



AIRBASE GEORGIA *Dispatch*



AIRBASE GEORGIA, COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE, PEACHTREE CITY, GA
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October 2022

Education through living history.

Keep 'em flying.

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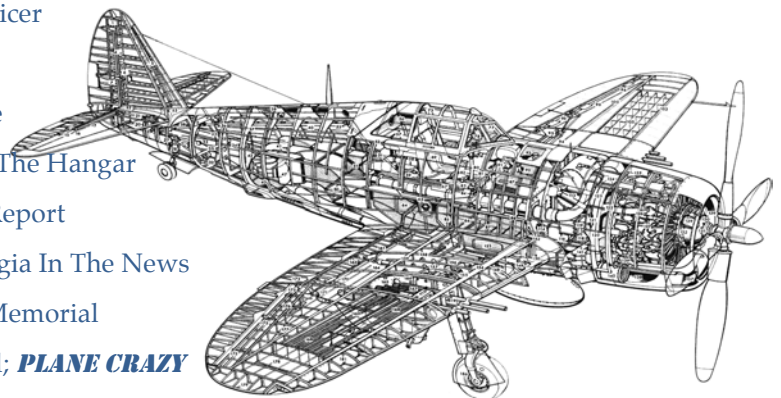
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Welcome, New Cols: L to R – Colie Dalton, Kurt Wagner, Dean Dymond, Gilbert Wheeler, and Lydia Dee Herndon.

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From the Left Seat

Col Joel Perkins, Airbase Georgia Leader

Ladies and gentlemen, where do I start? Airbase Georgia has been a tornado of activity in September and October and looking into November we are not slowing down. In September our volunteers welcomed Dick Morales, a 98-year-old veteran of the Pacific theater in World War II. Mr. Morales was the center of attention providing captivating first-hand accounts of his combat experiences as an SBD gunner. He was interviewed in our hangar by a YouTube history channel and then for the highlight he again took flight in the Dauntless wearing the same flight suit he wore 80 years ago. Amazing!

World War II Heritage Days was a huge event for us. Col Jane Simpson and her team of dedicated volunteers made this event a true success. We had a hangar full of vendors, exhibits, and live entertainment. Outside there were American and German reenactors with encampments and equipment. On the airport ramp the Airbase Georgia SBD, LT6, and T34 were busy giving rides. I spent my time walking from place to place talking to our volunteers and guests, and observing what we are capable of when we all come together and serve each other and our community. My main job was to do what Jane told me and stay out of the team's way because they had it handled. It was an incredible event.

Looking forward to November we have an all-aircraft-on-deck call to support Delta Airline's Veteran's Day event. Delta has always been an important supporter of Airbase Georgia and we value that relationship. Delta has also offered to repaint the Corsair for us in February. That's

exciting news. I am asking all available members to go and support Delta's event this November 3rd and 4th.



The Blue Angels will be arriving at Airbase Georgia on November 3rd for the airshow that weekend. They will be using our hangar as a briefing/staging area for the event. Our aircraft will be on display and this is a great opportunity for Airbase Georgia ambassadors, which means you, to come out and tell the community about who we are and what we do.

Closing out November, Airbase Georgia is hosting our third annual formation clinic. Although this year the clinic will be flown out of the Hampton airport due to traffic concerns at Falcon Field, it is an ABG event. Hats off to Cols Clint Cottrell, Robert Harris, and Matt Kenner for coordinating this important event.

I am also excited to note that the P-47 project is moving forward at a rapid pace. This project has attracted new volunteers which makes me very happy. The *Stearman* is also moving quite rapidly. Mike, Malcolm, and that team are doing some amazing work. Last but not least the PT-19 is well underway to being recovered. Remarkable people doing incredible and rewarding work to preserve our history. Strange, I haven't seen you there. We have room for more volunteers. I challenge you to get off the couch and get in the game. ➔



Airbase Georgia / CAF - 2022 Unit Staff Election Reminder

The election to fill open unit staff positions for the 2023 / 2024 term will take place at the November 12th Airbase Georgia Membership Meeting.

