

Elf Frank: Hello again from the North Pole news desk, I'm Elf Frank Myrrh of North Pole Radio News. Santa's new sleigh is catching a lot of people by surprise in the early going here of Operation Merry Christmas. Joining me from flight command with hopefully some news about why Santa ordering 32 new sleighs is my radio partner, Elf Crash Murphy. Crash, we understand that Flight Command is rushing the testing of this new sleigh – but do they have enough test pilots and reindeer to put 32 of these sleighs in the skies?

Elf Crash: They don't, Frank, and there's a real flat-footed response going on right now as Flight Command is trying to round up more pilots and reindeer to meet that demand. Nobody saw this coming.

Elf Frank: Well, what does it mean?

Elf Crash: Honestly, Frank, we don't know. We're not understanding it. I talked to Elf Roger just the other day and I know he was expecting 12 sleighs, just like last year. So if Roger doesn't know, then nobody knows. Santa is meeting with the heads of Flight Command, Reindeer Operations and even the pilots Union on Monday to go over the schedule for the first few weeks of the test flights. But I can tell you that within just the past few hours word has spread around the world to the various reindeer ranches for the early recall of more reindeer who are going to be pressed into service this summer as test flight reindeer.

Elf Frank: A-listers, like Rudolph or Blitzen?

Elf Crash: Yes, that's affirmative, Frank. In fact, Donner and Blitzen have been specifically requested by Santa to report for duty and evidently he's got specific plans for them tied to the test flights of these new sleighs.

Elf Frank: Wow, Crash. It's not even June. Donner and Blitzen are going to have a really long year if they work from now through Christmas Eve.

Elf Crash: A lot of people are expressing those concerns, Frank. But only Santa knows and until then and until we know more of the plan, we're just going to have to wait on Santa to know what this all means.

Elf Frank: Ok, Crash. Great information as always. Please keep us informed in the days and weeks ahead. From the North Pole news desk, I'm Elf Frank Myrrh reporting for SantaUpdate.com the Kringle Radio Network.