

# Transportation Times

Potomac Airfield, Md.

May 12, 2010

Free

## Ardmore's Amazing Journey

By Amina Rauf  
Ardmore Elementary School

Ardmore Elementary School went to Potomac Airfield May 12, 2010, for Transportation Day. We learned about the Buffalo Soldiers and the Negro Indian Scouts. We visited the Metropolitan Police and U.S. Park Police helicopters. They explained how the helicopters are used.

We saw lots of aircraft and some trucks! The first airplane we saw was an amateur experimental airplane, which is certified to fly in the clouds. These are some facts about that airplane:

- Maximum speed: 167 mph
- Slowest speed: 49 mph
- Engine: Lycoming 0320 150 HP
- Fuel: 8 gal ph
- Empty weight: 1,880 lbs
- Baggage capacity: 250 lbs

We also saw the Black Hawk helicopter. It was great! The pilot explained that students need to stay in school and study very hard, especially math and science. It helped him when he went to school to become a pilot. His helicopter transports important dignitaries, Pentagon and White house employees and soldiers during war.

Our class visited the FAA Emergency Operations Support Team truck. They track hurricanes, tornados and even volcano activity. The truck was very small but only

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Photo by: Chloe Frampton, Ross

*These students from John W. Ross Elementary School in Washington, D.C., were among 9,000 people who attended the 14th Garrett A. Morgan National Transportation Week at Potomac Airfield in Maryland. "We filled the house with the Dream Big theme, lots of joyful noise, and awesome hands-on learning opportunities from shooting rockets, young people flying their aircraft, stepping, singing and showcasing their poster artwork celebrating 'One Nation on the Move/Groove,'" said event chairperson Dr. Belinda Bender, who is also a Federal Aviation Administration employee.*

## Barnard Students Visit Potomac Airfield

By Idres Rajah, 4th Grade  
Barnard Elementary School

Some of the third and fourth grade students from Barnard Elementary School had the opportunity to visit Potomac Airfield during Transportation Week. During our visit we got to learn so much. Our tour guide was Mr. Brown, who is also a part of the Army.

The airplanes, helicopters, police on horses, and tables filled with giveaways spread across the large air field. It was amazing! I could see the excitement on the faces of my classmates as we got off the big yellow bus that transported us here. Yes, all

of those aircraft used for transportation were right in front of us. Some of us had never been to an airfield and had not experienced being on an aircraft.

All of that changed very quickly. We got a chance to get in the Cessna Skymaster. It is a two-passenger plane. The inside is very small. Its owner is Mr. Alfomsas Diaz Del Castillo. He became the owner because as a child he was interested in planes. I've always been interested in planes, too.

We moved from one plane to another one. The Black

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Photo by: Elizabeth Lozano, Barnard

*A U.S. Navy Color Guard kicks off National Transportation Week.*



Photos by: Sydnee Minor, Highland Park Christian Academy

Students arrived by 9:30 a.m. May 12 and began touring National Transportation Week static displays. The U.S. Navy's Ceremonial Honor Guard kicked off the opening ceremonies shortly after 10 a.m., and a local elementary school student sang the national anthem after the Pledge of Allegiance. The Navy drill team, which performs for the President, shows precise skills and extraordinary discipline needed to make precision showmanship in the Nation's drill team. The team also served as outstanding role models for the young people in attendance and may act as guest judges during the Junior ROTC drill team competition among the local high schools.

# Special Thanks

**To all the volunteers from the Metropolitan D.C. public service agencies who dedicated their time planning and hosting this event. Additional gratitude to Potomac Airfield Manager David Wartofsky for his support 14 years in a row in ensuring a fun and safe environment to host this transportation showcase!**

## About this newsletter

Content for Transportation Times was provided by select student reporters and photographers from participating schools. They were reviewed by faculty advisors prior to submission to the production team led by event volunteers Karleen Hagan and Anthony Chu.



Photo by: Elizabeth Lozano, Barnard

## 21st Century Buffalo Soldiers

By Jimmy A. Cabrera Cruz,  
3rd Grade  
Barnard Elementary School

They looked like they had been transported from a distant time in the past to this century. Native Americans called them Wild and Crazy Buffalo Soldiers because of their dark skin and their wooly hair. Later people just started calling them Buffalo Soldiers. Officer S. Crawford stood tall and spoke with pride while he told the story of the Buffalo Soldiers in the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> units. He also spoke about the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Horse Calvary.

