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## IMMF \*\*\* MIDWAY SENTINEL \*\*\* IMMF SPRING 2021

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"DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF THE BATTLE OF MIDWAY"

# FLASH: UNITED AIRLINES AIRCRAFT EMERGENCY CALL TO MIDWAY GOES UNANSWERED

For those persons not in the know, the Midway Atoll serves as an emergency alternate landing site for airline flights across the Pacific Ocean. On April 16, 2021 at 9:28 A.M. Central time, Fergus Flanagan Manager Dispatch Operates in Chicago reported that: "Guys, We have a situation at Midway. We have landed but cannot contact a soul at the airport. "URGENT," can we get someone to respond."

On April 16, United Airlines 2781, a Boeing 787 landed on Midway at 2:47 a.m. Midway time due to smoke in the cockpit. There were three crew members but no passengers. The aircraft had flown from Guam when it detected smoke in the cockpit and headed for Midway. The crew apparently tried to reach Midway nearly 50 times by 2-way radio satellite phone and email in the emergency. When no one answered their emergency calls, the landing strip lights were turned on from the plane and it landed. After landing and after 2.5 hours, they still had no contact with anyone on Midway. During this time the Airport

Manager was not responding. Finally, after that time a member of Chugach Alaska Corporation Inc. stationed at Midway arrived at the airport.

On Saturday, April 17 United Airlines had sent a aircraft from Honolulu to Midway which performed repairs and maintenance checks. There is no report yet on what caused the smoke. The maintenance aircraft then departed to return to Honolulu. The Boeing 787 was then scheduled to depart Midway in about 11 hours. The Hawaii local TV newscasts reported the incident but did not report the Midway's lack of response to the aircraft's emergency calls nor the plane's crew not being able to make contact with anyone on Sand Island for over 2.5 hours.

Nor was there any mention of the fact that there were no emergency services provided when the plane landed because the overtime rules for payment were changed so that no employee can earn overtime, even if it's a night time emergency. One important note on this incident, and that is, if anyone had died in the incident, some people on Midway would be going to jail.

#### IMMF SENDS ITS CRITIQUE OF PND CORPORATION MINUTES TO USFWS

IMMF's William Dudley, Ph.D, (former Director of the Naval Historical Center) Captain James Noone, USNR (Ret.) (IMMF's Legal Counsel), myself, Dr. Jared Underwood, Superintendent of the Papahanaumokuakea National Monument, Midway Wildlife Manager Pam Repp held a telephone conference in February 2021. The main topic of discussion was USFWS' Grand Plan which is being developed by the PND Corporation. Dr. Underwood had requested that PND send their minutes of their prior conferences held in the months of January, February and March to us. In response, the IMMF sent the FWS a critique of the minutes, stressing the fact that only the private sector would be able to support financially real public visitation and preserve the history and structures now on Midway for future generations to learn and appreciate. Government control of Midway is not a viable alternative as evidenced by the lack of real visitation on Midway since Midway Phoenix Corporation left in 2002. The IMMF awaits their response.

### PEARL HARBOR DECLASSIED: THE EVIDENCE OF AMERICAN FOREKNOWLEDGE OF THE ATTACK

The editing of the manuscript has now been completed by McFarland Publishing. No essential changes were recommended. The manuscript now has been sent to the press. Upon its completion, I will be asked to complete the index of the manuscript. The tentative date of the book's release is July 16, 2021. Stay tuned.

#### RECOVERY OF GLENN MILLER"S AIRCRAFT

The first meeting between Dan Kennedy and I on the Glenn Miller project took place on Thursday March 12. We regrouped and outlined a strategy to raise money for the project by holding another Glenn Miller Jazz funding raising concert and obtaining the Medal of Freedom for Major Glenn Miller. The resumption of activities is in its earliest stages.

Chris and I wish you a very happy summer!

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