Here are the candidates running for open staff officer positions:

Executive Officer: Col Philip Beegle III
Col Gerhard Frenz
Col Matt Kenner

Operations Officer: Col John Currenti
Col Stan Musick

Adjutant: Col Clint Cottrell

Maintenance Officer: Col Randy Hawkins

Election Day: Paper ballots will be available to all members present and in good standing starting at Noon on Election Day, November 12, 2022. Your current CAF/Airbase Georgia membership status will be confirmed by the Election Committee prior to receiving your ballot. Ballots may be cast between Noon and 3:00 PM.

Election Results: Election results will be announced via the Airbase Georgia Hotline during the week of November 14, 2022

If you have questions about the election process, contact Col Jim van den Heuvel at (770) 570-9094 or jrvdh100@gmail.com.

Thank you,

The Election Committee: Col Charles Burcher, Col Don Burgess, Col Bob Grove, Col Yvonne Haley and Col Jim van den Heuvel. →



EDUCATION OFFICER

Col Jane Simpson

The 2022 edition of WWII Heritage Days is in the books! Thank you, thank you, to everyone who helped make it a success. We estimate our attendance was around 2,500 to 3,000; and the complaints were scarce (other than from some of us!). We will hold the debrief on the event soon and determine where we need to take it for next year. One idea under consideration is to move the speakers to quarterly series at the hangar throughout the year, and make WWII Heritage Days more of a day of entertainment and historical fun. Anyhow, stay tuned....

As for the museum, your Education and Development Officer plan to attend the Georgia Association of Museums & Galleries annual conference in Cartersville this January to collaborate and learn from our Georgia colleagues. We will kick off a capital campaign to raise money for the Museum Annex around that time as well. Additionally, we have set up a station in the maintenance shop for Education & Development, and we will continue to review our artifact inventory and plans for fundraising. If you would like to help, please contact jane.simpson@airbasegeorgia.org.



Above, National History Day (NHD) champion Shriya Chakraborti explains the Enigma Code. Left, NHD champion Johnny Dorminy shares the stage with our keynote speaker, Lt. Gen. Brian Arnold to discuss advances in aviation due to WWII needs.

Education (cont.)

HISTORY HIGHLIGHT – VOL. 1, ART. 10 - JAPANESE *HINOMARU* (PRAYER) FLAGS

Japanese soldiers were issued a blank hinomaru (prayer or good luck) flag, which could then be personalized by family, friends, and neighbors, in the form of prayers or good wishes for the soldier. American troops were unaware of the significance of such mementos, and many troops brought these flags home, believing them to be standards of the Japanese armies.



To the left is a Japanese prayer flag that has been donated to Airbase Georgia. The writing on the flag was "decoded," as set forth on the small inset to the right. According to the interpretation, the writing encourages the bearer of the flag to remain loyal to the Emperor, and to maintain bravery. If any of our readers have any additional history on this artifact, please let me know!

Right: U.S. Marines after the Battle of Iwo Jima, with a hinomaru flag. Source: www.wearethemighty.com (a veteran-based media resource)

Some WWII veterans have returned these flags to Japanese families in recent years, due to the personal nature of the object. You can read about this touching gesture at

<https://www.wearethemighty.com/mighty-trending/world-war-ii-japanese-flag>.

Right now, our Japanese prayer flag is not on display, but you can see it by stopping by the Education "office" in the maintenance shop. We have several Axis items and will have to design a section in our future museum annex to house these important historical items. ➔



Rides Update

Col James Sterns - Rides Coordinator



September, A busy and successful month! We ended September by hosting Dick Miralles, a US Navy veteran who was a back seat gunner in the SBD Dauntless (more on page 9). Dick saw combat action in the south pacific in and around the Battle of Guadalcanal. After his flight everyone was treated to lunch, a special treat for Dick was a platter full of Spam sandwiches. He politely refused.

Dick had nothing to eat on Guadalcanal except Spam, three meals a day for three months!

