



# AIRBASE GEORGIA *Dispatch*



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

Education through living history.

Keep 'em flying.

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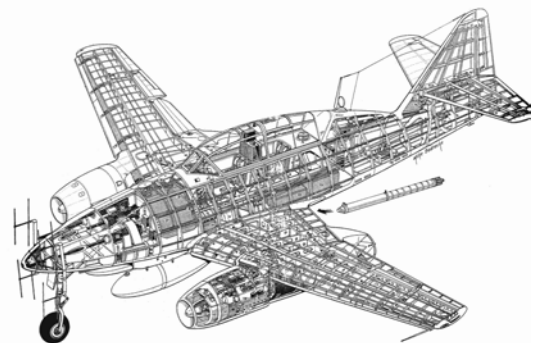
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Andy Cash, Mel Duhon & Steve Barnshaw remove the SBD prop, using a "sweeny tool" to steady the prop during removal.



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# From the Left Seat

Col Joel Perkins, Airbase Georgia Leader



## Celebrating the Heart and Passion of Airbase Georgia Volunteers

At the heart of Airbase Georgia's success lies a dedicated group of individuals whose passion and commitment elevate the organization to new heights. These volunteers, with their selfless dedication and unwavering enthusiasm, are the unsung heroes who ensure the seamless operation and preservation of this historic aviation gem. Their unique spirit and tireless efforts are what make Airbase Georgia a beacon of history, education, and community engagement.

### The Heart of a Volunteer

Volunteering is more than just a commitment of time; it's a commitment of the heart. The volunteers at Airbase Georgia embody this truth, bringing an unparalleled sense of devotion to their roles. Each volunteer, regardless of their background or experience, shares a common thread of passion for aviation history and a desire to contribute to the community. This shared passion creates a unique camaraderie and fosters an environment where every volunteer feels valued and essential.

### Legacy of Passion

The volunteers at Airbase Georgia come from diverse walks of life, yet they are united by a singular mission: to preserve and promote the rich history of aviation. Their collective efforts ensure that the legacy of Airbase Georgia remains vibrant and accessible to future generations. Whether it's through meticulously restoring aircraft, educating visitors, or organizing events, the volunteers' dedication breathes life into the historical artifacts and stories that define Airbase Georgia.

## The Power of Dedication

What sets the volunteers at Airbase Georgia apart is their remarkable dedication. Many of them devote countless hours, often balancing their volunteer work with other commitments. This dedication is not driven by a desire for recognition or reward, but by a genuine love for aviation and a commitment to preserving its history. Their efforts are a testament to the power of passion and the impact it can have on a community.

### Creating Memorable Experiences

The volunteers at Airbase Georgia play a pivotal role in creating memorable experiences for visitors. Their enthusiasm and knowledge enhance every interaction, making visits to Airbase Georgia both educational and inspiring. From guiding tours and sharing fascinating stories to organizing immersive events, volunteers ensure that every visitor leaves with a deeper appreciation for aviation history and a sense of connection to the past.

### A Community of Kindred Spirits

Volunteering at Airbase Georgia is more than just a service; it's an opportunity to be part of a community of kindred spirits. The bonds formed among volunteers are rooted in a shared love for aviation and a common goal of preserving its heritage. This sense of community fosters a supportive and collaborative environment where every volunteer's contribution is valued and celebrated.

Cont.

From the Left Seat (cont.)

### The Impact of Volunteerism

The impact of the volunteers at Airbase Georgia extends beyond the boundaries of the base itself. Their efforts contribute to the broader community by promoting education, fostering a sense of pride in local history, and inspiring future generations. The passion and dedication of these volunteers serve as a powerful reminder of the positive change that can be achieved through volunteerism.

### Conclusion

The success of Airbase Georgia is a testament to the heart and passion of its volunteers. Their unique spirit, unwavering dedication, and genuine love for aviation history are what make Airbase

Georgia a special place. As we celebrate the contributions of these remarkable individuals, we are reminded of the profound impact that passionate and dedicated volunteers can have on an organization and its community. Airbase Georgia is truly fortunate to have such a remarkable team of volunteers, whose efforts ensure that the legacy of aviation continues to thrive.

I am humbled to lead such an incredible organization.

