



AIRBASE GEORGIA *Dispatch*



AIRBASE GEORGIA, COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE, PEACHTREE CITY, GA
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February 2024

Education through living history.

Keep 'em flying.

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With the return to flight after a two-year restoration by a team led by Col Tom Thompson, special attention is focused on our PT-19 in this issue. Start reading about it on page 3.



WHAT'S INSIDE

- 2 From the Left Seat
- 3.... PT-19 Update
- 4 Tuskegee Airmen Visit
- 6 PT-19
- 8 Development Officer
- 9 Education Officer
- 11 New Cadet Program
- 13 Water Problem Remedied
- 14 Facility Rentals
- 15 *Stearman* Update
- 18 Scenes From the Hangar
- 20 On the Horizon
- 20 Trivia of Aviation

From the Left Seat

Col Joel Perkins, Airbase Georgia Leader



Dear Members of Airbase Georgia,

I am writing to emphasize the critical importance of conducting a feasibility study to identify local businesses that are willing to donate to our non-profit organization. This study is vital for our survival and continued success in fulfilling our mission.

Here are a few reasons why this feasibility study is indispensable:

1. **Resource Optimization:** By identifying businesses that are likely to donate, we can focus our efforts and resources more efficiently. Instead of approaching numerous businesses blindly, we can target those that have shown a propensity to support causes like ours.
2. **Strategic Partnerships:** The study will enable us to forge strategic partnerships with local businesses. These partnerships can be mutually beneficial, providing us with financial support while also giving the businesses an opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to the community.
3. **Sustainability:** Relying solely on individual donations may not be sustainable in the long run. Engaging local businesses diversifies our funding sources and reduces our dependency on any single revenue stream, ensuring the stability and sustainability of our organization.
4. **Community Engagement:** Partnering with local businesses fosters a sense of community engagement and support. It demonstrates that we are invested in the local economy and encourages businesses and residents alike to rally behind our cause.

I understand that the cost of the feasibility study is significant, but it is an investment in our future. So far, we have raised \$18,000 towards our \$35,000 goal. I urge each of you to consider contributing whatever you can to help us reach our target. Every dollar brings us closer to securing the funds needed to conduct this study and pave the way for a brighter future for Airbase Georgia.

Together, we can ensure the continued success and impact of our organization. Thank you for your support and dedication to our cause.➔

Sincerely,

Col Joel Perkins

Airbase Georgia Leader

PT-19 Corner

Col Tom Thompson

On 18 January, 2024 our PT-19A returned to the cold skies of Georgia. The aircraft had not flown in two years. Col. George Harrison performed power and controllability checks and reported only minor squawks. Our task now is to get all pilots current on the aircraft and new sponsors qualified.

To finalize return to flight, the team completed the new canopy glass installation and other cleanup for return to flight. The aircraft was weighed and new weight and balance calculations were added to the logbook. Final inspections were accomplished, both on the restoration work and documentation of the annual inspection. Col. Harrison ran an engine ground test to ensure there were no issues from the long layoff.

Just a quick review of the restoration work from the past 2 years. The aircraft was completely disassembled and inspected. The horizontal stabilizer was replaced and the 'new' item was recovered with plywood on one side. Some supporting wood structures were replaced and minor repairs were accomplished on other wood pieces. All canopy glass was replaced. The aircraft was recovered with polyester fabric using the Stewart Systems waterborne coating process. This process uses a thinned solution of the product to fill in the weave on installed fabric. Following this step the aircraft was primed using a UV protectant and painted with Ranthane silver polyurethane.



This will be the last PT-19 Corner. I'd like to thank all the members of the restoration team, whose photos appeared here in the Dispatch. Everyone took the initiative to accomplish and re-accomplish the work until it was the best we could provide. Also, so many other members deserve thanks including those from the machine shop, *Stearman* team, P-47 team, and hanger rats. Last, thanks to Col Randy Hawkins who taught us many lessons and then let us work out the final solutions on our own. ➔

Atlanta Event Honors Frontier Pilot and Tuskegee Airman

On February 15, 2024, Airbase Georgia members participated in a memorial event at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. As part of Black History Month, the event honored the memory of Robert Ashby (July 17, 1926 – March 5, 2021). Mr. Ashby flew as a Tuskegee Airman pilot and later was a captain with Frontier Airlines. He was hired by Frontier Airlines in 1973 and was one of the first African Americans to work as a pilot for a major commercial airline. Participants at the luncheon included Frontier Airlines employees, the Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals, and the Atlanta Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. The keynote address was provided by U.S. Army veteran Dr. Sheila Chamberlain (the first African American woman combat intelligence pilot).