On October 7th, Airbase Georgia took our T-6, piloted by Col Clint Cottrell, Our SBD, piloted by Col Wes Stowers, and Col Joel Perkins flew his SNJ to Athens TN. Those three aircraft arrived in formation and landed to the appreciation and delight of ninety some US Navy veterans who have served on the USS Charles Ware. Lt. Charles Ware was an SBD pilot at the Battle of Midway and dropped bombs on the Japanese Carrier, Kaga. While there nine happy riders purchased rides on the SBD and T-6 in 4 hours! To keep up the momentum, the next day, October 8th, the Rides Team sent 18 rides to our pilots in the T-34, the SBD, and the T-6. A special thank you to a recently new member Col Marybeth Britton who hit the ground running. With a few minutes of OJT (On the Job Training) she was managing the crowd of riders like a seasoned pro! And, to Col Cooper Perkins, providing needed assistance out on the ramp! Thank you!



To keep the pace up, the Rides Team then travelled to the Upper Cumberland Air Fair, on Oct. 14, and 15 in Sparta, TN. Here our frantic pace changed to a slow and leisurely afternoon. We managed to get four T-34 rides in and one SBD ride. Try as we could we did not have any customers for Pilot Matt Kenner who graciously brought up the T-6 hoping to make some smiles on riders faces. Poor weather brought us home early. Thanks to Crew Chief Col Andy Cash, keeping the SBD pretty and keeping it flying. Thanks to our pilots Cols Matt Kenner, Jeff Clark, and Jim Dalton.

These dates in November, the 8th, the 12th, and the 17th, we'll be busy at our home base. We have a backlog of rides purchased earlier in the year we are trying to complete and get off our books. Nov. 12th will be an especially busy day. If you are willing and able, feel free to come for the day and help us out, and if you want to be part of this fun team please contact us at rides@airbasegeorgia.org Remember, members get a 20% discount for one ride per year at the airbase!

Left: Cols Melina Galizzi and Robyn Rosenzweig, part of the Rides Team at Upper Cumberland Air Fair, also our backseaters in the T-6 and T-34.

Rides (cont.)

Col Dalton and a very happy rider at Upper Cumberland Air Fair.



Dauntless pilot Col Jeff Clark and rider getting ready for a warbird ride. 🇺🇸

Rides (cont.)



Col Tom Walsh snapped this picture from our T-6 when he flew over Hartsfield in formation after a trip to Athens Tennessee for the USS Charles Ware reunion at McMinn County airport on Friday, 7 October.

In Col Walsh's own words: "the aircraft in the picture are the SBD piloted by Col Wes Stowers, with Col Andy Cash in the gunners seat, and the other is Col Joel Perkins and his son Cooper in their T-6. Col Clint Cottrell and I were in the lead aircraft slightly above them for a better shot!" 📷

Rides (cont.)

WWII Veteran Takes to the Air in SBD Dive Bomber 80 Years Later

Col Steve Forsyth, Public Information Officer



WWII Veteran Dick Miralles slid into the gunner's seat of the SBD Dauntless Dive Bomber almost as easily as he did 80 years ago in the South Pacific. Miralles, 98, was reliving his wartime experience in a restored SBD operated by CAF Airbase Georgia in Peachtree City, Ga.

Miralles flew in the rear, or gunner, seat of SBDs in Guadalcanal in 1943. He survived the war front and supported flight testing in Hawaii until he returned to civilian life, serving for 30 years with the California Department of Forestry (now known as CAL FIRE). His memoirs are recorded in his book, "War and Fire."



PT-19 Corner

Col Tom Thompson

The team has accomplished a great deal of preparation work that is required for covering the wings. All fabric was removed from the wooden wing surfaces and they were completely inspected. Fortunately, only minor repairs are required, and these should be accomplished by the time you read this. The next step is filling, sanding, and adding a protective coat of polyurethane. This work has begun. Following the coats of protectant, the next step will be fabric covering of the wings. Repair and some new construction were accomplished on the wood formers that support the fuselage fabric.

The team continues progress with repair and covering of the elevators. Next, we will move on to the ailerons. During the WWII Heritage Day we setup a table and Col Tom Thompson explained the project and fabric covering process to those who attended (photo on the right). Some small donations were received which will be applied to the project. A side project is replacing several canvas pieces that protect the aircraft interior such as the boots around the bottom of the control sticks. These will be replaced using military specification canvas using the old pieces as a template. They are being sewn locally.



It has been suggested that we develop a new design for hats and t-shirts as we re-introduce our completed aircraft to the public. We will emphasize our discovery of its Tuskegee Airmen and WASP roots. If someone would like to take on this portion of design and marketing our aircraft we could use the help. Please contact me at heyload141@gmail.com.

