



AIRBASE GEORGIA *Dispatch*



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

Education through living history.

Keep 'em flying.

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Welcome, new Cols. At the November meeting, Recruiting Officer Col Jim Dalton swears in Mel Duhon, Keith Cox, Chris Chisholm, William Kendrick, and Chris Madrid. Chris has been a long time member, but apparently had never been sworn in.

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From the Left Seat

Col Joel Perkins, Airbase Georgia Leader

In lieu of my usual column, I thought everyone would enjoy a funny twist on Clement Clarke Moore's classic poem 'Twas the Night Before Christmas. The author of this version is not known, and it appears that the earliest posting on the internet was around 2007. ➔



*Twas the night before Christmas, and out on the ramp,
Not an airplane was stirring, not even a Champ.
The aircraft were fastened to tie downs with care,
In hopes that — come morning — they all would be there.*

*The fuel trucks were nestled, all snug in their spots,
With gusts from two-forty at 39 knots.
I slumped at the fuel desk, now finally caught up,
And settled down comfortably, resting my butt.*

*When the radio lit up with noise and with chatter,
I turned up the scanner to see what was the matter.
A voice clearly heard over static and snow,
Called for clearance to land at the airport below.*

*He barked his transmission so lively and quick,
I'd have sworn that the call sign he used was "St. Nick."
I ran to the panel to turn up the lights,
The better to welcome this magical flight.*

*He called his position, no room for denial,
"St. Nicholas One, turnin' left onto final."
And what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a Rutan-built sleigh, with eight Rotax Reindeer!*

*With vectors to final, down the glideslope he came,
As he passed all fixes, he called them by name:
"Now Ringo! Now Tolga! Now Trini and Bacun!
On Comet! On Cupid!" What pills was he takin'?*

*While controllers were sittin', and scratchin' their heads,
They phoned to my office, and I heard it with dread,
The message they left was both urgent and dour:
"When Santa pulls in, have him please call the tower."*

*He landed like silk, with the sled runners sparking,
Then I heard, "Left at Charlie," and "Taxi to parking."
He slowed to a taxi, turned off of three-oh,
And stopped on the ramp with a "Ho, ho-ho-ho..."*

*He stepped out of the sleigh, but before he could talk,
I ran out to meet him with my best set of chocks.
His red helmet and goggles were covered with frost,
And his beard was all blackened from Reindeer exhaust.*

*His breath smelled like peppermint, gone slightly stale,
And he puffed on a pipe, but he didn't inhale.
His cheeks were all rosy and jiggled like jelly,
His boots were as black as a cropduster's belly.*

*He was chubby and plump, in his suit of bright red,
And he asked me to "fill it, with hundred low-lead."
He came dashing in from the snow-covered pump,
I knew he was anxious for drainin' the sump.*

*I spoke not a word, but went straight to my work,
And I filled up the sleigh, but I spilled like a jerk.
He came out of the restroom, and sighed in relief,
Then he picked up a phone for a Flight Service brief.*

*And I thought as he silently scribed in his log,
These reindeer could land in an eighth-mile fog.
He completed his pre-flight, from the front to the rear,
Then he put on his headset, and I heard him yell, "Clear!"*

*And laying a finger on his push-to-talk,
He called up the tower for clearance and squawk.
"Take taxiway Charlie, the southbound direction,
Turn right three-two-zero at pilot's discretion"*

*He sped down the runway, the best of the best,
"Your traffic's a Grumman, inbound from the west."
Then I heard him proclaim, as he climbed thru the night,
"Merry Christmas to all! I have traffic in sight."*



COLS RECEIVE TOP HONORS AT ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY



Above: Col Gerhard Frenz holding a Corsair model, with Col Stan Musick, named Col Of The Year.



Right: Airbase Leader Joel Perkins presents Col Malcolm Lelliott with the Ray Niehouse Award for "Outstanding service and dedication to the unit." The Niehouse Award is the Airbase's highest award.

Right: Present at the party was the Airbase's Memorial Table for Cols lost over the past two years.