Among the many guests present was Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen (DOTA) Rev. Thomas Bristow, Atlanta Chapter Tuskegee Airmen, History was made on this day, a Documented Original Tuskegee Airman (DOTA) and a Documented Original Tuskegee Airplane were present together in Georgia!

Commemorative Air Force Colonels George Harrison, Tom Thompson, and Gilbert Wheeler represented Airbase Georgia. Two ABG members arrived in the recently restored PT-19A which was originally assigned to Moton Field, AL in November, 1943. There it was used by the Tuskegee Airmen for initial flight training. Before the luncheon CAF members provided a planeside review of the aircraft's history and explained the two-year restoration process. Our thanks to Frontier Airlines for allowing us to participate in honoring this important part of aviation history.



L to R: Col Tom Thompson, Tuskegee airman Thomas Bristow, Col George Harrison.

Tuskegee Airman (cont.)

Tuskegee Airmen Rev. Thomas Bristow 5th from left! Dr. Sheila Chamberlain second from right!



On November 18, 2023, the following members of the Atlanta Chapter Tuskegee Airmen met at Airbase Georgia to view progress of the PT-19 restoration. The aircraft has since been returned to flying status and is the only Tuskegee PT-19 currently in operation.

L to R: Gregory Grant, Bill Patterson, Gilbert Wheeler, Jacob Younginer, Thomas Holt, Don Chapman, Piper Burks, J.T. Hollin, Jr., and seated is Dr. James Patterson. ➔

Photo: Col Dave Riesselmann.

Fairchild PT-19 (cont.)

TUSKEGEE AIRMEN:

The aircraft with tail number 42-83511 was accepted by the USAAF on November 16, 1943, and was delivered to Moton Field Tuskegee Ala, November 19th 1943, where it was used for training purposes by the Tuskegee Airmen for a period of six months from November 1943 to April 1944.

91 Single Engine (SE) Pilots and 54 Twin Engine (TE) pilots a total of 145 in all from the graduating classes 43-K (DEC. 1943) thru 44-D (April 1944) were in training at Moton Field during its stay. The Single Engine (SE) Pilots after graduation became members of the 99th Pursuit Squadron, or joined the 100th, 301st, and 302nd to form the 332nd Fighter Group. While the Twin Engine (TE) pilots became part of the 477th Bombardment Group comprising of the 616th, 617th, 618th, and 618th Squadrons.

Roscoe C. Brown	SE-44-C	Downed 1 Me-262 on March 24, 1945; Downed a Fw-190 March 31, 1945
Clarence D. (LUCKY) Lester	SE-43-K	Downed 3 Me-109s on July 18, 1944
Frederick D. Funderburg,	SE-43-K	Downed 2 Me-109 on June 9, 1944
Thomas P. Braswell	SE-44-B	Downed 1 Fw-190 on March 31, 1945
Alfred M Gorham	SE-44-B	Downed 2 Fw-190s on July 27, 1944
Charles L. White	SE-44-C	Downed 2 Me109s on April 1, 1945
Earl R. Lane	SE-44-D	Downed 1 Me-262 on March 24, 1945; Downed 1 Me-109 on March 31, 1945

William M. Wheeler, Edward J Williams from Columbus GA, William L. Hill, James L Hall Jr., William S Price III, Raul W. Bell, Robert J. Friend, Alexander Jefferson, Jimmie D. Wheeler, Mayron Wilson, Marion R. Rodgers, Walter P Manning, Harold M. Morris, Danial L Rich, Richard D. Macon from Birmingham AL, Carroll H Robinson, Fitzroy Buck Newsum, Amos A. Rogers from Tuskegee AL. (See complete list of names at the end of this article). After the war many these Airmen continued to a distinguished career in the new re-named United States Air Force.

