

Broncos being fettled for ARC

– Former Luftwaffe target-tugs to fly to new home at Duxford –

AT FASSBURG in Germany, two Rockwell OV-10B Broncos are being prepared for their ferry flights to the UK to join the British display circuit. The work is being done by a group of Belgian members of the OV-10 Bronco Association, and the ex-Luftwaffe target-towing aircraft are due to be operated by the Aircraft Restoration Company (ARC) at Duxford. They have been registered G-BZGK and G-BZGL, and were expected to be test-flown during April.

The OV-10s, which wore the codes 99+26 and 99+32 while operated by the Luftwaffe, served from 1970 until 1990, when they were retired to the technical school at Fassburg. They were used for Battle Damage Repair Training, and the Belgian group has replaced many components which had suffered during the Broncos' use as a training aid.

The Bronco Association, dedicated to preserving the history of the type, was formed in July 1998 by a group of OV-10 enthusiasts and ex-pilots in Texas, and now has 130 members. The Association, which has its headquarters at Meacham Field, Texas, is currently raising funds to secure the original mock-up of the OV-10, which was built in 1964, and at that



XAVIER MEAL PHOTOGRAPHS

time designated the NA-300.

The USAF used their 175 Broncos for Forward Air Control, while the USN and USMC, who received 118, used them in counter-insurgency (COIN) roles.

ABOVE AND RIGHT The two ex-Luftwaffe Rockwell OV-10B Broncos for Duxford; notable is the small ground clearance of the large external fuel tanks.

