



## VAM'S TIN GOOSE FLIES AGAIN



Tin Goose hanging in the Virginia Aviation Museum prior to restoration

So whatever happened to NC9612? That Trimotor that was displayed at the Virginia Aviation Museum since November 2005? Well, it was on loan from its owner, Dolph Overton, III. If you don't know Dolph Overton, or know of him, he has an amazing history. He began his military career in World War II when he joined the Navy and served as a seaman for the duration of the war. After returning home, he earned an appointment to West Point Military Academy and after graduation, decided to become an Air Force pilot. He earned his wings in 1950 and on his second combat tour in the Korean War he joined the 52<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Interceptor Wing. On January 21, 1953 he downed two MIG-15's, he downed another on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, one on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, and one on the 24<sup>th</sup>. This accomplishment gave him the distinction of becoming a jet ace in the record time of four days.

He has owned NC9612 since October 1969 and it was part of his Wings and Wheels Museum collection in North Carolina. Like all surviving Trimotors, it has an interesting history. Produced in 1928, it was first used as a passenger plane by Mamer Flying Service in Spokane, Washington. It was later sold to K-T Flying Service of Honolulu and was at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. It was brought back to the mainland in 1946 where it was leased by TWA for their 20th anniversary celebration in 1949. For that event, it was painted in the colors of the Transcontinental Air Transport, circa 1929. Following this, it was used as a crop sprayer in Idaho and as a fire response airplane in Montana until 1969, when Overton purchased it. In November, 2005, Dolph Overton had it flown from Goldsboro, NC, to Richmond, VA, where it was displayed as a non-flying specimen at the Virginia Aviation Museum. Overton recently removed it from the Museum and the airplane has been fully restored. Now it will be sold at the January 17, 2009, Barrett-Jackson Auction in Scottsdale, Arizona.



The Tin Goose during restoration