

June 22, 2017 ICF Amelia Project

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How it all Started

History of the Amelia Project

The search for Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan started July 1937 nearly 80 years ago. ICF did not get involved until five years ago. This started when ICF did a project with Tom King and Dawn Johnson in the Bay Area trying to locate Native American burials before they were damaged by construction. Dawn told us about what TIGHER (The International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery) had done in the past trying to locate evidence that Amelia and Fred had crashed landed on the island of Nikumaroro. It was fun to banter around ideas of how the dogs might be able to help. It was all pure fantasy.

Then a funny thing happened.

Dawn and Tom started asking serious questions about what was involved in taking the dogs to look for Amelia and Fred. Our team did research looking up information on Nikumaroro's climate, soil composition, vegetation and terrain, how we would transport the dogs to Fiji, then how we would keep then dogs on a ship. Our preliminary findings looked overwhelmingly difficult to just get the dogs to Fiji. As much as we wanted to go on the expedition of a lifetime, we felt the probability that the dogs could detect any human remains after 80 years in such a hostile environment was low, in other words the return on investment was too low.

But they did not give up. They still wanted our dogs to go because it might be

Tom and TIGHER that they understood the probability of finding human remains on the island were slim, and that they stated that up front to our sponsor, National Geographic, we would agree to go. Tom assured us that regardless of what the dogs do or don't find, our efforts would make history.

We have to say how proud we are of what ICF has accomplished. We extensively train our dogs to be as sensitive as possible to locate the most faint scent possible of long lost human remains. This, along with two decades of project experience in historic and prehistoric human remains detection, uniquely qualify us to do this kind of work.

It has truly taken a village to make this happen. Fiji Airways had never had the opportunity to fly working dogs before, they worked around the clock to make it happen for us. They also helped us ship our donated food from Ziwipeak that came from New Zealand so it would be there when we arrived. We are grateful for the Fiji and the Kirabi governments for supporting this project, it would never had happened with out their support.

-Adela & Barbara

First day of the Trip.

John drove down to LA on June 20th and stayed the night.

June 21st, three handlers (Lynne A, Lynne E, Miranda) with their dogs and Susanne flew from San Jose Airport to Los Angeles LAX. John joined them and together they boarded Fiji Airways for the flight to Nadi, Fiji.

June 22, 11:30am The kids have texted they have arrived in Fiji and gone through security, all is well.

June 23 The team spends the night in Nadi Fiji



Top picture, our team with a Fiji airline rep in LAX
Bottom picture, Team boards Fiji Airlines



I communicated with several of the team members, they report the flight was good, dogs did great, Fiji is beautiful, they went shopping in an outdoor market and then off to the hotel room for a nap.

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<http://ktla.com/2017/06/21/bone-sniffing-dogs-headed-to-search-for-amelia-earharts-remains-on-remote-island-near-fiji/>

Lynne Engelbert talks on camera in LAX baggage area

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4626506/Dogs-hunt-aviator-Amelia-Earhardt-navigator.html>

<https://www.aol.com/article/news/2017/06/22/dogs-trained-to-find-human-remains-to-be-used-in-search-for-amel/22582883/>

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We are happy to talk to you about your project and how our dogs might help locate human remains or burials. Email or call us.

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