

MOUNTAIN CANYON FLIGHT TRAINING IN INDONESIA

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Lori and the local Papua Natives

McCall Mountain Canyon Flying Seminars LLC recently spent several weeks working with an Indonesian airline as a guest flight school in their home country. Lori MacNichol, owner of McCall Mountain/Canyon Flying Seminars, founded her flight school in McCall, Idaho sixteen years ago and specializes in advanced aviation safety flight training in mountainous and remote regions across the world. The operators of Susi Air based out of Pangandaran, Indonesia contacted Lori mid February upon reviewing her website and reading her online bio. Susi Airlines is the largest airline company in Indonesia employing approximately 170 pilots and specializes in commercial flights to secluded areas and out-of-the-way islands where strips are not always paved and are less than

1600 ft in length. It sounded like a perfect fit and Lori agreed immediately.

On February 17th Lori and two of her instructors, Rich Bush and Holbrook Maslen, headed to the country's capital of Jakarta armed with 63,000 hours of combined flight time and knowhow as well as a momentous amount of passion for their trade. Upon arrival they encountered a few unexpected difficulties and surprises including metric conversion and foreign accents over the radio. But in an email after only a few days Lori wrote, "The trainees were eager to learn and very welcoming and helpful." After nearly two weeks and 155 hours of flight instruction time in



Susi Air Crew

several different types of aircraft including Cessna Caravans and Pilatus Porters. The school trained 68 Susi Air pilots which received certificates of course completion as well as life saving knowledge.

Mountain/Canyon Flying Seminars was able to develop a course curriculum to better-fit Susi Air's aircrafts profiles and Indonesia's climate and cultural differences, although the principals of the Mountain/Canyon Flying Seminars curriculum remained the same.

After a whirlwind trip Lori said, "It was truly an amazing experience in the respect that we were able to touch the lives of so many young aviators and deliver the piloting skills, knowledge and mind-set that will serve them well in the future."

Lori's small school received international recognition as a premier wilderness and backcountry flight training and safety operation and hopes to expand its knowledge base through more experiences like this one soon. Mountain/Canyon Flying is currently preparing for a return trip to deliver another program in late September.



Anggurk Airstrip in Papua Region

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