

**American Airpower Museum at Republic Airport
names Jim Vocell
vice president and director of operations
Move underscores commitment to integrated hangar development**



Jeff Clyman, president and executive director of the American Airpower Museum at Republic Airport, Farmingdale, New York, has announced that Jim Vocell has been appointed its Vice President and Director of Operations, underscoring the museum's commitment to sustained growth, innovative presentations, new, energy efficient hangar facilities, and a compelling flight program.

Clyman stated, "Jim is one of the key individuals who has created a safe, professional and dedicated flight department at the American Airpower Museum. Over the years his role has ensured that we are able to maintain our mission of consistently putting our vintage fighters, bombers and transport planes into the air. He is now being asked to assume a far greater role, one that will direct the future expansion of our facility, manage the volunteer force that drives our museum and chart the innovation that allows us to be a unique and powerful destination."

A Civil Air Patrol (CAP) cadet who was promoted to lead his Massachusetts group while still a young teen, Vocell soloed at 16 and gained his pilot's license by 17. He became the first cadet to attend the CAP Jet Orientation Course from Massachusetts and promptly flew a two seat T-33 jet fighter-trainer. He joined the US Army where he became a flight crew engineer and was selected to crew the aircraft flown by the Commanding General of the 82nd Airborne.

Following his honorable discharge from military service he served as an assistant airport general manager and a chief corporate pilot for a manufacturing company. He subsequently became head of flight operations and FAA check pilot for a commuter airline. Later, after selling his own airplane charter company to a regional carrier Vocell was hired by Allegheny Airlines, which became US Air. Prior to his retirement from US Air he piloted 757's and 767's, served as Assistant Chief Pilot and Check Airman, reviewing the performance of other US Air pilots and was part of the team overseeing construction of US Air facilities in Philadelphia.

Throughout his professional career Vocell has been involved in the maintenance and flight operations of vintage World War II aircraft including B-17 bombers and PB4Y patrol aircraft. Today he flies the museum's B-25, C-47, Corsair, P-40 and P-47 Thunderbolt. He also manages the museum's C-47 "D-Day flight experience" program, the return to flight of the museum's PB4Y, and oversees the museum's overall flight operations.

"I am delighted and honored to accept this position," stated Vocell. "There is no other aviation museum in the nation that flies its World War II aircraft from the very hangars and runways where many of them served operationally over half a century ago. We recognize that every time we put a fighter or bomber in the air we are entrusted with a piece of America's heritage. But we are much more than aircraft operations. We are being challenged to create a new, energy efficient facility that will showcase our exhibits, displays and tributes. I welcome that task with the same enthusiasm I have for flight safety and aircraft presentation."

Vocell will report to a museum board that includes Mr. Clyman, Jacky Clyman, Gary Lewi, Katuria D'Amato, Esq., Major Scott Clyman (USAFR) and Cooke Rand, Esq. Vocell's mandate is to improve and integrate many aspects of museum operation with key focus on managing the creation of new hangar facilities that best present the exhibits, displays and aircraft collection that have won international recognition.

The museum is located at 1230 New Highway, south of Conklin Highway, Farmingdale and is open year around, from Thursday through Sunday, 10:30 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. Flight operations are scheduled throughout the year with special emphasis on Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day and anniversaries that mark important dates in American history such as D-Day, V-J Day and December 7th. Donations are requested and group rates are available. Its web site is www.americanairpowermuseum.com