

Flight 97 Restaurant

I've been in restaurants in cellars, restaurants in caves, and restaurants atop towers. When I was stationed in West Germany, I even went to a small restaurant in Bad Durkheim which was inside the largest wine barrel in the world. But, I've never been in a restaurant in an airplane!

The C-97 Stratofreighter is a long range heavy military cargo aircraft based on the B-29 bomber. C-97 aircraft served in the Berlin Airlift and in the Korean and Vietnam wars. All C-97 and KC-97 aircraft were retired by 1978. The C-97 could carry cargo, 96 troops, or 69 stretchers or a combination of all three.

Our particular aircraft here entered service in 1955 and ended its USAF mission serving with the Utah Air National Guard. This aircraft was sold as surplus on 15 November 1983 for \$8,500. Following its military career, this aircraft was converted to "The Flight 97 Restaurant" in McMinnville Oregon (if you look closely at the tail you can still make out a hamburger that was painted it). Also, if you look at the upper fuselage one can still see where the word RESTAURANT was once painted and then removed.

[From a 1986 review] "Opened in February 1986, the 126-seat fast-food restaurant and gift shop is becoming a regular stop for local families, senior citizens and travelers, including bus loads of children on field trips and tourists. Parked at McMinnville's airport with its bulbous nose facing Highway 18, the 33-year-old Boeing KC-97 aircraft attracts more attention than any billboard ever could."

Ah, but it didn't last, however, and the aircraft was eventually acquired by Hawkins and Powers of Greybull, Wyoming, where it sat for many years until the Minnesota Air Guard Museum received it in a one for one trade with a C-123 aircraft the museum owned.

On 3 November 2000, this aircraft made a onetime flight from Greybull, Wyoming, to where it now resides here at the Air Guard Museum. One C-97 aircraft is still flyable, S/N 52/2718, named "Angel of Deliverance" it is operated as a privately owned warbird with the Berlin Airlift Historical Foundation as a flying museum.

"Now Boarding"
Tuesday - Sunday

WHEEL GRAPHICS, McMINNVILLE, OREGON

Restaurant & Gift Shop

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EXPERIENCE

Eat in our KC-97 Air Force Plane, or enjoy the wonderful view from our modern convenient restaurant!

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"Welcome Aboard!"
FLIGHT 97
Restaurant
Hwy. 18
McMinnville, Oregon

BE SAFE, CLOSE COVER BEFORE STRIKING