Col Joel Perkins

Airbase Georgia Leader →

## PLANE CRAZY

Found at the Munich, Bavaria airport. It was not open in the early hour I went by, but I understand that they advertise the "wurst sausages in Germany." Perhaps next trip over.



# Safety Update

By Col Steve Hoofnagle, Safety Officer

[safety@airbasegeorgia.org](mailto:safety@airbasegeorgia.org)

770-309-5584 cell



## AUGUST IS "BACK TO SCHOOL" SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH

As kids, teachers, and parents prepare for the start of the school year, we should all go over the basic safety precautions. One that impacts us all is school bus safety as the buses will be out in mass in the next few weeks. So stay **SAFE**:

Stay five steps away from the curb.

Always wait until the bus comes to a complete stop and the bus driver says it's OK to get on.

Face forward after you find a seat and sit down.

Exit the bus after it comes to a complete stop, looking left, right and left again for cars and other people before stepping off.

## ABC (AS SIMPLE AS DO RE MI)

Most ordinary fire extinguishers are "ABC" multipurpose types, suitable for fighting fires in most homes, schools, and businesses.

The extinguishant powder they contain can cause catastrophic damage to the aluminum components of aircraft.

We have alternative extinguishers with use either a "Purple K" powder or a "clean agent" like FE-36 or Halotron. These "SAFE FOR AIRPLANES" extinguishers are marked with a green reflective tape band around the base. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with the locations of the extinguishers at the Airbase and remember that for Airplane Fires "GEEEN = GOOD."

## SMOKIN IN THE BOY'S ROOM

Of course smoking is not permitted in Airbase Georgia and that would be a "BIG NO NO" to do so. Another BIG NO NO is to use a fire extinguisher and not immediately report it to the Safety Officer. If you have to use an extinguisher, find an extinguisher that isn't showing correct pressure on the gage, missing, etc., please report it to the Safety Officer at the earliest opportunity [atsafety@airbasegeorgia.org](mailto:atsafety@airbasegeorgia.org) and /or 770-309-5584.

## BE TRUE TO YOUR SCHOOL

Thanks to those who attended our annual **First Aid/CPR Training on Saturday, 13 JUL**. Welcome Marybeth Britton, Bill Brady, and Wanda Roberts as the newest members trained in CPR/First Aid.

## ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING

We will be scheduling Active Shooter Training with the Peachtree City PD following the monthly meetings in SEP, OCT, or NOV (TBD). This will occur following the General Meeting that starts at 1300 (1PM) and is purely voluntary.

Please send any Safety related questions, comments, or suggestions to "[safety@airbasegeorgia.org](mailto:safety@airbasegeorgia.org)".

***"Prepare & prevent instead of repair & repent."***

Safety Update (cont.)

# **AIRCRAFT FIRE???**



**USE THE CORRECT  
EXTINGUISHER!!!**

**GREEN = GOOD**



**USE AN EXTINGUISHER WITH A GREEN BAND AT THE  
BOTTOM ONLY!!!**

**STANDARD ABC DRY CHEMICAL EXTINGUISHERS WILL  
ATTACK ALUMINUM AND DAMAGE THE AIRCRAFT.**

## CAF HEADQUARTERS REQUIRES SAFETY VIDEO

CAF HQ has emailed each active CAF pilot a link to view a mandatory safety video (runtime 32 minutes).

This notice is geared towards anyone who did not receive the HQ notification. If you've already completed the steps, thank you - no need to read further.

If you did not receive the link, it appears below.

Additionally, a new currency item has been added to Rallypoint, "CAF Safety View" and it will be RED until you certify having viewed the video.

By following the provided link, you will find a certification block below the video. (NOTE: The video is also available on the CAF Operations Home page but it does not offer a certification block; to receive credit, please use the provided link instead.)

Fill out the certification and, as always, please use our PilotDocs address when asked for Operations Officer email.

We did not have any advance warning of this requirement. Watching the video and completing the HQ online certification is all that is required.

Questions/problems with the video, certification, or Rallypoint should be addressed to CAF HQ Staff.

Here is the link:

<https://www.cafoperations.org/safetyviewfilejuly24>



**COMMEMORATIVE  
AIR FORCE**

# Stearman Update

## Col Jeff Clark

The *Stearman* continues to make progress as fabric covering is nearly completed. Look for a more detailed report in the next issue. ➔



Cols Mark Chabot, Roy Handler, and Forest Buchanan work on the wing covering.