At the left: Col Jim Pendergast seals inside the wing.

Photos by Col Charles Burcher.



PT-19 (Cont.)

Right: Col Forrest Buchanan works on the underside of the PT-19.



Left: Col Tom Thompson, Project Lead, rib stitching flight control surfaces of the PT-19.

Right: A stitch in time saves ... well the airplane!



Left: Cols Mike Larambe and Tom Thompson.

Photos by Col Charles Burcher and Frank Kalinowski



PT-19 (cont.)



Above: Removing the “skin” from the P-19 wing: Cols Randy Hawkins, Jim Pendergast, and Ann Haley.
Below: Cols Hawkins, Haley, and Pendergast get some assistance from two volunteers. ➔



Photos by Col Steve Forsyth

Scenes From The Hangar

Photos by Col Jerry Sanchez



WWII Heritage Day Delights Thousands

Col Steve Forsyth, Public Information Officer

The buzz of WWII restored aircraft filled the air as thousands of attendees enjoyed aircraft displays, presentations, reenactor camps and artifact collections Oct. 8 at WWII Heritage Day, presented by Commemorative Air Force (CAF) Airbase Georgia. This year's event focused on World War II and The Dawn of the Space Age.

"We were especially pleased with the large turnout of school-age children, and our new costume contest was a big hit," said Event Director Jane Simpson.

Several people enjoyed exhilarating rides in the Airbase Georgia SBD Dauntless Dive Bomber, LT-6 trainer and T-34 trainer, as well as the opportunity to talk to pilots, mechanics, reenactors and memorabilia collectors. Many also enjoyed the 40s music presented by singer Jenelle during the day. Festivities centered on the CAF Airbase Georgia Warbird Museum at Atlanta Regional Airport – Falcon Field, in Peachtree City.

WWIIHD featured a full line-up of speakers on subjects ranging from WWII training to the Dawn of the Space Age, presented by Georgia Humanities star students Shriya Chakraborti and Johnny Dorminy, authors Dan Haulman and Dr. Robert Kane, Coca Cola Space & Science Center's Scot Norman, and keynote speaker Lt. General (Ret.) Brian Arnold.

Airbase Georgia thanks all of its partners, guest speakers, and participating exhibitors who made WWII Heritage Days possible, including Atlanta Regional Airport Falcon-Field, the City of Peachtree City, Peachtree City Convention and Visitors Bureau, Cooper Lighting, Kennesaw State University Museum of Holocaust and History Education, Delta Air Lines Tech Ops, Georgia Humanities Council, National Infantry Museum, National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force, Army Aviation Heritage Foundation, Civil Air Patrol Squadron 116, Georgia State Defense Force, Military Vehicle Preservation Association, living history volunteers, Chick-fil-a, Smokehouse BBQ, and the Mad Greek.



One of the booths at the WWII Heritage Days was the "Fly-Market," comprised solely of WWII era items donated by Cols Frank Kalinowski and Tom Thompson. While Col Thompson was busy explaining the work on the PT-19, his wife Kim assisted Col Kalinowski. The result was a total sale of \$601 to the general fund of Airbase Georgia. ➔

Airbase Georgia In The News

Airbase Georgia was recently featured in two different publications. To the left is the cover page of the Georgia Association of Museums, and the two-page article immediately follows this page.

The second publication is the September / October issue of Southern Woman, with the focus on the women of CAF Airbase Georgia. The four page article begins on page 18.



Airbase Georgia In The News (cont.)

Airbase Georgia



WWII HERITAGE DAYS ★ ★ ★ ★
DAWN OF THE SPACE AGE

WWII AIRCRAFT
LIVING DISPLAYS
PRESENTATIONS
MILITARY VEHICLES

OCT 8, 2022

A VINTAGE CAR SHOW,
COSTUME CONTEST,
WARBIRD RIDES,
DEMONSTRATIONS,
AND FOOD VENDORS
10AM - 4PM

SWING DANCE IN THE
HANGAR UNTIL 7PM

ADMISSION IS \$10 FOR ADULTS,
\$5 FOR AGES 11-17,
CHILDREN 10 AND UNDER ARE FREE.