AIRBASE GEORGIA ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY



One thing for sure ... I've never seen the hangar look so festive before.



EDUCATION OFFICER

Col Jane Simpson

Wishing you the season's blessings! At the close of this year, I am reminded just how much I enjoy "hanging out" with my Airbase Georgia family. And as each anniversary date of WWII's noteworthy events comes and goes, I am also reminded that stories of courage and achievement are still important for future generations. The Greatest Generation is slowly disappearing, but we should never forget how these men and women overcame the challenges created by a worldwide conflict. The role of the Education office is to make certain that the WWII generation and its stories do not fade away.

It is important to note just how often stories of WWII are used by the nation's youth in the National History Day competitions; our Heritage Day student speakers Jonathan Dorminy and Shriya Chakraborti (Georgia NHD winners) helped to illustrate this point. The ingenuity of Americans who broke the Enigma Code, and the insight of Franklin D. Roosevelt during the Arcadia Conference with Winston Churchill were two such examples that our young visitors found to be inspirational.

I say all of this to encourage every Airbase Georgia to remember why you joined the Commemorative Air Force. You find the stories of WWII to be inspirational; shouldn't you pass along your knowledge and support to keep these stories going? Of course you should! We appreciate your financial support to reach this goal, but we also value any time commitments you can make as well. In that regard, an Interests Survey has been developed to tap into our member talent. If you can spare some time (it doesn't have to be much!), we really want to create support teams. How? First step, we need to understand what tasks you are willing to learn and take on. A survey has been created, and you can take that survey by following the link below. PLEASE NOTE: The purpose is to identify areas that our members have

the most interest in learning; we have NOT designed any workshop yet (except for Rides – the next workshop is scheduled for February 18, 2023). We will only develop Workshops for areas

with sufficient interest (you may select more than one task). If you have no interest in attending any workshop, then please don't fill out the survey. *We are only interested in knowing how many members would actually attend a Workshop, if it is developed.* This doesn't mean that we are not interested in developing workshops for each area, but as volunteers, we can only do so much. THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR INPUT; WE HOPE TO SEE MORE MEMBERS INVOLVED! SURVEY LINK:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CPWHRH2>

HISTORY HIGHLIGHT – VOL. 1, ART. 12 REMNANTS OF THE HINDENBURG

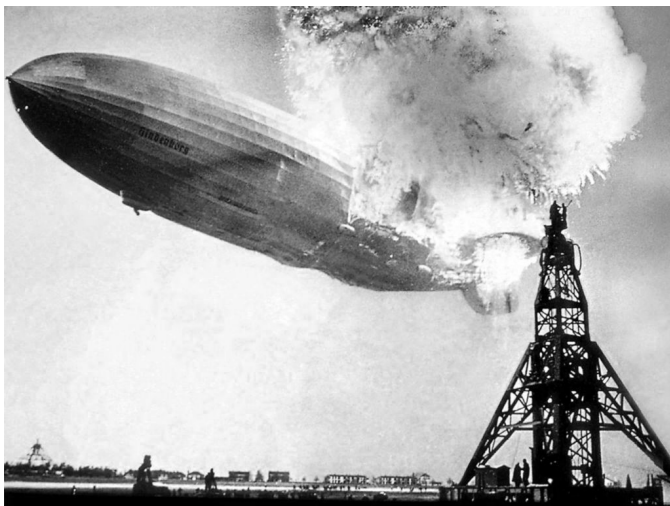
Of all the air disasters throughout history, the explosion and burning of the German airship Hindenburg at Naval Air Station Lakehurst (New Jersey) in 1937 is probably one of the most recognized. This disaster was captured on film, and we are all familiar with the reporter's lament, "Oh, the humanity!" While it precedes WWII history, the German airships were used as German propaganda of the rising military prowess of the Nazi party. The tail fins sported the Nazi swastika. If it predates WWII, why am I bringing this up? Because Airbase Georgia is fortunate to have pieces of the destroyed airship, and a program signed by crew who perished on the airship, in its artifact collection.



Education (cont.)