PT-19 42-83511 was declared surplus in 1945. Since then it had several private owners, upgrades, and restorations. One was the inclusion of a modified closed cockpit like the later model PT-26, which allowed flying in inclement weather.

On 1 August 1991 Hardy L. Daniels Jr. applied for a FAA "N" certificate and was given "N5215Z" on 12 June 1998 which it now carries today.

16 November 2006 The Commemorative Air Force (CAF) Airbase Georgia acquired the PT-19A, where it flew throughout the Southeast at airshows and fly-ins, offering rides to the public, until it was brought back to the shop for its restoration which started in 2022.

2022 Restoration

The aircraft was completely disassembled and inspected. The horizontal stabilizer, some supporting wood structures and all canopy glass were replaced. [The aircraft was then re-covered with polyester fabric, primed with a UV protectant and painted with Ranthane silver polyurethane.](#)

After new weight-and-balance calculations and final inspections, retired Air Force Major Gen. George Harrison, an Airbase Georgia pilot, was cleared to conduct a ground engine test and then take off for the first flight!

After two years of dedicated restoration work, Fairchild PT-19A, serial number 42-83511, took to the skies again at Atlanta Regional Airport – Falcon Field, in Peachtree City on Jan. 18th, 2024. →

Safety Update

By Col Steve Hoofnagle, Safety Officer

safety@airbasegeorgia.org

770-309-5584 cell



March is Workplace Eye Safety Month!!!

More than 2,000 eye injuries occur in the workplace every day. Between 10-20% of these result in temporary or permanent vision loss.

When you are in the Shop or working on aircraft in the Hangar, please wear safety glasses.

We have safety glasses available in both the Shop and the Hangar. Please take a pair and keep it as your own.

If you've forgotten or lost yours, please feel free to use a pair temporarily and then return them to the "used" glasses bin.

We have side shields available for prescription eyewear and can provide special safety glasses that go over prescription eyewear on request.

Sometimes safety glasses aren't enough, such as when welding or grinding. Be sure to wear the appropriate face shield or welding mask.

We are planning to hold annual recurrent training in Active Shooter, First Aid/CPR, and Fire Extinguishers starting in April. Watch for details here and on the Airbase Facebook page and website.

Please send any Safety related questions, comments, or suggestions to "safety@airbasegeorgia.org".

"Even in a hi-tech world, your eyes are still your greatest asset." →

Best Regards,

Steve Hoofnagle
CAF Airbase Georgia
Safety Officer
1200 Echo Court
Peachtree City, GA 30269
770-309-5584 cell



EDUCATION OFFICER



Col Jim “Here Comes the Judge” Dalton

As your Education Officer with two meetings under my belt, I'm beginning to see a real need for future leaders of our organization to step forward and fill deputy positions for each of our staff positions. Some staff position become open every year. Give it some serious thought you can run or you can hide, but it is difficult to complain unless you are willing to step into the breach!

DOCENTS: The members continue to perform at a very high level as visitors are beginning to find our hangar on a more regular basis. Shadow a docent some Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday if you would like to learn a little more about our airplanes, our unit or our mission.

CADET/MENTOR: It looks like we now have two, soon to be active, Cadets; I hope to introduce one or both of them to you at the March meeting.

SPEAKER'S BUREAU: I have two volunteers, who have expressed an interest in speaking to outside organizations about us. If you live in a community with active clubs such as Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis or others, they are always looking for interesting programs. You could be it. We could help you with a script. What could be more interesting than Airbase Georgia?

Adopt an AIRPORT Near you. See the insert on locations of airports in Georgia.

CREW CHIEFS:

Bell P-63A *King Cobra*, FG-1D *Corsair*, North American P-51 *Mustang* “Red Nose,” Douglas SBD-5 *Dauntless*, North American LT-6 *Mosquito*, Beechcraft T-34B *Mentor*, Fairchild PT-19A (Tuskegee Trainer), Republic P-47N *Thunderbolt*, Boeing N2S *Stearman*, those are our aircraft. Now which person is the crew chief for which airplane?

