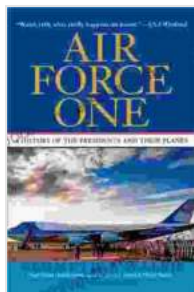


The Presidents and Their Planes: A History of Air Force One and Other Presidential Aircraft

The history of Air Force One, the iconic plane that transports the President of the United States, is a fascinating one. From its humble beginnings as a modified Boeing 707 to its current incarnation as a heavily modified Boeing 747-200B, Air Force One has undergone a remarkable evolution. In this article, we will take a look at the history of Air Force One and other presidential aircraft, exploring the unique features and capabilities of these airborne symbols of American power.



Air Force One: A History of the Presidents and Their

Planes by Kenneth T. Walsh

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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The Early Years

The first presidential aircraft was a Douglas VC-54C Skymaster, which was delivered to the White House in 1943. The Skymaster was a four-engine propeller-driven aircraft that could carry up to 26 passengers. It was used

by President Franklin D. Roosevelt for a number of trips, including his historic flight to Yalta in 1945.

In 1947, the Air Force acquired a modified Boeing C-97 Stratofreighter for use as a presidential transport. The C-97 was a much larger aircraft than the Skymaster, and it could carry up to 100 passengers. It was used by President Harry S. Truman for a number of trips, including his historic flight to Wake Island in 1950.

The Jet Age

In 1959, the Air Force acquired a modified Boeing 707-320B for use as a presidential transport. The 707 was a jet-powered aircraft that could carry up to 150 passengers. It was used by President Dwight D. Eisenhower for a number of trips, including his historic flight to Paris in 1960.

The 707 was a significant upgrade over the C-97, and it provided the President with a much faster and more comfortable way to travel. It also had a number of features that were specifically designed for presidential use, such as a private stateroom and a secure communications system.

Air Force One

In 1962, the term "Air Force One" was officially adopted to refer to any aircraft that is carrying the President of the United States. The first aircraft to be designated as Air Force One was a Boeing 707-320B, which was used by President John F. Kennedy.

The current Air Force One is a heavily modified Boeing 747-200B. It is the largest and most technologically advanced aircraft in the presidential fleet. It has a range of over 7,000 miles and can carry up to 400 passengers. It is

also equipped with a number of state-of-the-art features, such as a missile defense system and a secure communications system.

Other Presidential Aircraft

In addition to Air Force One, the President of the United States also has access to a number of other aircraft, including:

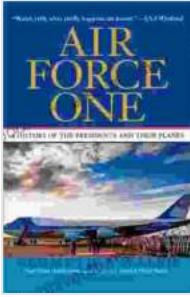
- **Marine One:** A fleet of Sikorsky VH-3D Sea King helicopters that are used to transport the President within the United States.
- **Air Force Two:** A Boeing C-32A that is used to transport the Vice President of the United States.
- **Global Express:** A Bombardier Global Express that is used to transport the Secretary of State of the United States.

The history of Air Force One and other presidential aircraft is a fascinating one. These aircraft have played a vital role in the transportation of the President of the United States for over 75 years. They have been used to transport presidents to meetings with foreign leaders, to disaster areas, and to war zones. They have also been used to evacuate presidents from danger and to provide them with a secure place to work and rest.

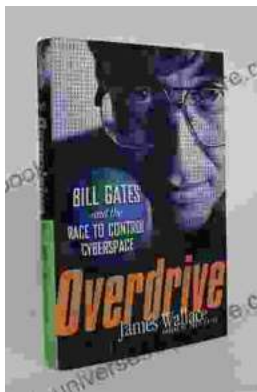
The presidential aircraft of today are state-of-the-art machines that are designed to meet the unique needs of the President of the United States. They are symbols of American power and prestige, and they play a vital role in the functioning of the American government.

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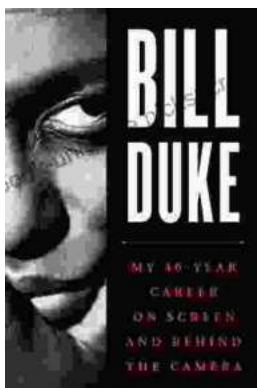


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