Photos by Col Charles Burcher.



Below, ( L to R) Chris Buzzeo and Mike Lamble carefully work on the wing.





MICHAEL WILLIAM WEWERS  
September 15, 1943 – March 01, 2024

Michael William Wewers (80) passed away on March 1, 2024, after a long-fought battle with heart disease. Michael is survived by his loving wife of 34 years, Lisa McGee

Born in Rockhampton, Queensland, Australia on September 15, 1943, to an Aussie, and an American serviceman, William (Bill) Wewers, who was on R&R after contracting malaria. Michael and his mother came to the

United States in 1945, and then traveled to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to join Bill and his extended family members.

In his career he worked for the Milwaukee Police Department, later moving to Chicago to work with IRS Inspection. In 1971 he went to work for the US Customs Service in Miami, FL, where he worked until the late 80's. He quickly worked his way up from Patrol to Special Agent.

While working for Customs, Michael wrote a program called "Blue Lightning Operations," the first center to track aviation and marine smuggling operations in the Southeast. It was developed as a turnkey operation that has and still serves the Department of Homeland Security to this day. Michael also served as the Chief of the Air Support Branch in Homestead, FL, where he had responsibility for all aviation operations in Miami as well as throughout the Caribbean. It was the most interesting and challenging position he held with the Customs service.

Michael's Customs career was cut short due to injuries he received on the job. He held various jobs after his departure from Customs, including starting his own PI business in Miami.

In 1982, Michael and Lisa moved to Cumming, GA, where he immediately got his POST certification in Georgia and began volunteering at the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office, where he eventually led the Reserve Unit as a lieutenant and worked as a detective in CID. He also served as a Reserve Officer for the Cumming Police Department. He became president of the local Fraternal Order of Police lodge, which was integral in helping disadvantaged families provide a Christmas for their children through "Shop with a Cop" every year.

In 1994 Michael became one of the founding members of the Association of Customs Special Agents and also served as a board member. Michael and Lisa spent many years attending conventions and board meetings throughout the United States. It was like attending a family reunion every year and something they always looked forward to.

Because Michael could never say "no" to anyone, he also became a representative for the National. As Michael got older and less able to travel, he decided to focus more locally on his love of aviation. In 2019 he joined the CAF in Peachtree City. Although it was an hour and a half drive from home to Falcon Field, he looked forward to spending any Saturday he could manage to get there. He fancied himself an amateur photographer and enjoyed taking photos of the volunteers and all the Warbirds. Above all, he cherished the friendships he made there. ➔



## Scenes From the Hangar



Col Chris Schamel shows a group of high school students the different steps in the fabric covering process.

Photos by Col Charles Burcher.

Below, L-R: Cols Jim Prendergast, Roy Handler & Chris Buzzeo applying first coat of primer.



Scenes From the Hangar (cont.)



Col Gerhard Frenz hangs the new sign for the beer mugs.

Photos by Col Charles Burcher.

Below left: Col Stephen Shankle works on restoring the main landing gear retraction hydraulic cylinder for the P-47.

Below right: Another view of Cols Andy Cash, Mel Duhon, Steve Barnshaw and Bill Freyman removing the SBD prop.



# Open House at Airbase Georgia

Airbase Georgia had one of its busiest days Saturday, June 22, when the summer Open House brought in approximately 200 guests and the Rides Team completed 17 flights. The tarmac was buzzing with aircraft, which made it a perfect day for people to admire the Airbase fleet in action. The Mustang, SBD, LT-6 and T-34 took turns taxiing out with happy riders enjoying their Living History experience. The entire Open House was dedicated to the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day and the veterans of the Greatest Generation, fulfilling the CAF mission to educate, honor and inspire.

Dog tags were popular -- the team made 40 new ones during the day. Visitors wandered around the hangar and the shop despite the high temperatures Saturday, and many sat in on one of four specially prepared Airbase re-enactments of a D-Day bomber briefing. Some enjoyed watching the fabric work in progress for the *Stearman* biplane. Bob Anzuoni also presented a program about WWII paratroopers, with his extensive array of gear. He is a retired veteran of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, an author and past curator of the U.S. Army Signal Corps Museum.

