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## MEDIA RELEASE

### **\$2.2MILLION DONATION TO SUPPORT EX-RAAF CARIBOU AIRCRAFT**

**MILSPEC Services from Queensland, Australian Agent for FIELD Aviation of Canada,  
donate much needed spares to the Historical Aircraft Restoration Society (HARS)  
based near Wollongong, NSW.**

This **Wednesday 19 June 2013 at 11am**, MILSPEC Services will hand over \$2.2Million  
of "NEW SURPLUS" spare parts to the Historical Aircraft Restoration Society (HARS) at  
**99 Spencer Road, Carrara, Queensland.**

The inventory was originally stockpiled to support the RAAF Caribou Fleet which was  
retired in 2009. Caribou Cargo Pty Ltd facilitated the donation of the spares to HARS in their  
continuing support to help keep the Caribou Flying for many years to come.

"When the Caribou aircraft retired from the RAAF, we contemplated what to do with our stock of  
now obsolete Caribou spares. We had two options, sell to an overseas operator or scrap them. But  
then we thought "No, let's donate them to HARS and assist in keeping an important part of  
Australian aviation history in the air". For many years the Caribou provided strong income for our  
business and it's now time for us to give something back. **Steve Byrne "Director MILSPEC Services"**

"Without spares support, it is difficult to keep any aircraft in the air. With aircraft built in the  
1960/1970's it is even more difficult to find the components needed to ensure they can attend  
events throughout Australia. Deprived of the work of organisations such as HARS, the general  
public would never get to see these priceless pieces of Australia's Aviation History where they  
should be; in **the sky.**" **Paul Strike "Managing Director Caribou Cargo"**

#### **Available for Interview**

#### **HARS**

**Robert De La Hunty "OAM"** – President of HARS  
**Ross Kelly** – QANTAS A380 Captain and  
HARS Volunteer - Super Constellation Pilot

#### **MILSPEC Services**

**Steve Byrne** - Director

#### **Caribou Cargo**

**Paul Strike** - Managing Director and  
HARS Volunteer - Caribou Flight Engineer

## DHC-4 CARIBOU

Retired from 45 years of active service, the Caribou was the mainstay of light transport for the Australian Defence Force. From service in Vietnam to Emergency support in Australia and neighbouring countries, the Caribou was usually the first to arrive and last to leave disaster areas.

Dubbed the ***“Big Green Gravel Truck”***, due to its distinctive twin radial engine *“Growl”*, the Caribou has a service history spanning nearly half a century and holds a special place in the hearts of many Australians.

Despite the retirement of the Caribou, there is no other aircraft available today, capable of performing the same function. For those who Operated, Maintained, travelled in and received support from the Caribou, this aircraft will remain an important part of our military aviation history.

The Caribou has the distinction (?) for being the first (and only) Australian military aircraft to be hi-jacked.

Whether it be operating in the jungles of Vietnam, providing United Nations support in Timor, delivering much needed supplies to Cyclone ravished Fiji and Solomon's, dodging mountainous terrain in Papua New Guinea, dropping paratroopers or hay bales to flood stranded stock in the outback, or simply wowing crowds at air shows with it's amazing short field landings and the ever-popular *“Wheelbarrow”* manoeuvre, the Caribou has been the workhorse of the Nation for almost 50 Years.

At RAAF Base Townsville towards the end of 2009, a farewell party like no other occurred. Vietnam Veterans in their 70's and 80's mixed with 18 and 19 year old members of the Australian Defence Force, all celebrating the same bond - the service of the De Havilland Caribou, a stalwart that has served the Australian public with distinction for almost 50 Years.

## WHAT THESE SPARES MEAN TO THE FUTURE OF THE CARIBOU

The spares donated today are only the tip of the iceberg of the items required to allow the aircraft to continue operation for the years to come. To be sure, these components will assist the work HARS has ahead in keeping the *“Gravel Truck”* in the air, but there remains caches of parts in Australia and around the world that are needed to ensure the longevity of the Caribou.

The search and requests for assistance from government bodies, organizations and individuals will still be needed if our aviation heritage is to be remembered. If you can help, please stand up and join the ranks of those keeping these treasures aloft.



