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August 16, 1999

Al Cates, President
Air America Association
5905 Johnston Street
Lafayette, LA 70503

Dear Al,

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me on Friday. As discussed, I am beginning to conduct research for a documentary about Air America. The 1-hour program will air on the Discovery Network's new Wings channel under the series *Birds of a Feather*. The series will cover the human side of some of the most famous air units in US history (Flying Tigers, Lafayette Escadrille, etc.).

As with the rest of the series, the focus of the Air America episode will be more on the overall experience and impressions of the men rather than on specific missions and aircraft alone. Some of the ideas that you mentioned -- such as the disparity between your daily work life and life with your family -- are exactly the type of "human" elements that I hope to bring out in this show.

I realize that there has been considerable controversy, anger and disappointment surrounding past projects about Air America (including Discovery's *CIA: Secret Warriors*) and want you to know that I will do my very best to present an accurate picture of the organization. I hope to do this by working closely with you and other key individuals to flush out good and credible interview candidates. They will largely drive the show, as it will be their "story" that is told. You, and those whom I interview, will then have an opportunity to review the script and make comments prior the show's completion.

As discussed, I have enclosed a rough-cut copy of *The Ravens* (another episode in the *Birds of a Feather* series) to give you an idea of my approach. I will also send a copy of this letter with a short note to Brian Johnson, and will be contacting Larry Sall at the University of Texas. I have quite a bit of footage from the Archive, but am hoping to get better copies -- and additional material -- if any is available. To this end, if you know of anyone who has footage or interesting still photos that could contribute to the program, I would love to hear from them.

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Discovery Kids Channel
Discovery Civilization Channel
Discovery Living Channel
Discovery Science Channel

I routinely receive tapes, original footage and stills from a wide variety of museums and private collections (most of the Raven show was original 8mm shot by the pilots themselves), and want to assure you that I take great care in their handling and prompt return. We can transfer film and dub tapes from any format to professional grade Beta SP video. Or if preferred, we can arrange for a third party transfer. In return, I can provide donors with Beta or VHS copies of any materials we transfer, and with copies of -- and credit in -- the finished production itself. Below is our FedEx account number and address -- just in case you or anyone else has anything to ship to me.

I want to thank you again for taking the time to speak with me. I gained quite a bit from our conversation, and hope that you will consider taking part in interviews for the show.

Please feel free to call me at any time to discuss this project further. Otherwise, I will be back in touch with you again in several weeks as I ramp up for production. I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



ROB BURK

Producer

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