

Pierce Aircraft Sales Deploys to USS JFK

SAN JOSE, CA – Maybe ‘deploys’ is not entirely accurate. However, Tricia Pierce of Pierce Aircraft Sales *did* get the opportunity to spend time aboard an aircraft carrier at sea.

By special invitation from the US Navy, Ms. Pierce was invited to visit the USS JFK while conducting operations off the east coast. Never one to pass on the opportunity to be up close and personal with F-14s and F-18s, Tricia was quick to pack her bags.

In late October, Tricia made her way to Norfolk, Virginia, to stage for the two-hour C2 Greyhound flight to the carrier. Tricia, with about 18 other VIPs, trapped aboard with a jolt to start her two-day, once-in-a-lifetime experience.

The JFK was stationed off Florida’s coast conducting carrier qualifications for F-14, F-18, EA-6B and other types in the air wing. These flight operations kept the carrier and her 5200 men and women busy 24 hours a day.

Even so, Tricia was able to spend a lot of her time on the flight deck getting a first-hand look at the Navy’s most sophisticated jet fighters being readied for their ‘2-second, zero-to-165 MPH’ catapult shot. The deck crew kept her well out of harms way. However, that didn’t stop her from being overwhelmed by the jet blast.

“My first experience with a ‘cat shot’ and the associated jet blast nearly knocked me off my feet,” exclaimed Ms. Pierce. “You quickly learn to brace yourself and not get blown over. Safety is first and foremost for all the carrier crew, but even more so with the aircraft handlers, cat operators and shooters who work on the flight deck.”

“What impressed me the most was how hard each and every one of the young men and women worked . . . and how much responsibility each had.”

The overall skill of the entire crew was never more apparent than in night operations. States Tricia, “It was awe-inspiring to watch the interaction of the qualifying pilots and the landing signal officer during night ops. Additionally, from our quarters, we were linked to the approach camera and radio transmissions from the LSO. Watching the pilots follow ‘the ball’ to trap the three-wire – at night – was truly exciting!”

To be on deck during retrieval was another thrill for the wide-eyed Ms. Pierce. “Nose high, tail-hook down, engines screaming, hook the wire – then, BAM! – slam to the deck, engines to full power as the plane is coerced to a stop. All happening within 20 feet of me and the deck crew!”

Besides the flight operations, Tricia and her group of VIPs toured the rest of the big boat. Visits to the bridge, situation room, engine room, mess hall, sick bay and below deck aircraft maintenance made for a busy two days.

The trip back to shore for Ms. Pierce included the cat shot of the C2 and a thoughtful ride back to Norfolk.

“Being part of the flight operations aboard the carrier was a very special experience. However, what impressed me the most was how hard each and every one of the young men and women worked, how well-trained they were and how much responsibility each had. It was an honor to share time with these true professionals.”



Special thanks to all these people who helped make this experience possible:

*United States Navy
Capt. Ronald Henderson, Jr.
Capt. Kent Ewing
Lt. John Gay
Chief ‘Fast Eddie’ Moreno
Entire crew of USS JFK CV67*



Back to work . . .

When Ms. Pierce wasn’t overseeing flight ops aboard the USS JFK, she was staying busy with the delivery of airplanes sold during the busy months of October and November.

Tricia elaborates, “Typically a slow season for aircraft sales, we had some very nice airplanes in inventory that didn’t last long once they hit the market. We were

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particularly busy with our usual Beechcraft products with four Bonanzas, a Baron and a Duke being delivered in the last 45 days. We delivered a pristine Piper Navajo Panther to Puerto Rico, as well.”

Always on the look out for those special Bonanzas and Barons to buy or broker, give Pierce Aircraft Sales a call to help you get your aircraft sold in a timely manner. Tricia reminds us, “There are some definite property tax advantages to getting your aircraft sold before January first. Give us a call to discuss the best way to market your aircraft.”

Tricia Pierce can be reached at her office at (408) 258-2999 or by email: tricia@pierceaircraft.com. Be sure to visit the web site: www.pierceaircraft.com.

1990 Beechcraft F33A Bonanza

926 TTSN, King digital with King KFC200 AP and KCS55A HSI, complete logs, no damage history
\$223,500

1975 Beechcraft B60 Duke

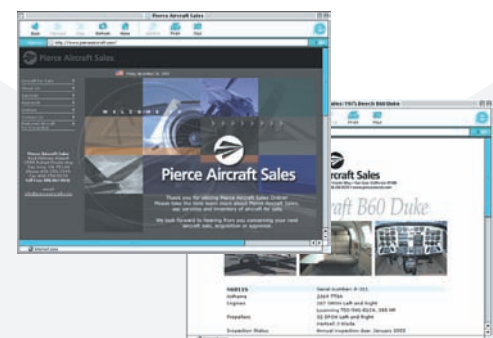
2369 TTSN, 287 SMOH, 32 SPOH, King avionics with Bendix FCS810 AP/FD/HSI/YD, factory air, intercoolers, VGs, known ice, complete logs, beautiful leather interior
\$248,000

1964 Aero Commander 500B

6249 TTSN, 683 SFRM, 273 SNEW props
Dual Garmin 430s, Century III AP with HSI
\$229,000

For complete specifications and photos, additional aircraft for sale or to learn more about Pierce Aircraft Sales, visit us on the Internet:

www.pierceaircraft.com



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