Caribou Crews in Vietnam



Soldiers boarding Caribou



Parachute Training



Getting a hand from PNG Nationals



Fodder Drops during outback floods



Pleasing Crowds at an Air Show



The Famous "Wheelbarrow"

# HARS

[www.hars.org.au](http://www.hars.org.au)

The Historical Aircraft Restoration Society Inc (HARS) is a not-for-profit organisation and was formed in 1979 by a group of aviation enthusiasts interested in the preservation of Australian aviation history.

The HARS Mission Statement strongly expresses their emphasis and direction which is 'To recover, and where possible restore to flying condition, aircraft or types of aircraft that have played a significant part in Australian Aviation History both in the Civil and Military arenas'.

Since 1991, HARS has achieved significant milestones in their endeavours to preserve our aviation heritage. Their record to-date in aircraft restorations alone is there for all to see. It is an impressive record when one considers that it has been achieved solely by volunteers of HARS.

HARS has been financed to-date partly by corporate sponsorship and from the general public and is only able to continue operation of their fleet of Aviation treasures through these sponsorship, donations and the support of organisations such as MILSPEC, Field Aviation, Caribou Cargo, not to mention many others.

Transportation of the spares has been generously donated by Booths Transport.

HARS Caribou performing engine runs at the Albion Park Museum



Crowds enjoying the Caribou at the Avalon Air show.

# **MILSPEC SERVICES**

**[www.milspecservices.com.au](http://www.milspecservices.com.au)**

Formed in 1993, MILSPEC Services has established an excellent reputation for exceptional customer service, quality product and a complete service and support capability for the Department of Defence and Commercial organisations in support of Defence Contracts.

Milspec Services Pty Ltd specialises in Total Logistical Support for the Australian and New Zealand Defence Forces from their main office in Queensland, Australia. Their component overhaul section operates in accordance with ADF Technical Airworthiness Requirements and is working in accordance with Defence Authorised Maintenance Organisation (AMO) procedures.

## **Milspec Services has three primary areas of support:**

### **Procurement**

This established area of business supports Systems Programs Offices throughout the Defence Forces. Each shipment is quality checked in our own dispatch centre by technical personnel to ensure conformance to the Defence purchase order and relevant documentation is enclosed with the goods.

[\[Find out more\]](#)

### **Repair and Overhaul**

This area of business encompasses technical services, repairs, overhauls and modifications to Navy, Army & Airforce systems. Additionally, contract, logistic and project management is an integral part of this division. Each repair venue is OEM approved and offers complete engineering and technical support.

[\[Find out more\]](#)

### **GSE Services**

Australia's first Ground Support Equipment company providing Total Logistics Support from acquisition, training, maintenance, to spares and aftermarket sales support. Milspec Services is proud to expand our business website to cover the ground support equipment through our sister company GSE Services.



# CARIBOU CARGO

[www.cariboucargo.com.au](http://www.cariboucargo.com.au)

Formed by a group of aviation professionals in 2010, who saw opportunities for the Caribou to continue its fine work performing rugged bush flying and Emergency services support with an upgrade of the original design, Caribou Cargo is dedicated to supporting HARS to ensure that this unique aircraft remains able to fly Australia wide to visit aviation and other suitable historical events.



Replacing 1950's technology with modern Turbo Prop power plants, the upgraded "TURBO Caribou will see the "Gravel Truck" serve well into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Caribou Cargo calls upon Government bodies to embrace a proven Emergency Service Asset to continue serving and saving the Australian public.

Caribou Cargo has commenced Project "Peek-A-BOU" where to intent is to gather donations, sponsorship and funding from the general public and any interested groups or businesses to have the Caribou visit events and locations Australia wide so that as many Australians as possible can hear and see the aircraft doing what it does best. More information can be found at

<http://www.cariboucargo.com.au/44/peek-a-bou.html>



**For more information relating to this Media Release, please contact;**

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**WE NEED YOUR HELP TO GET THE MESSAGE OUT AND GENERATE  
MORE SUPPORT FOR OUR AVIATION TREASURES**

This document released by Caribou Cargo Pty Ltd with the approval of HARS and Milspec Services.