

A Voodoo gate in Minnesota

Consider now... your reward in of knowing and locating the Voodoo Gate. It does exist. You'll find it here in Minnesota, here in the Twin Cities, between two Military Bases. There's a kind of magic about it. I can't tell you the story of its making now, but someday you will know it was worth the risk.

Forgive me if I seem coy about this gate in a fence. Some of us are still impressed that it was installed at all. At times the Twin Cities Airport is a confounding maze of fences and gates. Especially here at it's Northeast corner. This gate is a kind of miracle. Kind of... Its dominion is... as a gate unto Military History for Twin City visitors and residents. Yeah, I know. Another mouthful of words about artifacts and war stories. Blah, blah blah. Well, indulge me. Not much has ever been said to outsiders about the Voodoo gate. First, lets clean up all the misconceptions. There isn't any superstitious Voodoo mumbo jumbo about the gate. It was named after a large F-101B Jet Interceptor that stands in front of the gate. It's on the Minnesota Air Guard Museum side of the fence. This F-101B Voodoo was flown during the Cold War over Minnesota skies and the entire North American hemisphere from 1971 to 1976 by Minnesota's 148th Fighter Interceptor Group. It carried Nuclear tipped Genie Air to Air Missiles and its aircrews practiced some really intense tactics. To my knowledge, this is the only Voodoo jet interceptor in the Twin Cities. Find yourself next to it, look behind its rudder (tail), there's this Gate.

The only real Voodoo Gate around here. Of course, if you get to talk with an older fighter Pilot, not the bolder ones who supposedly aren't around anymore, he may tell you that "Going to the Gate" used to be fighter pilot slang for going full afterburner. But, this isn't that kind of gate. Historians say the F-101 Voodoo was named by its creator James S. McDonnell. Besides Aircraft designer he was also an Occultist. He named many of his Jet fighters after the supernatural, like Phantom, Demon, Goblin, Banshee, and Voodoo.

There are special qualities, and even a little intrigue about this Gate. It was built for and only used by the general public. For you, your family, friends and visitors. The Gate stands closed and locked the majority of the time. Its gatekeepers, the respected members from Minnesota's Air Guard Security Teams, only open it when designated Saturdays and posted times are enforced. The Minnesota Air Guard Security is one of a very few units in the country who through experience and a practiced readiness, allow the general population to visit their active base on designated Saturdays. The confidence and resolve in how they perform this important mission is regarded High Standard among units who protect Military Bases in our country. Since 9-11 there are a great many more who will not.

The Voodoo Gate exists between two separate, yet eminent Military History Museums. The Minnesota Air Guard Museum, housed in the Base Alert Hangars and home to the Voodoo and a collection of Jet Fighters and Military Transport unrivaled anywhere else in Minnesota. When weather is good, visitors are encouraged to sit in their Aircraft collection.

And, The Fort Snelling Military Museum, located on the Army Reserve side of the gate. Chaired with the Center of Military History in Washington D.C. the FSMM Volunteers are permitted to demonstrate the operational historical vehicles within their 65 vehicle assortment. Thus, here in the Twin Cities the Voodoo gate leads in one direction to Mach two Jets you can get acquainted with, and the other direction leads to operational Main Battle Tanks and combat vehicles that come to life and leave you with a new understanding of historical Military power. Now, learn the relevance of Military History here in the Twin Cities by finding the location and the times and dates of when The Voodoo Gate swings open.