ATLANTA REGIONAL AIRPORT
FALCON FIELD
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<https://wwiadays.org/>

WWII
COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE
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 airplanes of World War II.

Airbase Georgia In The News (cont.)



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. CAF Airbase Georgia has the distinct honor of being the only metro-Atlanta site on Georgia's World War II Heritage Trail.

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. Airbase Georgia has also been fortunate in its acquisition of unique World War II artifacts. Several have a large footprint, such as the Pilot Maker C-3 Link Trainer and B-17 and B-24 gun turrets. Other artifacts

in our collection include military uniforms, field manuals, maps, toys, and field equipment.

In addition to its airplanes and artifacts, Airbase Georgia has a number of volunteers who are able to discuss the history of its aircraft and WWII in general, as well as aircraft restoration techniques. Our historians have informed children, seniors, students, and members of the community about WWII aviation. Similarly, Airbase Georgia hosts an annual event, WWII Heritage Days to showcase its many assets. This year, WWII Heritage Days will be held on October 8, 2022, and will feature a focus on the impact of WWII on the development of the Space Age.



WWII Heritage Days include WWII-era vendors and re-enactors, speakers and performers, food vendors, and even a Victory Dance at the end of the day.

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. 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!"

Airbase Georgia is located adjacent to Atlanta Regional Airport at Falcon Field, with an address of 1200 Echo Court, Peachtree City, Georgia. Airbase Georgia is open to the public on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Airbase Georgia offers rides in its historical aircraft, group tours of the airplanes and artifacts, and facility rental for special events. Donations (Airbase Georgia is a 501(c)(3) organization) may be made by visiting in-person, or via PayPal on airbasegeorgia.org.



Airbase Georgia In The News (cont.)

During the 4th of July Parade in Peachtree City, the assembled crowd enthusiastically applauded the patriotic float, sponsored by the Commemorative Air Force (CAF), Airbase Georgia, which featured the fuselage of a Boeing N2S Stearman (PT-17 biplane), used in World War II to train new pilots, including the Tuskegee airmen. The float, which won the Mayor's Trophy, was dedicated to the Rosie the Riveters of WWII – referring to the iconic poster campaign that exhorted women to join the war effort by taking jobs in factories and shipyards.

Volunteers continue to work at the CAF hangar at Falcon Field to restore this PT-17 biplane, including the intricate process of covering the wings and tail with new fabric. Many of the women volunteers have enthusiastically tackled this part of the project. It is detailed, challenging work that demands some sewing skills and doesn't require a mechanical background. Once restored, the biplane will be certified by the FAA and available for the public to purchase a ride with a CAF pilot.

These modern-day Rosie the Riveters all have something in common – a passion to conserve our military heritage and a desire to honor family members who served. Jane Simpson, a retired attorney from Carrollton, has been volunteering at the airbase for two years. She developed a love of aviation from her aunt, who trained Navy cadets during World War II. When she learned about volunteer opportunities at the airbase, Jane jumped right in and soon became Education Officer – giving leadership to the airbase's educational component. Jane is helping to re-imagine the current museum displays and is kick-starting a \$1.2 million fund-raising campaign to build a new annex at the hangar to house some of the bigger artifacts.

Modern-Day Rosie the Riveters



HELP KEEP
AVIATION
HISTORY ALIVE

Photos by Charles Burcher and John Willhoff,
Airbase Georgia, and Bonnie Helander

Airbase Georgia In The News (cont.)



Since 2016, Robyn Rosenzweig has been driving from North Atlanta to the hangar three times a month to work on the PT-17 biplane. She wants to honor her grandfather who, as a WWII pilot, flew a B-17 Flying Fortress. Robin O'Reilly, who has been volunteering for over ten years, recalls stories from her grandparents who lived in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, the largest of three Manhattan Project sites built to create the first atomic bomb. Her grandfather worked on the project. These talented women have developed a special camaraderie as they work together to help restore a piece of WWII history.

The Commemorative Air Force is a nationwide non-profit aviation association that houses the largest flying museum in the world. Its mission is to educate, inspire and honor through flight and living history experiences those who served in military aviation. The CAF has more than 13,000 members, 89 units throughout the United States and 181 aircraft that are viewed by more than 10 million spectators each year. Known as the "Ghost Squadron," these 181 warbirds, either flying or in restoration, are vivid reminders of some of the most defining moments in American military aviation history. They represent the bravery, sacrifices and innovation of America's "Greatest Generation."



