



## SAN Update

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### Alaska Commemorates 100 Years of Aviation History

Aviation has played a vital role in the welfare of the people and communities of Alaska since 1913, connecting communities and people to each other across the state and throughout the world. In the early days, Alaska was inaccessible and remote, with very few roads connecting communities and villages. Airplanes opened the door to communication, medical treatment and law enforcement needs throughout the state and broadened the horizon for Alaskans to connect with people across the nation and the world.

Recently, the Anchorage Museum opened an exhibit, [Arctic Flight: A Century of Alaska Aviation](#), to showcase the evolution of Alaska aviation throughout the decades. The exhibit will display photographs and artifacts showing the history of aviation in Alaska and how inventive bush pilots modified aircraft to fly in the state's treacherous weather. Those pilots, stated Anchorage Museum Chief Curator Julie Decker, "were a connection to the outside world and they could deliver things to places where things could never get delivered before."

Today, Alaska has six times more pilots and 16 times more planes per capita than the rest of the country, according to U.S. Senator and Senate General Aviation Caucus Co-chairman Mark Begich. The exhibit demonstrates how, in just 100 years, Alaskan aviators and the airplanes they fly have evolved from "frivolous spectacle" to a crucial part of the Alaska way of life.