

747 Recycling



ALL PHOTOS: ARC/SCROGGINS AVIATION

“On August 19, 2005, Northwest Airlines flight 74, a Boeing 747-200, N627US, landed with its nose gear retracted at Guam International Airport, Agana, Guam. An emergency evacuation was initiated several minutes after the airplane came to rest. Of the 16 crewmembers and 318 passengers onboard, 2 received minor injuries during the evacuation. The airplane was substantially damaged.” —NTSB

After survey, the 747-251B (MSN 21709/Line N° 412), which had been delivered to Northwest in January 1980, was declared damaged beyond economical repair, and only the Pratt & Whitney JT9D-7Q engines and APU were salvaged.

A local hotel owner proposed moving the airframe to a corner lot to become a restaurant, but the required insurance coverage would have been excessive. Thus, a decision was taken by the insurance company concerned to destroy the airframe, with the contract given to Las Vegas, Nevada-based Aircraft Recycling Corp (ARC) and Scroggins Aviation.

Work to demolish the 747 began on September 7, 2008, when the wings were cut off, and two days later the aircraft was an unrecognizable pile of scrap. Because



of lack of local capabilities, all but 2,000lb (900kg) of material was crushed and packed into eight containers that were shipped to China for smelting. ➔