Airbase Georgia In The News (cont.)



Peahtree City is proud to be the home of Airbase Georgia – the only CAF unit in the Atlanta metro area. The unit started in 1987 as the Dixie Wing and was promoted to airbase status for its 35 years of accomplishments. There are over 450 volunteer members who restore and maintain six vintage World War II aircraft and one post-Korean warbird, including a P 51D Mustang, a FG-1D Corsair, a P-63A Kingcobra, a T-6 Texan, a T-34B Mentor, a Fairchild PT-19A Cornell and the Boeing N2S Stearman that was featured in the July 4th parade.

All dues-paying volunteers receive the status of Colonel, so there is no one “outranking” anyone else. Steve Forsyth, one of Airbase Georgia’s volunteers, shares what motivates each volunteer. “These warbirds need to be flown so people can see them, hear them, and understand what the war was like and what our Greatest Generation sacrificed to win the war.”

Airbase Georgia volunteers are excited to host the 18th annual WWII Heritage Days on October 8 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at their Falcon Field hangar, with a swing dance to follow in the hangar until 7 p.m. Jane Simpson, Education Officer, is heading up the team preparing for the event and is enthusiastic about what people will discover on this day set aside to celebrate the 1940s and salute those who sacrificed so much to maintain our freedom. The theme this year is “Dawn of the Space Age,” and according to Jane, “We will be highlighting advances in aviation since WWII and how these accomplishments directly contributed to advances in the space age.”

You will find something interesting for the whole family at WWII Heritage Days, including vintage aircraft rides, military vehicles on display, living history displays and education activities. Those in attendance are invited to dress up in their favorite 1940s ensembles for the chance to win prizes for the best costumes. WWII re-enactors will be dressed in costume as well to share stories of the war and what was happening on the home front. Tickets are on sale now for \$10 for adults and \$5 for ages 11-17. Your ticket covers general admission and the 1940s Victory Dance, but donations are also greatly appreciated.



Airbase Georgia In The News (cont.)

If you are interested in helping to support the vital work of the Commemorative Air Force to "educate, inspire and honor through flight and living history experiences those who served in military aviation," here are a few ways you can get involved.

- Join Airbase Georgia and volunteer: Men and women of all ages and talents are welcome! You don't need a background in aviation to volunteer, but young airplane mechanics are especially needed to help with the restoration of aircraft. Those interested in aviation history are being recruited to help revise the museum's displays.
- Schedule a Flight in a vintage warbird: The public is invited to experience the thrill of flight in one of these historic WWII aircraft by scheduling a ride with a certified pilot volunteer with CAF. For information on costs and aircraft availability, call the Rides hotline at 678-364-1110 or by emailing rides@airbasegeorgia.org.
- Book one or more vintage aircraft for your special event: The historic warbirds at Airbase Georgia are available to be featured at any community event or air show.
- Rent the facility for your meeting or event: The hangar at Airbase Georgia Warbird Museum has over 10,000 square feet of space that can accommodate up to 400 people, and is available for rent for meetings or events. The backdrop of the seven vintage aircraft gives guests a memorable experience. The briefing room, which can accommodate 100 people, is also available for rent.
- Donate your WWII artifacts to the museum: If you think you have a significant, historical artifact to include in the museum, go to airbasegeorgia.org/donate-an-artifact.
- Donate to the CAF general operating budget or to the museum annex building fund to expand the museum's collection of artifacts. Donations can be made at paypal.com:CAF Airbase Georgia.

Airbase Georgia is located at Atlanta Regional Airport at Falcon Field, 1200 Echo Court in Peachtree City and is open to the public for tours or rides on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. For more information on WWII Heritage Days or how you can get involved, go to airbasegeorgia.org.



WWII HERITAGE DAYS ★ ★ ★ ★
DAWN OF THE SPACE AGE

**WWII AIRCRAFT
 LIVING HISTORY DISPLAYS
 PRESENTATIONS
 MILITARY VEHICLES**

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GEORGIA WWII
 COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE
 AIRBASE GEORGIA
 Peachtree City

Korean War Memorial

By Col Matt Kenner

Col Kenner had the opportunity to be in Seoul on business a few weeks ago. While there he stopped by the War Memorial in Seoul and went looking for signs of the Mosquito Squadron. Here is a quick write up and some pictures. Apparently, they consider the T-6 "the foundation" of their air force.

