

In this aerial shot above Simi Valley, Calif., the 707's fuselage and wings can be seen adjacent to the Reagan Library during the Pavilion's construction. The tail section sat nearby in a shipping container. During the airplane's installation at the Pavilion, the wings went in first, then the fuselage and finally the tail section.

PARRY HAVELAAR PHOTO

A MOVING EXPERIENCE

How Boeing helped set up Air Force One 707 at the Reagan Library

Former U.S. President Ronald Reagan had a dream of showcasing Air Force One. That dream is now a reality at the Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, Calif. Visitors there can walk through the refurbished Boeing 707 that served as

Air Force One for Reagan, along with other U.S. presidents from Richard Nixon to George W. Bush.

The Oct. 21 opening of the Air Force One Pavilion marked the culmination of Boeing's involvement in helping create this exhibit. In June 2003, at the Library's request, Boeing agreed to lead the disassembly and moving of the airplane from San Bernardino, Calif., to the library, and supply necessary resources—equipment, tools, technical expertise and labor—to prepare it for public display.

Here's a look at the work Boeing performed to move the airplane.

Air Force One, shining in the sunlight, appears to be taking off into the California skies.

PARRY HAVELAAR PHOTO



Air Force One (SAM 27000) historical facts

- Carried every U.S. president from Richard Nixon through George W. Bush, most of any airplane
- Flew 1,440 missions, including 445 as Air Force One (the aircraft gets the AF1 designation only when the president is aboard)
- Traveled 1,314,596 miles (2,115,637 kilometers)—about 5.5 round trips to the moon
- 27000 was the last of seven Boeing 707s in the 89th Airlift Wing, the VIP flight unit based at Andrews Air Force Base, Md.
- First presidential flight: President Nixon, Andrews AFB—San Clemente, Calif., Feb. 8, 1973.
- Final presidential flight: President George W. Bush, Andrews AFB—Waco, Texas, Aug. 30, 2001.



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KEVIN BYRNE PHOTO

A crane hoists the 707 fuselage at San Bernardino International Airport as workers prepare it for towing a couple days later. Dubbed "Operation Homeward Bound," the 707 was towed on custom heavy transport dollies and traveled 100 miles on California freeways from San Bernardino to Simi Valley.

The 707 exits California Highway 118 and heads toward its new home as it is towed into Simi Valley. The "Presidential Library" sign is illuminated in the headlights of the convoy vehicles.

The airplane, now in one piece, is safely in its new Pavilion, which was built around it. The wall behind the tail section later was completely enclosed. The circular visitor walkway already is visible in this photo.

This command center located just behind the flight deck kept President Reagan and other U.S. presidents in touch with developments from around the world. The technology is basic in comparison to equipment on the current Air Force One fleet, which features two specially configured 747-200Bs.