These real Buffalo soldiers served from 1866 to 1944. Mr. Crawford belonged to the Washington, D.C. Chapter of the national 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Calvary Association that started in 1993. Mr. Crawford said their mission is to keep the memory of the Buffalo

Soldiers who had died and the history of their great accomplishments alive. These soldiers were very brave.

The Buffalo Soldiers were responsible for protecting peaceful Native Americans. After the civil war Congress gave permission to form the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Calvary and the 38<sup>th</sup>, 39<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiments. All of them were black peacetime units. Later on they put all of them together into just two. These were the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> infantries. All of the soldiers in these infantries used to be slaves.

The very first soldiers to serve in peaceful times in the whole United States were the Buffalo Soldiers. They helped in other wars, too. The soldiers served in the Spanish American War, the Philippine Insurrection, the Mexican Expedition, World War I, World War II

## Barnard Students Visit Potomac

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Hawk is a huge helicopter used in the Army. It can carry injured soldiers from the battlefield. The engine of the Black Hawk is a turbine. The turbine helps the rotors to keep spinning.

I was shocked to see that the Black Hawk was so huge. I thought it would be the size of a police helicopter. Lots of children raced to get on it. Students from different schools raced around the field. There was so much to see.

There were many other planes, and there were display booths, too. Seeing the Buffalo Soldiers was very exciting because my class is learning about them. I listened to every word Mr. Crawford spoke. This was my history.

We also got to see a real Tuskegee Airman. He was Mr. William E. Broadwater. He spoke from the stage during the opening ceremony.

The opening ceremony began with the Color Guard and the Honor Guard Drill Team performed.

Since I had a press pass, I could interview anyone and I did. First, I interviewed Mr. Cameron Moody. He is the director of the Administration Executive Office of the President of the United States of America. Mr. Moody told everyone how he overcame his fear of math to become an engineer. I gave him a strong hand shake. The mayor of Barnard, Elizabeth Lozano, greeted Mr. Moody and told him about our Micro Society. Mr. Moody said that he had never met a mayor of a school before.

The last person I interviewed was Mr. David Wartofsky. He is the owner of the Potomac Airfield.

I am so glad that we have different ways to get around. Just think how the rescue ambulances, helicopters, boats, and airplanes help so many people. Transportation brings people together. We boarded our big yellow bus to go back to Barnard ES. It had been a wonderful experience. All I could think about was coming back again.



*The Buffalo Soldiers Display.*

Photo by: Chloe Frampton, Ross

and the Korean Police Action.

While Mr. Crawford told the history of the soldiers, he showed the different artifacts and weapons they used in the war and the trumpet. They used the trumpet to communicate with other troops. He didn't have a

horse with him, but he did have a saddle to remember how they traveled from one place to another.

The story of the Buffalo Soldier has traveled through time and if these men keep telling the story, it will keep traveling.

## Flying High!

By Annissa Raymond,  
3rd Grade  
Barnard Elementary School

Potomac Airfield was filled with excitement as students from the Metropolitan schools made their way to the different aircraft. The week of May 12th is National Transportation Week. Busloads of students were greeted by their own tour guide, who took them on a tour to look at the different air craft. There were so many different ones! For example, there was the Air Force, Army, the Cessna Skymaster, the Black Hawk and the U.S. Park Police.

The students seemed like they were really interested in the Black Hawk. This is an Army helicopter. The Black Hawk pilot's name is Officer C.W Steward. The engineer is Kernel Birriel. This helicopter is awesome! It can lift up to 8,000 pounds. It has a gun on both sides of the windows. This helicopter is named after a Native American tribe.

The next helicopter had a very large orange basket on the side and it attracted a big crowd. The U.S. Park Police covers the parkways. It goes on police and rescue missions. Park Police rescue people from fires and other accidents that are really serious. They have saved many lives.

When people think of different kinds of transportation, they think of the ones they use everyday, like cars, buses, and trains.



*Barnard students had the opportunity to tour various aircraft, including the Cessna Skymaster (top) and the U.S. Army's Black Hawk helicopter (bottom). At each display, experts describe the background and capabilities of the aircraft and provide hands-on demonstrations of some flight controls.*

Photos by: Elizabeth Lozano, Barnard

These kinds of transportation take us to places we want to go. For example, metro trains and buses can take us to the shopping malls, to work, and to school. If you have to travel far away and get there fast, take an airplane. There are so many ways to travel and different

reasons to travel. The kinds of transportation we use are also special-made for emergencies, too.

The different kinds of transportation make it possible for us to explore different places and help many people. Policemen on horses, ambulances

are great to use to help protect and get people the help they need, but flying high in helicopters and planes are fast. They cut down on time. So when you see these emergency helicopters and planes remember that they are flying high to save lives.