The Hindenburg's story includes lessons in aviation history and contributions to the

development of aviation technology in addition to the human interest aspect.



In 2008, Richard P. D'Zio donated a compilation of items related to the destruction of the German airship, The Hindenburg. While this item is not a WWII artifact, it is of historical significance. Did you know we had this amazing piece of history?



Source:

www.airships.net/hindenburg/disaster/

If you have questions, please contact

jane.simpson@airbasegeorgia.org →

Online Dues Payment is Now Live!

We are nearing the end of 2022, which means that many colonels need to renew their Airbase Georgia membership dues.

To make the process easier this year, we have enhanced the ability to pay your dues on our website. Just follow these steps...

1. Go to airbasegeorgia.org in your web browser.
2. Click the Login option on the main menu. Enter your last name and colonel number, and then press the Login button.
3. Check your membership status by your name in the upper right. A red indicator means that your Airbase Georgia membership has expired. A yellow indicator means that it expires within 45 days. You can see the exact expiration date by hovering over the indicator.

If your status indicator is yellow or Red, you are eligible for online dues payment. To pay your dues...

1. Click the Yellow/Red status indicator, or select the Colonels->Member Profile menu option.
2. From the Member Profile screen, review your contact information and confirm it is correct. You can press the Edit button at the bottom to make changes as needed.
3. Click Renew My Membership. Then select your method of payment and enter your information. We support payments via PayPal or credit card.
4. Your membership will be updated for another year once the payment is successfully processed. You will notice that your status indicator changes to Green to reflect your current membership dues.

Airbase Georgia dues are \$49/year. If you don't want to pay online, you can still use the old methods of sending a check or paying the Adjutant directly.

If you have questions or experience problems, please contact jeff.clark@airbasegeorgia.org for assistance.



Ladies' Night

Women of the Wing Disco Party!

Female colonels, wives, and daughters of Airbase Georgia are invited to the hangar for a fun night to meet and socialize outside of our typical volunteer roles. The theme is 1970s Disco. Dressing up in Disco attire is optional.

Col Jane Simpson's husband, Richard, will DJ this private event with 70s & 80s hits.

If interested in attending, please email Laura Tolbert by December 30, at DaisyDoesPinup@Gmail.com (So we can plan refreshments)

Who? Ladies of Airbase Georgia

When? Saturday,

January 14, 2023

5pm—8pm



Where? Airbase Georgia

Conference Area

1200 Echo Court

Peachtree City, GA 30269

DJ



Facility Rentals

Col Dave Riesselmann



WANTED

New Facility Rental Officer Needed

Facility Rentals finished the 2022 rental season with just over \$30,000 in revenue. Prior to a couple unfortunate cancellations we were anticipating almost \$40,000. Solid bookings for the 2023 season already top \$24,000. On behalf of Airbase Georgia I thank the colonels who volunteered to assist with preparation, parking, and supervision of these events, I've named them in previous articles.

Your intrepid Facility Rental Officer is shifting emphasis in the coming year to flying qualifications here at Airbase Georgia and thus I ask colonels to consider taking over. This position, for me as a new member, was a way to become significantly involved in the Airbase Georgia mission. I was privileged to work with the staff and get to know the people who really make Airbase Georgia work. It's a turnkey operation with a foundation of bookings for next year and requires no marketing effort since the facility literally sells itself. You've heard me say it before – it requires time but no expertise.

Remember the email address below if you are interested in volunteering to help with rental events, if you would like to refer a potential client to us, or especially if you are interested in taking over as the Facility Rentals Officer:

facilityrentals@airbasegeorgia.org

Rides Update

Col James Sterns - Rides Coordinator



November 12 was a busy day; The Airbase Georgia Team and Rides Crew completed six P-51 rides that had been sitting on our books for a while. The weather was not cooperating, and we had to wait for a good cloud ceiling to do these rides. The weather finally cooperated, and Pilot Stan Musick gave us the go! Our riders were not dissuaded by the weather and wanted to get their rides in. By late afternoon our flying weather closed and left us with a couple riders still needing to get their rides done.

