

AIR FORCE



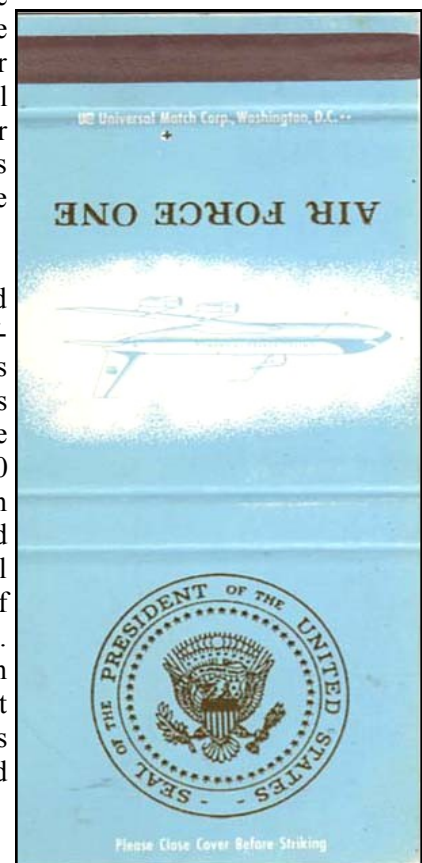
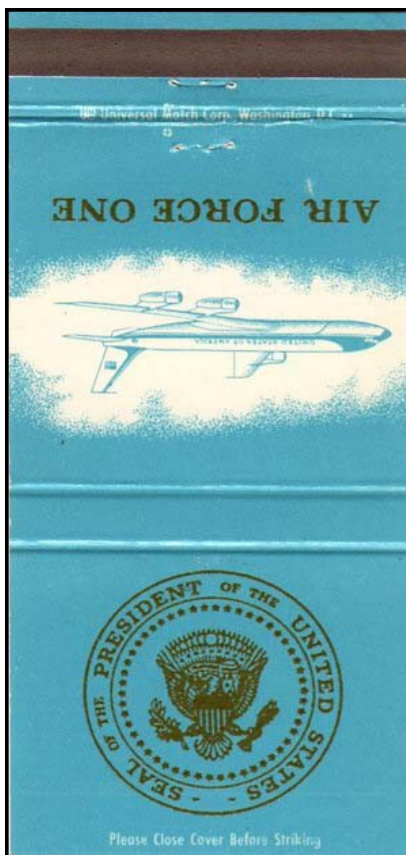
Air Force One is a Boeing 747-200B aircraft that was extensively modified to meet presidential requirements. The original paint scheme was designed at the request of President John F. Kennedy, who wanted the airplane to reflect the spirit of the national character. He also directed that the words "United

States of America" appear prominently on the fuselage, and that the U.S. flag be painted on the vertical stabilizer. Boeing delivered two uniquely modified Boeing 747-200 Air Force One presidential aircraft in 1990. The airplanes replaced the Boeing 707-320 airframe that had served the nation's chief executives for nearly 30 years.

U.S. presidents have flown on Boeing aircraft since 1943, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt flew to Casablanca aboard a Boeing model 314 Clipper. In 1962, U.S. presidents were provided modern jet transportation with the introduction of the Boeing model 707-320B, which was to become known by the radio call sign used when the president is aboard: 'Air Force One.' In all, seven presidents were served by the 707-320B. Today, the chief executive flies aboard a modified 747-200B, the newest and largest presidential airplane. The 747 is ideally suited to support the travel requirements of the president.

The 747s were built at the Boeing Everett, Washington, facility, then flown to the company's Wichita, Kansas, facility for configuration as Air Force One. The aircraft were extensively modified to meet presidential requirements. The flying "Oval Office" has 4,000 square feet of interior floor space, which features a conference/dining room, quarters for the president and the first lady, and an office area for senior staff members. Another office can be converted into a medical facility. There are work and rest areas for the presidential staff, media representatives and Air Force crews; two galleys capable of providing for 50 people.

Lower lobes of the aircraft were modified to accommodate the airplane's self-contained air stairs and interior stairways that lead to the main deck. The lower lobes also feature unique storage to accommodate substantial amounts of food (up to 2,000 meals) and mission-related equipment. In addition, this area contains an automated self-contained cargo loader and additional electronics equipment. About 238 miles of wire wind through the presidential carrier. This is more than twice the wiring found in a typical 747. Wiring is shielded to protect it from electromagnetic pulse, which is generated by a thermonuclear blast and interferes with electronic signals.



ONE

The airplane's mission communications system provides worldwide transmission and reception of normal and secure communications. The equipment includes 85 phones, as well as multi-frequency radios communications. Air Force One provides longer range for presidential travel and can be self-sufficient at airports around the world. Modified for aerial refueling, it has virtually unlimited range.



Up to 70 passengers and 23 crew members can be accommodated, including necessary ground crew required to travel with the plane. The 89th Military Airlift Wing at Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland, is responsible for Air Force One, which is housed in a 140,000-square-foot maintenance and support complex at Andrews AFB.

Presidential air transport began in 1944 when a C-54 Skymaster -- the "Sacred Cow" -- was put into service for President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Then came the "Independence," a DC-6 Liftmaster, which transported President Harry S. Truman during the period 1947 to 1953. President Dwight D. Eisenhower traveled aboard the "Columbine II" and "Columbine III" from 1953 to 1961. A 1953 incident where Eisenhower's aircraft was "Air Force 8610" and an Eastern Airlines plane was "8610" created the need to devise a unique call sign. The call sign "Air Force One" was classified during the '50s to identify not only the president's plane, but when he was aboard. In September 1961, it became popular when it identified President Kennedy flying aboard his C-118.

In 1962, a C-137C specifically purchased for use as Air Force One, entered into service with the tail number 26000. It is perhaps the most widely known and most historically significant

presidential aircraft. Tail number 26000 is the aircraft that carried President Kennedy to Dallas, in 1963, and returned the body to Washington, D.C.. Lyndon B. Johnson was sworn into office as the 36th president on board the aircraft at Love Field in Dallas. This fateful aircraft also was used to return President Johnson's body to Texas following his state funeral Jan. 24, 1973. In 1972, President Nixon made historic visits aboard 26000 to China in February and to the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in May.

The first VC-25A, tail # 28000, flew as "Air Force One" on Sept. 6, 1990, as it transported President George Bush to KS, FL, and back to Wash., D.C. A second VC-25A, tail # 29000 transported President Clinton and former Presidents Carter and Bush to Israel for the funeral of Prime Minister Rabin. The VC-25A also ushered presidential travel into the 2000's, upholding the tradition and distinction of being known as "Air Force One."

