



SOFIA
STRATOSPHERIC OBSERVATORY
FOR INFRARED ASTRONOMY

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00:00:00,530 --> 00:00:06,169
On behalf of Kevin Petersen Director of
the Dryden Flight Research Center I'd

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00:00:06,169 --> 00:00:11,540
like to welcome all of you to the debut
of the SOFIA astronomical observatory

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00:00:11,540 --> 00:00:24,739
aircraft. This aircraft... This aircraft, the
Clipper Lindbergh, was dedicated by Anne

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00:00:24,739 --> 00:00:28,400
Morrow Lindbergh thirty years ago when it
entered service with Pan American

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00:00:28,400 --> 00:00:36,380
Airways. Now after extensive modification
for the SOFIA Program this aircraft is

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00:00:36,380 --> 00:00:39,970
about to begin flight testing for its
new science mission.

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00:00:39,970 --> 00:00:45,980
The 747 Clipper Lindbergh behind us is
embarking on a new career too - as one of

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00:00:45,980 --> 00:00:50,210
the world's great science of
observatories. The plane is obviously a

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00:00:50,210 --> 00:00:56,990
big one ,seeing it in person gives you an
appreciation for the size of the

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00:00:56,990 --> 00:01:01,190
activity that we're involved with and
the challenges ahead of us yet are also

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00:01:01,190 --> 00:01:05,840

very large. As we complete the development and the flight test

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00:01:05,840 --> 00:01:12,020

activities over the next couple years here at at NASA Dryden. I truly believe

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00:01:12,020 --> 00:01:20,150

that we are but in our infancy in terms of expanding and exploring the human

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00:01:20,150 --> 00:01:28,060

potential. We are just a blip on the history of time. This represents a

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00:01:28,060 --> 00:01:33,200

fantastic step. One that I hope will bring us into the future

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00:01:33,200 --> 00:01:37,159

and will allow us to understand, to thrive and survive to keep this whole

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00:01:37,159 --> 00:01:40,820

planet alive a little bit longer until we can find another one out there that

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00:01:40,820 --> 00:01:48,580

we can live on. That is, is critical and this mission is is absolutely fantastic.

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00:01:48,580 --> 00:01:53,990

That's why I'm here today. Because it gives me the juice to see this happening

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00:01:53,990 --> 00:01:58,040

right now to understand how many people and how many researchers are going to be

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00:01:58,040 --> 00:02:04,670

affected by this and how many of their
students how big of a broadcast effect

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00:02:04,670 --> 00:02:09,530

this is going to have at lighting up,
lighting us up, giving us the juice

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00:02:09,530 --> 00:02:14,299

to figure out how to get there.
How to get there, how to get to the

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00:02:14,299 --> 00:02:20,540

future, how to get out into space on a
more permanent basis and and so that our

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00:02:20,540 --> 00:02:25,489

kids and our children's children can
thrive and survive into the future. Thank

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00:02:25,489 --> 00:02:31,129

you very much (applause)