors.
- Aircraft deterioration, stranding, damage, or destruction through continued operation.
- While TimberWest's requirement that a buyer retire an aircraft to Port Alberni is honorable, there are circumstances where that outcome would be unlikely. Maryland's chances of ever acquiring a Mars are even slimmer under these situations.
- Management, financial, and operational risks introduced under a new aerial fire-fighting company.

This alliance strengthens both parties and provides mutual support between the British Columbia Aviation Council and the Maryland Aviation Museum for the acquisition, preservation, and exhibition of the two Martin Mars Water Bombers. The acquisition of these aircraft by the two heritage communities would offer both locations the positive impact of a tourist attraction and heritage monument, and would provide an educational resource that will provide measurable benefits far into the future. Long-term collaboration opportunities include historical research, aircraft and

artifact preservation and management, facility and exhibit concepts, display design and exchange, educational programs, and tourism marketing.

Contributions should be sent to the Glenn L. Martin Maryland Aviation Museum, P.O. Box 5024 Middle River, Maryland 21220 – Attention: MARS project. Volunteers should register by calling the Museum. Donated items may be delivered to the Museum from 11am – 3pm, Wednesday – Saturday, or by prior arrangement. The Museum is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, and donations may be tax deductible. For additional information, visit the Museum's web site at <http://www.marylandaviationmuseum.org/> or call 410-682-6122.

A Fundraising campaign in Canada is also being announced, and for those wishing to make contributions to this worthwhile cause, donations will be accepted c/o the British Columbia Aviation Council, 4360 Agar Drive, Richmond BC Canada, V7B 1A3, and made payable to the "McIvor Martin Mars Museum Fund": In-kind support and donations will be coordinated once a Martin Mars Aircraft is committed to the McIvor Martin Mars Museum.

Future volunteers and donations of historical items, including oral histories will be coordinated through Stacey Robins by calling toll free, 1-866-923-1243. The proposed Daniel McIvor Martin Mars Museum in Canada will encapsulate McIvor's work for which he received the Order of Canada and will recognize the close to 50 years the Mars have suppressed fires securing forests, life and property in Canada and the United States.

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Founded in 1990, the Glenn L. Martin Maryland Aviation Museum, a registered nonprofit organization, preserves the history and artifacts of the Martin Company in Middle River Maryland, which was founded by aviation pioneer and aircraft industry legend, Glenn L. Martin, the third American to design, build, and fly his own plane. Martin was the only early pioneer to start and maintain control of his own manufacturing company. He is arguably the primary father of the modern aircraft manufacturing industry in the United States, having employed many of the early aviation pioneers who would go on to start other major aircraft companies. Martin built legendary aircraft such as the B-10 bomber, China Clipper, B-26, P5M Marlin, Mars, B-57 Canberra, 404 airliner, and P6M SeaMaster.

The scope of the Museum's mission and collection includes the rich history of Maryland-wide aviation and space. The Museum also presents at no charge its monthly speaker program at the Lockheed Martin auditorium adjacent to the airport. Development of a new education center and aircraft restoration facility is underway in the Lockheed Martin complex and the Museum is pursuing a new home on or near Martin State Airport.

The British Columbia Aviation Council was founded in 1938 to foster the safe and orderly development of aviation in British Columbia. That mandate has been broadened to include the recording and preservation of British Columbia's aviation history and historical aviation artifacts

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