Here are some names, Joe Broker, Tommy Thompson, Mike Lamble, Randy Hawkins, Mark Chabot, Robert Karge, Rodney Higginbotham, Andy Cash, Jim Arnold, Mike McGowan! Who is who?

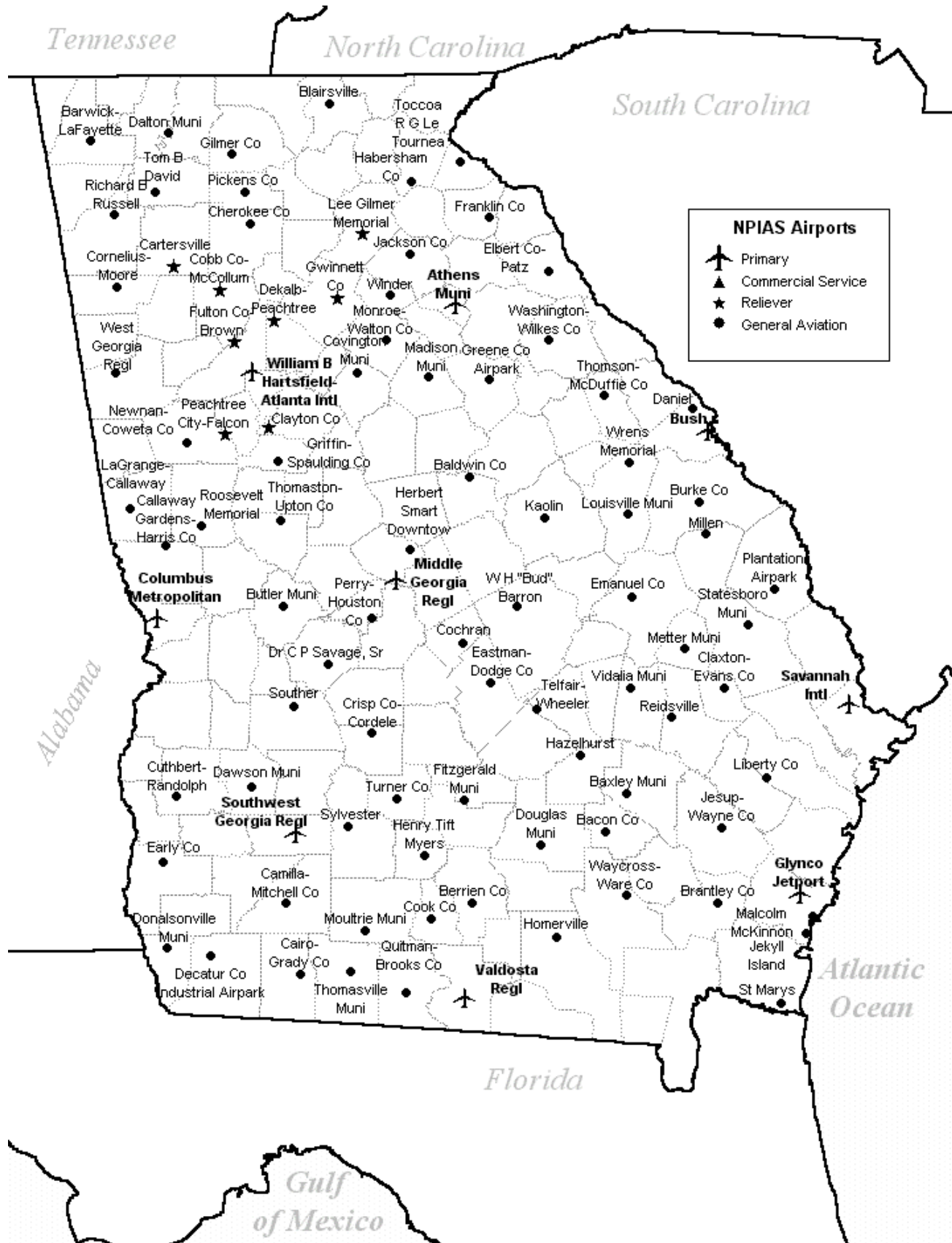
Our next regular member meeting is Saturday, March 9, 2024, I would very much like to see a standing room only (SRO) crowd of members, and we will be swinging into the AIRSHOW season.