The War Memorial of Korea in Seoul, Korea has a few of our aircraft types on display in their main exhibit hall. The F-51D Mustang (right) was the first fighter operated by the Republic of Korea Air Force and ROK Mustangs flew nearly 8500 sorties during the Korean War. A T-6 in ROK colors hangs from the ceiling above the Mustang. The Airbase Georgia LT-6 is painted in honor of the 6147th Mosquito Squadron, which served in Korea. The Mosquito Squadron didn't play a large roll in the War Memorial exhibits, but an LT-6 did make an appearance in the background of the painting "351", which depicted close air support of Hill 351 south of Goseong.



Here is what the display had to say about the T-6: "It was developed in the U.S. in the late 1930s. During the Korean War, they carried out reconnaissance and light attack missions. South Korea's Air Force had not had a proper attack aircraft even after Oct. 1, 1949, when it gained independence from the Army. To improve this poor environment, 10 T-6s were introduced from Canada through the National Fund in March 1950 and President Syngman Rhee was given [sic] the name of 'Geongukgi (the foundation)' during the naming ceremony of the aircraft held on May 15 of the same year. When the Korean War broke out, it was equipped with basic armament and used as a light attack aircraft. After the war, it was operated as a trainer." 🐦



Korean War Memorial (cont.)



More artwork in the Korean War Memorial.



Facility Rentals

Col Dave Riesselmann

The facility rental season will close out with four hangar events over the remaining two months:

November 12th and 19th

December 9th and 10th

Additionally, the Meeting Room is booked for three events:

November 15th

December 1st and 3rd

To volunteer or to refer a client: facilityrentals@airbasegeorgia.org ➔



PLANE CRAZY



Supermarine unveils its entry for the RAFs request for a terrain-following vehicle using the latest in British technology. (Pretty sure that's a Merlin in there.)

Stearman Update

Col Jeff Clark

It's time for another *Stearman* update! As you can see from the pictures below, the impressive progress continues. Unfortunately, some of the progress might be a little deceiving. To show off the plane for WWII Heritage Day, the *Stearman* team attached the vertical and horizontal stabilizers to the fuselage and installed the rudder and elevators. It looks like it's really coming together in these photos, but the installation is only temporary. There is still more work to do inside and outside of the fuselage before these surfaces are permanently installed.



Col Frank Piasecki finished repairing and restoring the center section. This is the part of the top wing that contains the fuel tank. It will be mounted directly above the front cockpit.



Stearman Update (cont.)

Frank prepped the fuel tank for installation. In this picture, the tank is ready to be pressurized for the performance of a leak test to ensure the tank will not leak fuel when it is installed.



Left: Col Alastair (Tagg) Taggart fabricates the cockpit seats.

Right: The liner for the baggage compartment behind the rear cockpit has been installed. The silver bracket on the left side is where the Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) will be installed.

If you would like to join the team, please visit them in the hangar any Saturday, or email me at jeff.clark@airbasegeorgia.org. ➔



Heroes of Aviation

By Col Casey Roszell



As the only known US Navy ace to shoot down both German and Japanese planes during World War II, Dean "Diz" Laird is an American Legend and "quintessential fighter pilot." Laird entered naval service in January 1942, following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, and continued for 29 years until his retirement in 1971 as a Commander. During that time he flew virtually every type of fighter and attack plane in the Navy inventory, logging more than 8,200 hours (3,882 in jets; 4,623 in propeller aircraft), and 520 carrier landings.

Laird is a flying ace and has earned the Distinguished Flying Cross for his achievements. To celebrate his 90th birthday he went skydiving from an airplane. In June 2022 Laird went on a flight in a *Stearman* at the age of 101.

Laird was inducted into the prestigious International Air and Space Hall of Fame at the San Diego Air & Space Museum in 2013.



Bob forgot that the second part of the saying "a good landing is one you can walk away from" was "and a great landing is one where you can use the plane again."



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