This same day was marred by tragedy. Six of our friends were lost in the tragic accident at Wings Over Dallas. In my short time I was blessed to meet, know, and work with them. The weekend before we were with Texas Raiders in Cullman AL, doing what we love to do. We must remember them, smile when we think of our time with them and know they were doing what they loved.



PT-19 Corner

Col Tom Thompson

Cooler temperatures in the hanger limited our ability to work with the fabric bonding liquid (it's water-based) so wing recovering work has moved into the shop. By the end of December both wings should be completely recovered. Afterwards, the bonding liquid is thinned and brushed into the fabric weave to strengthen it. When you visit, you will see this has already been accomplished on several other assemblies. The visible difference is the white polyester fabric will be greenish blue. Worn canvas parts are being replaced. Again, if you visit, please look in the cockpit to see the new boots that were installed on the control sticks.



As we wrap up the year it's important to review the progress we've made since we began in late May.

- Removed all fabric and thoroughly inspected structural components;
- Repaired/replaced wooden areas of the wings which had moisture or physical damage;
- Recovered approximately half of the fabric areas;
- Acquired hardware for reassembly of the aircraft to flyable condition;
- Most importantly, we've learned different skills, gotten new members involved in the unit, and had fun in the process.

There are too many volunteers to individually thank here without leaving someone out. But many have given their time, which contributed to our goal of returning this historic aircraft to operational status. THANK YOU ALL. Looking forward to joining you for the 'first' flight in 2023.

More help needed. If you are interested in documenting our progress on video, to add to our social media presence, please contact Chris Madrid.



L: Cols Jim Prendergast & Tony Berg work on the canvas control stick boot in the front cockpit of the PT-19 during its restoration & recovering. Below: Col Forest Buchanan works on the PT-19 wing. Photos by Col Charles Burcher. ➔



Stearman Update

Col Jeff Clark



Left: Col Joe Broker works on the Stearman.

Photo by Col Charles Burcher

Would you believe it?
Three generations of
Lelliotts work on the
Stearman. L to R:
Andrew, Geoffrey, and
Malcolm.





12 PLANES OF CHRISTMAS P-47 THUNDERBOLT MATCHING DONATION

**An anonymous donor has offered to match the first
100 Airbase Georgia members who donate up to \$50
to ABG P-47 N844WA!**



This year's 12 Planes of Christmas campaign is now
live at www.SupportCAF.org!

CAF Airbase Georgia Corsair Stars in “Devotion” Movie

PEACHTREE CITY, GA. (Dec. 5, 2022) – Peachtree City, Ga., has a new movie “star.” The Commemorative Air Force (CAF) Airbase Georgia’s restored Corsair FG-1D performs in the new Columbia Pictures movie, “Devotion,” which opened Nov. 23. The film producers, Black Label Media, also are dedicating significant proceeds from “Devotion” to a scholarship fund for military children.

The vintage WWII fighter aircraft was used for action scenes during the filming of the new Korean War movie, along with several other Corsairs. It was restored by the CAF and is operated by Airbase Georgia at its Warbird Museum, 1200 Echo Ct., Peachtree City, adjacent to the Atlanta Regional Airport – Falcon Field. Columbia Pictures painted a different number, 203, on the plane for the movie although the Corsair was returned to its original number and livery after the filming. “Devotion” is based on a true story from the Korean conflict. Author Adam Makos chronicled the story about the comradeship of two pilots, Jesse Brown and Tom Hudner, in his book, “Devotion: An Epic Story of Heroism, Friendship and Sacrifice”. Brown was the first Black pilot in the U.S. Navy.

Corsair Crew Chief Gregg Scott, who has more than 20 years of experience with Delta Air Lines as an avionics technician, spent about six weeks in South Georgia for the filming. He supervised movement of the plane on the ground for various shots, in addition to maintaining the Corsair for flight. Airbase Georgia pilot Stan Musick handled the flying and also did significant orientation flying in a T-6 to prepare Jonathan Majors for his role as Brown. Glen Powell plays Hudner. Musick also served as a technical advisor for some of the cockpit scenes. He is a lifelong pilot who served as flight surgeon in the Air National Guard and flies many CAF aircraft, including the Corsair, P-51 Mustang and LT-6 Mosquito trainer. He has 30 years in the CAF and serves as instructor and check pilot for several aircraft.