GOT AN IDEA PUT IT IN WRITING!! But remember ideas are cheap, implementation is both expensive and time consuming. In a team effort we hope to roll out a program of outreach to all members especially new members (if you would like to help contact me). →

Regards,
Jim Dalton, Education Officer
CAF Airbase Georgia (KFFC)

All the public airports in Georgia. Do you live near one of these airports? If so, could you spend some time visiting the airport Manager?

Georgia



Cadet Program Approved

On February 3, 2024 the Airbase Georgia staff approved the creation of a Cadet/ Mentor Program. The motion is detailed below.

MOTION TO ESTABLISH A CADET/MENTOR PROGRAM AT AIRBASEGEORGIA OF THE CAF

Whereas, the CAF HQ has embarked on a youth program, which includes a "CADET" program the HQ program includes youth from ages 12 – 23 years old, and;

Whereas, each individual CAF unit has been allowed to promulgate their own cadet program, within the parameters set forth by HQ in CAF UNIT MANUAL SECTION 8, EDUCATION dated MARCH 2021, and;

Whereas, the Education program of the CAF is clearly outline in *THE DISPATCH, Volume 50, Number5*, pages 4 & pages 6 through 13, and;

Whereas, CAF AirBase Georgia (f/k/a The Dixie Wing) wishes to partially embrace the cadet program of the Commemorative Air Force.

Now then and therefore, Airbase Georgia hereby establishes a "Cadet/Mentoring" with ages from Twelve (12) years old to Eighteen (18) years old, and;

Each individual cadet will have a voluntarily, assigned mentor, who must be a full member of the CAF and Airbase Georgia and at Airbase Georgia at all times that the cadet is present at the hangar, exceptions may be granted by the Education Officer, however, any Airbase Georgia member who regularly interacts with the cadet must have met the prerequisites set forth in Section 8, regarding youth protection, and;

A parent of the cadet must sign a "hold harmless" agreement for both the cadet and themselves, and;

Individual cadets with their mentor or parent may be in the Airbase Georgia hangar from 9am to 4pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays, and at other times with prior approval of any voting Staff Member, and;

At least one parent of the cadet must meet in person with the mentor & the Education Officer (or his designated alternate) at least every quarter of the year to assess both progress and the cadet's willingness to continue in the program, and;

If a parent is a member of the CAF & Airbase Georgia, that parent should be the mentor for their cadet, however, by agreement another member can agree to be said cadet's mentor, and;

Any communication between the cadet and the cadet's mentor shall always include at least one parent as a third party to the conversation and all communications will be in writing either by "text" or "email," and;

No meetings between the cadet and the cadet's mentor will take place outside the Airbase Georgia hangar, unless at least one of the cadet's parents is present, and;

Cadet Program Approved (cont.)

Specific guidelines for conduct, consistent with Chapter 8, will be drawn up and provided to each cadet and each mentor at an Initial Meeting with the Education Officer (or his designated alternate), the Initial Meeting is both mandatory and imperative, and;

The Education Officer's decisions will be final, however, any decision by the Education Officer may be reviewed or appealed directly to the full board of directors (voting staff members), and;

This document is to serve as the implementing document for the AirBase Georgia CADET/MENTORING PROGRAM and is subject to annual review and modification.

Motion is offered by the Education Officer, James J. Dalton, II, Airbase Georgia.

Date of Motion: Saturday, February 3, 2024

Motion Seconded By: Chris Madrid

Vote by full board, if board member present by ZOOM or other method vote may be oral. If completely absence from the meeting may review document and vote of record noting date & time of vote.

Executive Officer: Yea or Nay

Operations Officer: Yea or Nay

Maintenance Officer: Yea or Nay

Finance Officer: Yea or Nay

Adjutant: Yea or Nay

Safety Officer: Yea or Nay

Development Officer: Yea or Nay

Education Officer: Yea or Nay

Airbase Commander: Yea or Nay (not required to vote unless the staff is deadlocked)

FINAL VOTE TALLEY AS OF 2/3/2024:

Water Problem Remedied

By Col Tom Walsh

Cols Tom Walsh and Paul Areson had been talking about a solution to the drainage problem around the foundation of the hangar for some time. After new big gutters and downspouts were fabricated and installed, it turned out they worked too well. When the contractor pulled the Holly bushes out there was water a foot deep in the void left after the Hollies were pulled out.

