



Condor Squadron

Officers' and Airmen's Association, Inc.
(a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation)

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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - OCTOBER 27, 2018

On Tuesday Oct 23, 2018, one of our North American AT-6/SNJ aircraft was involved in an emergency forced landing on the 101 Freeway following an engine failure. There were no injuries or damage to private property other than the loss of the airplane itself.

The Condor Squadron would like to sincerely apologize any inconvenience suffered by commuters as a result of the accident. We absolutely understand the frustration and inconvenience that this has caused many of our fellow Southern California residents.

As an all-volunteer organization, we have been dealing with the safety related and time sensitive issues first. We are just now able to address some of the questions and comments brought up by the public. We appreciate everyones patience and understanding.

The incident occurred with a very qualified professional pilot with many thousands of hours of experience. It is his skill that avoided a much more catastrophic outcome.

AT-6s were produced between 1935 and the late 1950s. Regardless of a planes age, all US registered airplanes are required to be maintained in accordance with the FAA regulations. The Condor Squadron maintains all of our planes in accordance with all manufacturer specifications, FAA-established regulations, maintenance procedures and techniques, and industry best practices.

The accident aircraft was given it's airworthiness certificate in 1958. It has been extensively rebuilt over the years, with components continually replaced, refurbished, and overhauled. The engine that failed was installed in 2011 and had less than 700 hours since it was replaced. In the interest of constantly improving aviation safety, the NTSB is currently investigating the cause of the failure.

The AT-6 has been used many times to simulate other aircraft such as the Japanese Zero and the German FW 190. The Condor Squadron planes were used in airshows with dog fight re-enactments. Some of our AT-6 planes were painted to simulate the FW 190. Since we seldom engage in this type of air show anymore, we have been repainting the planes as financial resources become available. We will always put maintenance, safety and complying with government regulations above changing the paint scheme.

The Condor Squadron is a nonprofit organization founded by World War II fighter pilots and dedicated to preserving and honoring America's Military aviation history. We proudly maintain and fly these aircraft in formation over parades, memorial services, and events commemorating veterans. We look forward to serving our community for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Chris Rushing
President, Condor Squadron
USAF CAANG (Retired)

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