Lockheed’s long-lived C-130 Hercules has enjoyed an incredible career, and continues to serve some 60 nations in a variety of roles. The C-130’s most distinctive feature is a schnoz as multifaceted as a disco ball, with 23 individual windowpanes, some of them below and others behind the flight crew. It is configured to allow pilots to see everything around them in an unfamiliar, unprepared landing zone that might even require using prop reverse to back up, and with no marshalls waving wands for guidance. Read more from Aviation History and other HistoryNet publications at historynet.com. More from HistoryNet: First planes down at Pearl. Today in C-130 history. Quote of the Day. If the Wright brothers were alive today Wilber would have to fire Orville to reduce costs. -- Herb Kelleher, 1931-, founder Southwest Airlines, USA Today, June 8, 1994. C-130 Hall of Fame. AC-130 Prototype. USAF #54-626 C-130A. Prototype for the AC-130A but the 'AC' part was never designated. The 908th Airlift Wing has added the Alabama State University’s logo to the nose of one of its C-130 Hercules October 29, 2020. The artwork was unveiled at a ceremony in a 908th Maintenance Group hangar. The 908th Airlift Wing has added the Alabama State University’s logo to the nose of one of its C-130 Hercules October 29, 2020. The artwork was unveiled at a ceremony in a 908th Maintenance Group hangar. 7. Comment. Share. The Lockheed C-130 Hercules is an American four-engine turboprop military transport aircraft designed and built originally by Lockheed (now Lockheed Martin). Capable of using unprepared runways for takeoffs and landings, the C-130 was originally designed as a troop, medevac, and cargo transport aircraft. The versatile airframe has found uses in a variety of other roles, including as a gunship (AC-130), for airborne assault, search and rescue, scientific research support, weather reconnaissance, aerial History Lockheed C-130 Hercules. "Hercules" - the most common cargo planes medium-duty trucks, which are exploited in 65 the world. They were designed by the American firm "Lockheed" over 50 years ago. As of the year 2009 2300 built more copies of military transport C-130 in various modified versions, including for civil aviation. Half of all produced "Hercules" was built for the US Air Force needs. The flight lasted exactly one hour. A short time after this event, the company "Lockheed" was charged with the serial production of aircraft of this model. Since the Vietnam War, various modifications of C-130 were used in all US military operations, with the exception of strikes on Gaddafi’s forces in Libya. In the framework of the "STTM" in 1984 was lifted into the air the first experimental aircraft. The C-130 has the longest, continuous military aircraft production run in history and one of the top three longest, continuous aircraft production lines of any type. Those who design, build, fly, support and maintain a Hercules often say the plane is without a doubt the world’s most proven workhorse— and for good reason. To date, more than 2,500 C-130s have been ordered and/or delivered to 63 nations around the world. Seventy countries operate C-130s, which have been produced in more than 70 different variants. From the highest of air strips in the Himalayas to landing on aircraft carrier runw