

# Airbase Georgia



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Museum Annex Project Summary

CAF Airbase Georgia

1200 Echo Court

Peachtree City, GA

# About Airbase Georgia

The Airbase Georgia, a 400+ member regional branch of the Commemorative Air Force (CAF), is committed to the restoration and preservation of the great planes of World War II. In pursuance of this goal, the CAF perpetuates the spirit and heritage of American military aviation and educates various schools and communities through a combination of public education programs and living history experiences. CAF Airbase Georgia has the distinct honor of being the only metro-Atlanta site on Georgia's World War II Heritage Trail. See, [georgiawwiitrail.org](http://georgiawwiitrail.org).

The Airbase Georgia is uniquely situated and equipped to interpret the United States WWII experience through a squadron of fully functional period aircraft, a strong support system of members and volunteers, and collections containing many items of memorabilia and artifacts located on site and at the Commemorative Air Force's home base in Texas.



In pursuance of the CAF Airbase Georgia's growth-oriented mission to educate local communities about the experiences, stories, and heritage of the pilots and planes of World War II, this publication gives a brief overview in support of this goal through a review of the institution's mission, objectives, and existing conditions; and recommendations to address and expand opportunities for growth.

The Airbase Georgia and the Commemorative Air Force is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. The museum is staffed by volunteers and supported mainly by donations.

## Planning a Future for our History....

On March 5th, plans for a new museum annex were unveiled to the general membership. Provided all the conditions can be met, the plans include a large open addition to the hangar for our static items (and hopefully visiting exhibits), and an interactive display section just inside the entrance.



Proposed Design for  
Museum Annex

The museum items supplement the stars of the Airbase Georgia Hangar, the WWII era aircraft. These fully operational airplanes include the Douglas SBD-5 “Dauntless” dive-bomber, the North American P-51 D “Mustang” fighter, the Goodyear FG-1D Corsair fighter, the Bell P-63 Kingcobra, the Fairchild PT-19A primary trainer, the North American T-6 Texan trainer, and a replica Japanese aircraft, the “Kate” torpedo bomber which was built for the movie “Tora, Tora, Tora!”

Col Willard Womack explains the role of the SBD-Dauntless aircraft in the Battle of Midway



## AIRBASE GEORGIA'S RESTORATION PROJECTS

All of Airbase Georgia's aircraft have been restored and maintained by volunteers. Restoration is accomplished by members with no prior experience under guidance by, and in addition to, its experienced volunteer aviation mechanics. Fully restored aircraft are flown in airshows, in fly-overs, in films, and as rides to interested aviation enthusiasts.

Airbase Georgia has three restoration projects as of the date of this publication, a N2S Kaydet (Stearman), a Fairchild PT-19A, and a P-47 Thunderbolt.



## Stearman Restoration.

The restoration of the Stearman is led by several of the unit's female members as a way of honoring "Rosie the Riveter," the cultural icon who represented the women workers in factories and shipyards during World War II. Volunteers are learning to inventory, review service manuals, sand blast parts, and stitch fabric among other tasks. Because of this "hands-on" learning experience, Airbase Georgia is rapidly expanding its female membership.

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## PT-19A Restoration.

The PT-19's nickname is the "Cradle of Heroes," and it was one of a handful of primary trainers. The PT-19 series aircraft were rapidly integrated into the US training programs throughout World War II. Airbase Georgia has recently obtained registration information on our PT-19A that leads to the conclusion that our aircraft was delivered to Tuskegee Airfield for use in training the Tuskegee Airmen, and most likely ferried to the site by a female pilot (WASP). The PT-19A is in need of repair to restore this aircraft to airworthiness.

## P-47 Thunderbolt Restoration.

Airbase Georgia is acquiring a rare World War II P-47 Thunderbolt as a long-term restoration project. The Thunderbolt was the largest single fighter built during War. Only 4 of the over 15,000 built between 1941 and 1945 are flying. The acquisition and restoration of this aircraft is a testament to the skill of the members at Airbase Georgia.

## WORLD WAR TWO ARTIFACTS

Airbase Georgia has been fortunate in its acquisition of unique World War II artifacts. Several have a large footprint, such as the Link Trainer and the gun turrets. Other artifacts in our collection include military uniforms, field manuals, maps, toys, and field equipment. The following are examples of some of Airbase Georgia's artifacts.