Scott said the days of preparation and filming were long, but he enjoyed watching the aircraft in operation on a fabricated aircraft carrier built at the Statesboro Bullock County Airport. He said it was a unique experience being part of a movie

production. “I had the opportunity to meet Thomas Hudner’s son, see his logbooks and hold Hudner’s Medal of Honor,” Scott said. “He signed the airplane that was depicting his dad’s Corsair in the movie.” Scott also had the honor of meeting Jesse Brown’s granddaughter and great granddaughter.



Crew Chief Gregg Scott with Director J D Dillard & Pilot Stan Musick. Photo Credit: Tom Walsh & Charles Burcher.

The Brown Hudner Navy Scholarship Foundation was formally established using funds from “Devotion” and will award its first scholarships in 2023. The fund is being managed by the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation, which has awarded more than \$155 million in scholarships to military children over the past 60 years, with the film supporting both organizations.

After extensive service with the U.S. Navy and Marines in WWII, Corsairs were used effectively in Korea along with the more advanced U.S. jet aircraft of the 1950s, serving primarily as low-level fighter-bombers. Airbase Georgia’s Corsair is on display from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at the Warbird Museum

Here are images as the Corsair is being transformed into Korean War paint scheme.

Photo Credit: Tom Walsh & Charles Burcher



Heroes of Aviation

By Col Casey Roszell



Cornelia Fort (February 5, 1919 – March 21, 1943) was a US aviator who became famous for two aviation related events. On the morning of December 7, 1941, while conducting a civilian training flight at Pearl Harbor, she was the first US pilot to encounter the Japanese air fleet on the way to the attack at Pearl Harbor, and narrowly escaped a strafing attack after landing.

The next year, Fort became the second member of the Womens Auxiliary Ferrying Service (WAFS), what later became the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP), and was working as a ferry pilot when she became the first female pilot in American history to die on active duty. Stationed at the 6th Ferrying Group base at Long Beach, CA, Fort was the first WASP fatality on March 21, 1943 in a mid-air collision when another plane flown by a male pilot struck the left wing of the BT-13 she was flying. The collision took place ten miles south of Merkel Texas.

Cornelia Fort Airport in Nashville, TN is named in her honor.

Ways to support the families of those killed in the Wings Over Dallas accident:



The International Council of Air Shows (ICAS) Foundation,* in association with the Commemorative Air Force, is accepting donations for the families of those involved in the accident. To donate, please go to: <https://airshowfoundation.org/support/>, select "Donation in honor of memory of an individual" and enter "CAF" as the "Name of Memorialized." 100% of the money collected through this effort will be provided to the families as emergency funding, with all received funds being split amongst those families impacted.

*The ICAS Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and follows all IRS guidelines. Although most donations made to the ICAS Foundation are tax deductible, please consult with your tax adviser to confirm the deductibility of your contribution. EIN: 38-2885-409.



ON THE HORIZON

January 7, 2023	Staff & Members Meetings
January 14, 2023	Women of the Wing Disco Party
February 4, 2023	Staff & Members Meetings
February 18, 2023	Rides Crew training
March 4, 2023	Staff & Members Meetings
April 1, 2023	Staff & Members Meetings

Extras on the Internet

CAF Airbase Georgia featured in *Flying Magazine*:

All Cols should have received an email on December 15 with a link to the article.

Veterans Day at Delta – A team has assembled all the pictures from the Veterans Day event on Nov 3rd & 4th at the Atlanta Hartsfield - Jackson Airport.

Click on the link below and work your way down through 6 different photographer's pictures and a few more off a cell phone.

Download and save as many as you desire. Please enjoy and share with your family and friends, all of those on your crew and Squadron.

<https://marknorris.smugmug.com/Veterans-Day-Pictures/2022-Veterans-Day->