Photos by: Elizabeth Lozano, Barnard

## Barnard Elementary Students Enjoy Day at Potomac Airfield

Students from Barnard Elementary School in Northwest D.C. spent a warm Wednesday afternoon on May 12 at a local airfield to learn about transportation. Among the people they met are (clockwise from top): Mcgruff the Crime Dog, David Wartofsky, Potomac Airfield Manager, (shown with Barnard fourth-grader and student reporter Idres Rajah), Tuskegee airmen, Buffalo Soldiers, and current aviators. Barnard students also performed a transportation rap during the opening ceremony of National Transportation Week.





Photo by: Ardmore

Students from Ardmore Elementary School in Springdale, Md., learn about how transportation contributes to daily life by touring aircraft and talking with representatives from various military branches, the Department of Transportation, and local public service agencies.

## Ardmore's Amazing Journey

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supports a small number of employees. We left and visited the Prince George's County Police Department K-9 unit. Their department has 22 dogs. The dogs retire between 8 and 10 years old. The dogs can run up to 25 mph. They have hound, ground, and patrol dogs.

We visited the Metro bus. The bus fare is \$1.75. They can hold wheelchairs and bicycles. The capacity of the bus is 35 people.

Our class visited the Air Force, Fire Department, WSSC and GT Aviation booths. They gave away pencils, key chains and information about their companies.

After leaving the booths, we sat in front of the stage and watched as different schools performed for the audience. We had important dignitaries from transportation to speak to the students. They explained how they started with the Department of Transportation.

It was extremely hot! We had a little breeze but were not enough to keep us cool. The FAA had a booth set up for people who became overheated. One student passed out at the event. We hope she was okay.

Overall, we had a fabulous time. Transportation day was awesome! We can't wait to visit next year.

## Student: "Everything Looked Like It Were Going in Circles!"

By Donovan Toatley  
Ardmore Elementary School

When I was the Potomac Airfield on May 12, 2010, I saw a helicopter take off. As it was taking off, I thought it was so cool! Everything looked like it were going in circles. I also saw an airplane that was built in Iowa and flew at a very high speed.

I had an opportunity to see some real-life Buffalo soldiers at Potomac Airfield. After listening to them speak, I went to sit in a presidential airplane. The interior of the plane looked like it had twenty seats on each side.

After leaving the plane, we went to another helicopter, but this one looked like a bug. It

## My Report on NTW Field Trip

By Brianna Beck  
Ardmore Elementary School

At FAA's National Transportation Week, many planes and helicopters took off. Some of their names were the U.S. Police helicopter and the N9233F helicopter. I was not able to get the name of the aircraft that had a young 19-year old man flying it, but this pilot started flying at the age of 15....WOW!

There was a helicopter named Eagle 4, and this one was probably my favorite. Why? Well, the helmet of the pilot had night vision, the aircraft can fly backward, and it was worth \$250,000. Cha-ching!

They didn't just have helicopters, they had much

more, like the Metro bus. Everyone wanted to sit in the back of the bus. We got to see a truck from 1973; it was an Auto Car.

During the performances, a girl fainted, and it was quite shocking, as that has never happened before.

There was another type of transportation I'm sure everyone knows: dogs.

Well, the two dogs we saw were police dogs, and the police said the dogs retire between the ages of eight and ten. These four-year-old dogs were very cute and are able to track down bombs.

That's my report on FAA's National Transportation Week!



Photo by: Ardmore

can fly up to 20,000 feet high and it travels 150 miles per hour.

There were many other interesting forms of transportation, but the one I liked most was the purple, shiny dump truck with a brown leather interior.

Lastly, I saw police cars with K-9. These hyper

dogs' names were Jake and Rocco. I learned that the average police dog retires at the age of 8-10 years old.

The Potomac Airfield field trip is a great learning adventure, and I look forward to next year's annual event.

## Flashback of Elementary Days

By Tasha Bolden  
NTW Volunteer

When the Garrett A. Morgan Air Show event was held in 1996, I was a sixth grader at Rose Valley Elementary School.

From what I understand, it was the first year that anything like this was held, but from what I can remember it was awesome! Since Rose Valley was within walking distance to the airfield, the whole school was shut down for the day and about 500 students made the ten-minute trek.

When I stepped onto the field I remember seeing colorful exhibits, planes, military personnel, and even a helicopter! This was the first time that most kids my age were ever near an actual aircraft, so everyone was a little overwhelmed.