### Pilot Maker C-3 Link Trainer.

Flight instruction in the early years of aviation required a trained pilot to teach a student from a two-seater airplane. It was expensive and time consuming. One pilot, Ed Link, decided in 1927 that there must be a better way, so he used his flying experience and his experience while working in his father's piano and organ company to create a trainer (often called the "blue box") that could simulate flight in a safe environment. Its success over the years led to the



production of over 10,000 trainers used to safely train over 500,000 pilots for World War Two.

Airbase Georgia's Link Trainer is an original Pilot Maker C-3. It has been restored by members Malcolm Lelliott and Joe Broker.

### Bubblegum Diplomacy.

"Horrors of War" trading cards were created in 1938 by the Philadelphia based company Gum, Inc. Bubble gum cards were very popular in the 1930s, and most people are familiar with the sports trading cards, However, the company president, Warren Bowman, and advertising specialist George Moll developed

these cards for the purposes of teaching the target audience (children) that war was awful. The cards depicted horrors of the Chinese-Japanese War, Spanish Civil War, the Italian invasion in the Ethiopian Wars, the Russian and Japanese conflict in Manchuria, and ultimately, the build up to World War II. The cards were discovered by then President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who used the cards to demonstrate how cruel other countries could be in international conflict. US Senators criticized FDR's use of the cards as "bubblegum diplomacy."



## 280 Italians Evict French Farmers in War Move

Dispossessed from their comfortable little homes which their fathers had held for generations on the Italian side of the border, fifty French families plodded sadly back into France, late in August, 1938, carrying their household goods. Their departure was the result of an Italian ultimatum to abandon the ground by August 29 so that the terrain could be taken over and surveyed for military purposes. Italian officers who supervised the eviction were said to have been "very firm but courteous". Those ousted from the region east of the border village of Isola, were told they could return for the purpose of harvesting their crops later in the year. Others, who crossed the frontier daily merely to farm, were not affected except to be ordered to finish their harvesting within an allotted time. The French Government sought indemnity from Italy for the families who were dispossessed.

To know the HORRORS OF WAR is to want PEACE

This is one of the SECOND SERIES of Horrors of War picture cards and true stories of today's warfare. Save to get a complete history. Copyright 1938, Gum, Inc., Phila., Pa. Printed in U.S.A.

REPRINT

## British Infant Gas Mask.

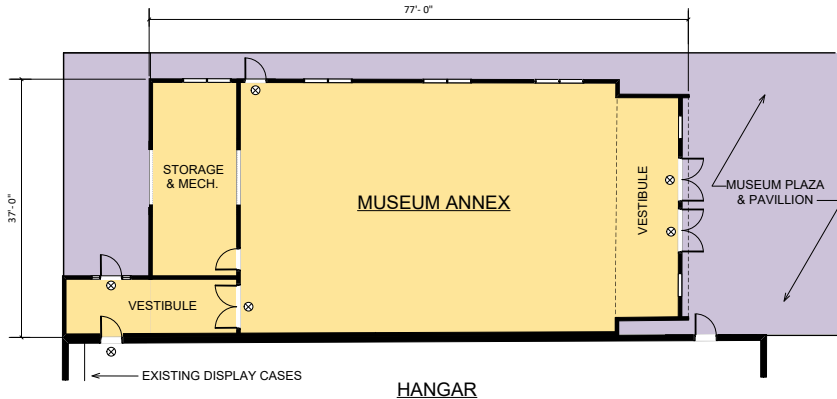
The onset of war with Germany in Great Britain in 1939 brought fears of gas warfare based on the use of gas in World War I. The mask was invented and developed by the Royal Air Force in 1938 and distribution throughout the country to all parents of infants began before the onset of the war. Made from pressed steel, canvas, and leather, it was a bulky, heavy device. Health visitors and Child Welfare Centers taught the mothers how to use the masks, but many mothers refused to use the contraption because of its appearance and fears over its safety.



Col Lelliott found this Infant Gas Mask in England and arranged for its transfer to the CAF AG.

## MUSEUM ANNEX CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

In order to preserve and protect the artifacts, Airbase Georgia is seeking to add a museum annex on the south side of its existing hangar. The costs to build the annex and supporting office space has been estimated around \$1,200,000 (1.2M).



### FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

AIRBASE GEORGIA WARBIRD MUSEUM  
COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE  
PROPOSED AIRBASE RENOVATION

MUSEUM ANNEX ADDITION - PHASE 1

Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0" Date: 02/10/2022 Dwg. No. 4

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