To remedy the problem, we had 24"x 60" splash blocks poured in place to guarantee that the rainwater from the new gutter and downspouts will be properly carried away from the foundation. We're pretty certain this will drain any amount of rainwater away, and across the walkway, into the parking lot, and then into the swale. →

Old splash blocks:



New splash blocks:



Facility Rentals

Col Mark Richards, Facility Rental Officer



Our event rentals for 2024 continue to grow with weekly inquiries and bookings along with the development of new partnerships. One such partnership that I see as a strong and long-term relationship is with the Peachtree City Convention and Visitors Bureau. The individuals in this group are genuine ABGA supporters, and they are promoting Airbase Georgia in numerous ways. From their website to magazine advertisements and as part of their sales presentation across the country, they are promoting Airbase Georgia. The upcoming Hops and Prop's event on April 6th is a direct result of their support and work. I am excited for the huge exposure for Airbase Georgia that this event brings, and the opportunity to feature every aspect of our airbase and our mission.

Another area of exposure for Airbase Georgia will be our first Open House of the year on March 16th. We want to bring Airbase Georgia to the community with several open houses in 2024 that features our airbase, our mission, and our people. On March 16th we will feature "Rosie the Riveter" as the theme for the Open House. March 21st is Rosie the Riveter Day, and we want to honor the iconic cultural icon that represented the hardworking women who supported the American war effort during World War II. If you would like to volunteer to help with this event, please contact me.

In closing, I want you to remember that without each of you, we cannot perform all the necessary tasks that make our events successful and showcases Airbase Georgia. Each of you possesses a special talent that helps us carry out our mission. We are grateful for all of our volunteers who give of their time and talents.

Upcoming Events:

March 2024	3/16 Sat – Airbase Georgia Open House / Rosie the Riveter
	3/23 Sat - Whitewater Baseball Event – Hanger & Meeting Room
April 2024	4/06 Sat - Hops & Prop's – Hanger & Meeting Room
	4/26 Fri - Fayette County Education Foundation-Hanger & Meeting Room
May 2024	5/11 Sat - Elliot Wedding Reception – Hanger & Meeting Room
	5/19 Sun – 3-Family Graduation Party – Meeting Room
	5/25 Sat - Brooks / Hudon Wedding - Hanger & Meeting Room

As always, you may direct potential rental clients to facilityrentals@airbasegeorgia.org →

Stearman Update

Col Jeff Clark

The *Stearman* team has hit another milestone with the initial assembly of the *Stearman*. The center section and the wings have been mounted on the fuselage and the team is now doing the initial rigging and tension adjustments on the flying wires. In parallel to this, work continues on the sheet metal components with prepping, priming, and painting.



Although it looks like the plane is coming together, the next step will actually be to take everything back apart and cover the wings and fuselage. Obviously, there is a lot of work left, but as you can see the team continues to make impressive progress. If you would like to join the team and help out, please stop by the hangar on Tuesdays, Thursdays, or Saturdays.

Photos by Col Charles Burcher.

Below: Right lower wing attached.



Stearman Update (cont.)

Above: All four wings, landing wires, cabane struts, N-struts, and tail feathers installed!

Below left: Nose cowl sections ready for prime and paint

Below right: Belly Pan ready to prime and paint.



Stearman Update (cont.)



Above: Col Chris Buzzeo sprays 1st coat of primer on *Stearman* parts.

Trivia of Aviation

Submitted By Col Casey Roszell

Lieutenant Edwin "Lucky" Wright, age 19, with the flak-damaged propellor of his P-47 *Thunderbolt*, October, 1944. He had just returned from his 39th mission over Munster. This was the sixth time that he had been hit by flack, hence his nickname.



