

Lindbergh original being stored at Outland

Monocoupe D-145 will receive maintenance from SRT Aviation

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MT. VERNON — A piece of American aviation history will find a new home and some tender loving care at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport.

A team from Mt. Vernon, including the experts from SRT Aviation Mechanics, went to Lambert St. Louis International Airport last week to undertake a project in conjunction with the Missouri Historical Society.

With Lambert undergoing renovations to the screening checkpoint in accordance with Transportation Security Administration

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SPECIAL PROJECT — A team of SRT Aviation Maintenance specialists and representatives from Mt. Vernon Outland Airport prepare to lower Charles Lindbergh's personal 1934 Monocoupe D-145 plane inside the main terminal at Lambert St. Louis International Airport. The plane was transported to Mt. Vernon and will be housed in the local facility's new hangar through December for maintenance while renovations are done in Lambert.

Lindbergh:

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guidelines, it became necessary to relocate the Charles Lindbergh's personal 1934 Monocoupe D-145 from the main terminal.

Mt. Vernon Outland Airport and SRT Aviation were honored to be selected to oversee the project.

"This is a big thing for Southern Illinois when you think about how many Missouri companies there are," SRT Director Shawn Sayle said. "We were trusted with this mission, and that says something about what we're doing here in Mt. Vernon."

The plane was lowered from above the checkpoint area at Lambert late Thurs-

day night, partially disassembled, and then carefully packed and transported to Mt. Vernon early Friday morning. It will then be reassembled in the new Community Hangar facilities at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport.

"It's going to be the first tenant of the new hangar out here," Sayle said.

The plane will be in Mt. Vernon through December of this year.

While under local care, the plane will be receiving some maintenance from SRT Aviation.

Sayle explained, "It's definitely going to be repaired but not restored. The plane is authentic from when Lindbergh owned it in the 1930s, and he was the last one to fly it. It's got the original fabric, and there are some tears that need to be fixed, but [the Missouri Historical Society]

wants to keep it as much authentic as possible."

He said that the amount of work the plane needs will determine how much access interested people in the community will have to see the plane in person. Sayle hopes that in a few months small groups will be able to view and learn about the aircraft first hand.

"We're going to have very limited access, but later in the summer we hope to schedule schools and other groups to see it," he said.

According to information provided by Mt. Vernon Outland Airport, the 1934 Mono-

coupe D-145 was manufactured by Lambert Aircraft Co. and was donated to the Missouri Historical Society by Lindbergh in 1940 after using it as his personal plane. It was stored until 1979 when it was placed in the main terminal at Lambert next to the Ryan B-1 "Spirit of St. Louis."

For Sayle, the chance to maintain the plane is a dream come true.

"I've been on them for about 10 years to do something, and the airport actually funded the removal. It's really special for Southern Illinois to have such a historical aircraft." 3-12-11
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