We were allowed to talk to pilots and they were more than happy to tell us their experiences while flying. We were also allowed to go to as many exhibits as we wanted in order to get a real feel for the program.

Before that day I knew nothing about the FAA or even about planes for that matter, however, now I can look back (while working for FAA) and say that that experience definitely stuck with me.

I'm not sure if that is what prompted me to come to the organization, but here I am 14 years later and LOVING IT!

*Tasha Bolden now works with the FAA's Air Traffic Organization in the Office of Finance Administration.*

## My Adventure

By Alazar Lemma, 2nd Grade  
Ross Elementary School

This week I went on an exciting field trip to the Potomac Airfield!

First, I saw weapons, can- teens, and a sword from the Buffalo Soldiers. I thought the sword was real. It was called a wrist breaker! Then, some gentlemen told us about some GPS system and we got inside!

Next, I was getting a bag and pictures from the secret service. The President's car was a limo. I saw a Japanese plane with a propeller. Then, a gentleman told us about a plane with a big engine.

The helicopter I saw was the same copy as my toy helicopter! As I wait in line for my turn to go inside, I saw a small helicopter take off and finally I got into the cockpit of the helicopter. Then I went into a firefighter's truck and it had a gas tank.

After that we went to the air show. The senator of Maryland was there at the Army base and I think she had planned some surprises. Then, the Navy was doing a demonstration with rifles and it was awesome!

My school was showing our posters with several other schools.

Finally, I took a drink of water and it was so nippy! Then, we went to lots of booths where we got lots of small things. One booth was like this okay, you got a pencil then you got to pick a toy!



Photos by: Chloe Frampton, Ross

Last, I saw a Lilliputian helicopter and it could take pictures and videos for movies. THE END!

*Ross students toured, from top, the FAA's Emergency Operations mobile communications team vehicle, a presidential limousine and a fire truck from Prince George's County.*



Photo by: McKinley Tech

## National Transportation Week at Potomac: Better than Ever in its 14th Year

Each year, the U.S. sets aside a week to highlight the importance of transportation and honor those who work in it. National Transportation Week is an opportunity to showcase the many contributions that the transportation systems make to the economic well being, quality of life, national security, and to emphasize the exciting career opportunities within the transportation industry.

Over the years, the range and intensity of the Garrett A. Morgan Technology and Transportation Futures Program activities has grown substantially, which is impressive considering that virtually all of the work that has gone into organizing this event has been done by volunteers. That is fitting, since NTW started as a volunteer effort.

The event has been held at

Potomac Airfield since 1998 starting with only 350 students. Last year, more than 8,800 students attended.

The Department of Transportation collaborates with its aviation, military, security, and transportation partners, and link the importance of transportation in preparing our work force and future leaders for a career in transportation.

These assets were represented among the static displays, performers, crew members, and volunteers:

- Over 120 crew members
- 5 pilots from American Airlines (Allied Pilots Association)
- Army National Guard OH-58 Kiowa crew
- U.S. Army UH-1 Iroquois
- U.S. Army UH-60 Black Hawk
- Park Police Bell 414
- PG County Police NOTAR
- Local Fire Departments
- FAA Air Bear
- PG Police Canine Unit
- PG Police Motorcade Unit
- DCPD Harbor Patrol
- DCPD Aviation Unit
- DCPD Motorcycle
- PGCC Mounted Unit
- Roadway Express

In addition to homeschoolers from Maryland and Virginia, students from these schools participated in the Transportation Day:

**From District of Columbia:**  
 Ballou High  
 Barnard Elementary  
 Brookland Elementary  
 Bruce Monroe Elementary  
 Daughters of Destiny  
 Hyland Park Elementary  
 JO Wilson Elementary  
 McKinley Tech High  
 Potomac High  
 TranTech Cardoza High  
 William Powell Elementary

**From Maryland:**  
 Accokeek Academy  
 Apple Grove Elementary  
 Ardmore Elementary  
 Barnaby Manor Elementary  
 Bishop McNamara High  
 John F. Kennedy High  
 Friendly High  
 Ft. Washington Forest Elementary  
 Fort Foote Elementary  
 J Frank Dent Elementary  
 Oxon Hill High  
 Oxon Hill Elementary  
 Patterson High  
 Rose Valley Elementary

**From Virginia:**  
 Edlin Middle School  
 William Ramsey Elementary



Photos by: McKinley Tech



*An estimated 9,000 students from local schools attended the National Transportation Week event at Potomac Airfield on May 12. This team from McKinley Technical High School in Washington, D.C., were part of a team who volunteered to cover the event as student reporters for this issue of Transportation Times.*