Scenes From The Hangar

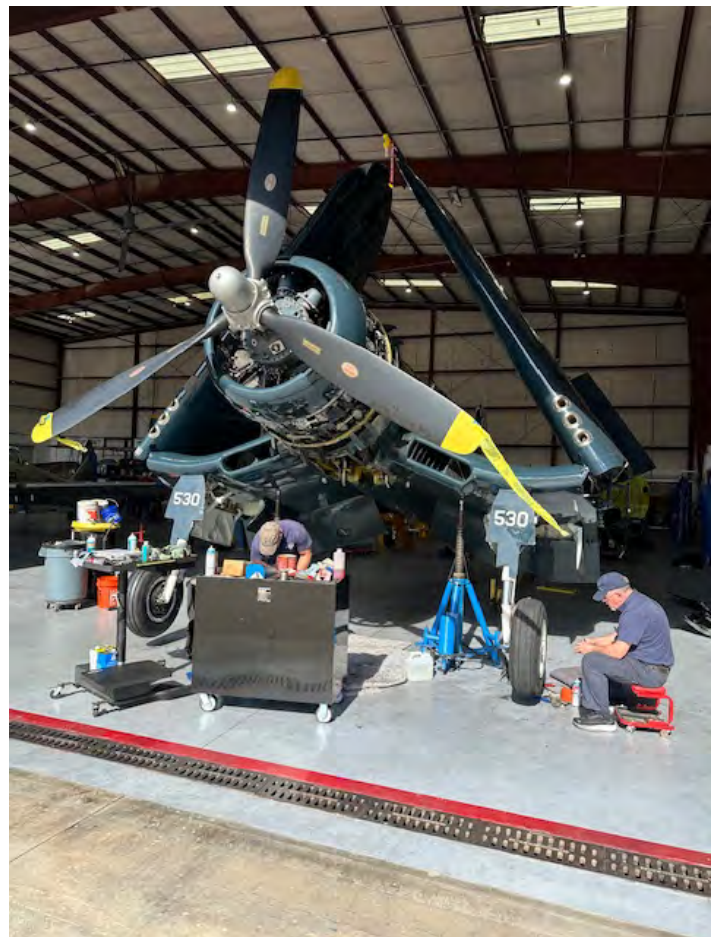


Col Mel Duhon does inspection on SBD flaps during Annual Inspection.

Photo: Col Charles Burcher.

Below left: Col Doug Maxwell works on SBD tail.

Below right: Col Robert Karge and Col Steve Barnshaw getting Corsair ready for season 24. Photos: Col Gerhard Frenz.



Scenes From the Hangar (cont.)



Col Dennis Beach working on the P-47. Photo: Col Gerhard Frenz.



Have you read the latest CAF DISPATCH and no longer need it?

Recycle it by bringing it to Airbase Georgia. These will be placed on the sign-in counter in the front hallway and given to visitors. These copies have been very popular with visitors and we keep running out. It would be nice to have more copies to give away and it beats throwing them in the trash.



ON THE HORIZON

March 9, 2024	Staff & Members Meetings – NOTE CHANGE OF DATE –
March 16, 2024	9am – 1pm Marshalling Training
March 16, 2024	Noon – 4pm - 2024 Spring Open House “Rosie the Riveter”
March 23, 2024	Hangar Rental – White Water Baseball Boosters
April 6, 2024	Staff & Members Meetings
May 11, 2024	2024 Good Neighbor Day – Dekalb Peachtree Airport

DEKALB PEACHTREE AIRPORT PROUDLY PRESENTS

2024 *Good Neighbor Day*
OPEN HOUSE &
AIRSHOW

Celebrating the
80TH ANNIVERSARY of D-DAY

SATURDAY
MAY 11
12-5PM

FOLLOW THE
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LEARN HOW GEORGIANS HELPED WIN THE WAR

AS AMERICA MOBILIZED FOR WAR, GEORGIANS ANSWERED THE CALL.

Overseas, they experienced the harsh realities of war. At home, they worked in factories and shipyards, trained servicemen, and supported those on the front lines.

Explore how Georgians rose to the challenge and did their part to defend freedom and democracy.

VISIT
georgiawwiitrail.org