

Comment Section

China Airlines “Escort” to Fight Outbreak Prevention and Control

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The Gengzi Spring Festival, the epidemic spread, the whole country made the same effort, united in their efforts, and Miaoli moved forward. In the novel coronavirus epidemic prevention and control issues at the beginning of 2020, the aviation people took up the great trust of the Motherland and the people without hesitation, transported medical personnel, and important materials from all over the country and even from all over the world for Wuhan. They opened up the way for the stranded homeless overseas compatriots to go home, provided hard nuclear protection to prevent citizens from going out at will and strengthen the epidemic propaganda, gave full play to the efficiency, convenience and safety of China Airlines in the major emergency prevention and control of the country, demonstrated aviation wisdom as well as the aviation responsibility.

Military aviation did not disgrace its mission and took the lead in becoming the first “aviation retrograde” to fight against the epidemic. On January 24, the night of the New Year’s Eve, when thousands of lights were on, the joint logistics support forces completed the emergency delivery of 450 military medical personnel and accompanying materials into Hubei in three directions of Xi’an, Shanghai, and Chongqing in only eight hours, placing a strong “reassurance” for Wuhan in the first time. On February 2, eight air force transport planes carried 795 medical personnel from Nanjing, Guangzhou, Lanzhou, and Shenyang to Wuhan, setting a record for the PLA’s air-jet transport force to use the most transport capacity since its establishment. In peacetime, military transport planes have changed their usual “combat image” and become one of the most flexible and critical means of transportation in emergency rescue and disaster relief, playing an irreplaceable role in fighting the epidemic.

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Public aviation was racing against time and doing its best to deliver professional medical care, prevention, and control personnel and various materials to the frontline with the fastest speed and the highest efficiency. On January 24, after receiving an order from the Civil Aviation Administration, China Eastern Airlines urgently coordinated a Boeing 737-800 plane and its crew to execute flight MU500, carrying 136 medical personnel and 4,690 kilograms of medical equipment and medicines to rescue Wuhan. At the same time, China Southern CZ5241 charter flight took 128 Guangdong medical personnel, 3415 kilograms of luggage, and medical items to the forefront of the fight against the "virus war." On February 2, the Civil Aviation Administration organized China Eastern Airlines, China Southern Airlines, Sichuan Airlines, Mountain Airlines, and Huaxia Airlines to arrange charter flights to ensure that medical teams from Shenyang, Xi 'an and Chongqing arrived in Wuhan as soon as possible. In addition to transporting medical teams and emergency supplies for Wuhan and other disaster-stricken areas, public aviation has also taken the initiative to bring home citizens from Hubei, especially Wuhan, who are stranded overseas. On January 31, two Boeing 737-800 charter flights of Xiamen Airlines took off from Xiamen Gaoqi International Airport to Bangkok, Thailand, and Bavaria, Malaysia, to take Hubei passengers back to their hometowns. At 2: 15 a.m. on February 1, Chunqiu Airlines flight 9C6152 took off from Tokyo's Haneda Airport, carrying 111 Hubei nationals who voluntarily returned home and landed at Wuhan Tianhe International Airport at 6 a.m.; As of February 12, 1,185 stranded overseas passengers had been picked up by public airlines, effectively easing the current situation of Wuhan compatriots who are adrift and have no place to rely on. In addition, the Civil Aviation Administration, considering that travelers may be infected with the epidemic on the way, requires airlines to implement a free refund and re-sign system for passengers who have purchased tickets on Wuhan flights. Air China, China Eastern Airlines, China Southern Airlines, Hainan Airlines, Sichuan Airlines, Xiamen Airlines and other public airlines have responded to the national call, allowing citizens who originally had travel plans to re-plan their travel time according to the actual situation, effectively ensuring their personal safety and reducing the spread risk of the epidemic.

In short, from the first moment of the outbreak to the present, public aviation has never stopped its flight pace. While carrying out emergency medical personnel and supplies at an altitude of 10,000 meters, it coordinates several charter flights to carry out the mission of relief for overseas citizens, and attaches great importance to the improvement of passenger service quality. Thus General aviation is flexible, fast, and efficient and actively opens up a "green channel" to fight the epidemic. On February 5, four helicopters flown by Hubei Tongcheng General Aviation Co., Ltd. carried the great hope of Thai Chinese to win the anti-epidemic war in China and safely transported 120,000 medical surgical masks, N95 masks, 15,000 pairs of medical gloves, and 16 boxes of medicines purchased overseas to Xiangyang, Hubei province. On the same day, Wuhan Cultural Innovation Industry Promotion Association raised a batch of necessary materials such as protective clothing, surgical clothing, goggles, and disinfectant, which were eventually transported to Jingzhou by Shanghai Jinhuitong Airlines Co., Ltd. helicopter. There are far more general aviation companies providing first-line assistance. Chutian Airlines, Desheng Airlines, Happy Airlines and other airlines are also continuously delivering supplies to Hubei. According to incomplete statistics, as of February 12, a total of 105 general aviation companies nationwide have used 558 aircraft to deliver about 48 tons of epidemic prevention items to disaster areas, carried out 2,416 aerial spraying operations, and disinfected and killed 161,100 square kilometers, greatly enhancing the courage and determination of Hubei and even the whole country to defeat the epidemic.

Uncrewed Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) bravely appeared, took the lead, loaded and unloaded medical supplies at any time, and stood by to support Wuhan. On February 12, a Shunfeng UAV took only 7 minutes to deliver 3.3 kilograms of medical materials to Wuhan Jinyintan Hospital, effectively solving the problem of shortage of medical personnel and medical materials in Wuhan. Also, the whole country uses the shooting function of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) to monitor citizens who go out at will during the epidemic period in real-time, to conduct all-round investigation in key areas, to carry out propaganda from a distance for personnel who do not meet the regulations on going out, and to vigorously publicize the knowledge of epidemic prevention and control, so that UAVs become "patrol members" in fighting the epidemic, forming an "air+ground" three-dimensional full coverage epidemic prevention network, providing an indestructible scientific and technological guarantee for the national fight against the epidemic. In addition to its function of delivering materials and mastering the movement of personnel, unmanned aerial vehicles also performed a wonderful and inspiring public welfare performance on February 9. On that day, a fleet of 500 unmanned aerial vehicles over Guangzhou's Pearl River formed patterns such as "Wuhan Refueling," "Fighting Epidemic," "Wearing masks and Defending Viruses," inspiring Wuhan people's courage to overcome the disease in a special way, sending warmth from all parts of the country to Wuhan through a different voice, and enhancing the confidence of the whole nation in the war of resistance through a brand-new expression contributing high airpower to the country's fight against epidemic prevention.