Pizza and frozen treats were available from food trucks throughout the day, and families and aviation fans experienced the Airbase operations in full display. Music by singer Penny Miller added to the day's festive feel.

"Every volunteer who was present or worked on this Open House should be very proud of the great impression we created for the public," said Airbase Leader Joel Perkins. "Our rides team, pilots, marshalls, mechanics and other volunteers made it a perfect day. The Education team added high quality experiences, from the docents to MaryBeth Britton's team of presenters for the bomber briefing. Job well done!



Above: Rides Officer Col Yvonne Haley has assistance from Col John Currenti to book the many rides during the day.



Left: Col Lorraine Deloach is ready to answer any questions about renting the hangar.

From time to time we feature the ongoings of other aviation units or museums. This month our guest column is from the CAF Tampa Bay Wing, with exciting news worth sharing.

## Commemorative Air Force – Tampa Bay Wing’s First Airplane Assignment Celebration, June 15, 2024.

### Col John Williams, Adjutant, CAF – Tampa Bay Wing

The Commemorative Air Force (CAF) - Tampa Bay Wing received our provisional charter on January 9, 2023 in Brooksville, Florida while meeting at the EAA Chapter #1298 hanger located at the Tampa Bay Regional Airport in Brooksville (KBKV). The Wing relocated to Lakeland Linder International Airport (KLAL) in May 2023. The Wing meets in the Florida Air Museum, 4075 James C, Ray Drive Lakeland, Florida on the third Saturday of each month at 10 AM. The mission of the CAF - Tampa Bay Wing is to restore World War II airplanes, inspire youth to learn about all aircraft, and to honor World War II veterans “the greatest generation.”

We rolled back the doors at Sun ‘N Fun Hanger C at 10 AM on June 15, 2024 to reveal our Fairchild PT – 19A Cornell airplane for the public to view, kick the tires, and climb in the cockpit to pretend to be a WW II pilot.



This is a link from our Facebook page of the rollout:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/13xVn37Ezvs5wFxa/?mibextid=w8EBqM>

We had 71 attendees, which included the Honorable Mayor Bill Mutz of Lakeland, Florida on Saturday morning, who stated in an email correspondence with Colonel Bart Graham “It was very moving to me to consider how that little bird (airplane) changed history as I stared into the very simple cockpit. Thanks for allowing all of us to share in this valuable piece of history!” Emphasis added with parenthesis. The Wing had seven attendees join the CAF and our Wing after the event.

Cont.



Photo of 21 Wing Member's present out of 39 members with our first Wing airplane in the background.

Front row, left to right: Greg Wilcox, Coke Colquitt, Brad Cohen (Wing Maintenance Officer), Merrick Cohn, Sebastian DaSo (Wing Operation Officer), Egbert Ortega, Susi Schlenk, and Rob Milford (Wing Executive Officer).

Back row, left to right: Bart Graham (Wing Development Officer), Fred Hauck, (Underage child), Larry Daso (Wing Historian), John Williams (Wing Adjutant), Jason Skinner (Wing Photographer), Patti Lowery (PX Coordinator), Bob Stone, Peter Wu, Ken Hewes (Wing Leader), Jake Chamberland, Jason Dupree, Vince Vincent, Gary Knuth (Wing Finance Officer), and Daniel Probst.

Now our five Wing pilots have to log 200 hours in their log books as, pilot in command (PIC), before we can accept a donation from a passenger. Another event for a future newsworthy article.





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# GEORGIA WORLD WAR II Heritage Trail



**GREAT FOR  
FAMILIES**

**BE INSPIRED  
BY THE PAST!**

**INTERACTIVE  
EXPERIENCES**



# ON THE HORIZON .....

August 1, 2024	Staff & Members Meetings
September 7, 2024	Staff & Members Meetings
October 5, 2024	Staff & Members Meetings

October 31 – November 1 Delta TechOps Veterans' Day Event

## Trivia of Aviation

By Col Casey Roszell

USS Yorktown: Original WWII caption. Hangar deck of USS Yorktown (CV 10), planes on overhead are SBDs. Photographed by Lt Commander Charles Kerlee, October 1943. (National Museum of U.S. Navy)

