



AIRBASE GEORGIA *Dispatch*



AIRBASE GEORGIA, COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE, PEACHTREE CITY, GA
www.airbasegeorgia.org www.facebook.com/CAFAirbaseGeorgia
Col Frank Kalinowski, Editor - fsk47@yahoo.com

September 2024

Education through living history.

Keep 'em flying.

Airbase Leader

Col Joel Perkins
joel.perkins@airbasegeorgia.com

Executive Officer

Col Gerhard Frenz
xo@airbasegeorgia.org

Adjutant

Col Clint Contrell
adjutant@airbasegeorgia.org

Finance Officer

Col Peter Dalieri
finance@airbasegeorgia.org

Maintenance Officer

Col Randy Hawkins
maintenance@airbasegeorgia.org

Operations Officer

Col John Currenti
operations@airbasegeorgia.org

Safety Officer

Col Steve Hoofnagle
safety@airbasegeorgia.org

Development Officer

Col Chris Madrid
development@airbasegeorgia.org

Education Officer

Col Jim Dalton
LawDalton@aol.com

Recruiting Officer

Col Dave Serafin
dserafin58@comcast.net

Public Information Officer

Col Steve Forsyth
sforsyth106@gmail.com

Marketing Officer

jmarketing@airbasegeorgia.org

Aircraft Rides Officer

Col Yvonne Haley
rides@airbasegeorgia.org

Air Show Scheduling

Col Heather Johnson
Heather.johnson@airbasegeorgia.org

Facility Rentals

Col Mark Richards
facilityrentals@airbasegeorgia.org

General MacArthur appears to be explaining some strategy as Col Jane Simpson and Michael Daly listen. The event took place at the Delta Airlines Museum as part of a D-Day anniversary event. More inside.



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From the Left Seat

Col Joel Perkins, Airbase Georgia Leader



At Airbase Georgia, we are fortunate to be surrounded by an extraordinary group of volunteers who give selflessly of their time, talent, and treasure. Their dedication to our mission of educating, inspiring, and honoring those who have served and sacrificed in defense of freedom is unwavering. Through their efforts, the legacy of the men and women who secured our freedom during World War II and other conflicts will never be forgotten.

Our volunteers are the backbone of Airbase Georgia's operations. Whether maintaining our aircraft, assisting with ride experiences, or handling restoration projects, their commitment ensures that we meet the high demand for our services. Each day, they contribute to delivering well-maintained, safe, and memorable flight experiences for everyone who walks through our doors.

The tireless efforts of our maintainers, ride personnel, and pilots have been nothing short of remarkable. This team is busier than ever, working diligently to ensure that every flight is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Their attention to detail and passion for aviation help us connect with the public and share the stories of the brave men and women who fought for our freedom.

A special acknowledgment goes to Mark and our facilities team, including George, Wanda, and Mike. Their achievements in setting new standards for facilities sales and customer satisfaction have elevated our reputation. The level of professionalism and care they bring to every interaction is unmatched, and their dedication has made a lasting impact on our operations.

As we continue our busy pace into the fall, it's important to recognize our hangar team, where all operations begin. Tom, Paulie, and the rest of the hangar crew, affectionately known as the "hangar rats," are instrumental to the success of our operations. Without their expertise and hard work, none of what we do would be possible.

Finally, our restoration teams deserve special recognition for their exceptional craftsmanship.

Thanks to their skills and dedication, Airbase Georgia is now regarded as the premier warbird restoration facility in the entire Commemorative Air Force (CAF), and certainly in the southeastern United States. Their work ensures that our aircraft not only look their best but also serve as flying tributes to the heroes of the past.

To every volunteer who contributes to Airbase Georgia's success: thank you. Your dedication to our mission and your commitment to preserving history for future generations ensure that the stories of those who fought for freedom will continue to be told. We are proud to have you as part of our team and deeply grateful for all you do. Together, we honor the past and inspire the future.

Honoring Those Who Have Gone West: Remembering Paul Strube, Lonnie Webster, and Joe Broker.

At Airbase Georgia, we are bound not only by our passion for aviation and our mission to educate and honor but also by the deep connections we form with one another. It is with heavy hearts that we acknowledge the passing of three beloved members of our family: Paul Strube, Lonnie Webster, and Joe Broker.

These remarkable individuals were more than just members; they were integral parts of our community, contributing their time, energy, and spirit to everything we do. Their dedication to preserving history and honoring the sacrifices of our veterans left an indelible mark on our organization, and their absence is deeply felt by all of us.

Cont.

From Left Seat (cont.)

As we reflect on their lives, let us take a moment of silence to remember Paul, Lonnie, and Joe. Their legacy will live on through the work they did and the impact they had on the people around them. Though they have "gone West," their memories remain alive in our hearts, and their contributions to Airbase Georgia and the greater Commemorative Air Force will never be forgotten.

Please keep their families in your thoughts and prayers as they navigate this difficult time. The Airbase Georgia family stands with them,

offering our support, love, and gratitude for the remarkable people they shared with us.

We honor Paul, Lonnie, and Joe, not only for the extraordinary work they did but for the kindness, friendship, and generosity they brought into our lives. They will forever be a cherished part of Airbase Georgia, and their spirits will continue to soar with every aircraft we fly and every story we tell. ➔

PLANE CRAZY

Why giant cats are not allowed on aircraft carriers



ELECTION REMINDER

CAF / Airbase Georgia - 2024 Unit Staff Election

The election to fill open unit staff positions for the 2025 / 2026 term will take place at the November 2nd Airbase Georgia Membership Meeting.

Here are the candidates running for open staff officer positions:

Executive Officer: Col Gerhard Frenz

Operations Officer: Col John Currenti

Adjutant: Col Matt Kenner

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 2, 2024. 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.

Absentee Ballots: Absentee ballots must be returned with a postmark of no later than November 2, 2024, per the instructions sent with them.

Election Results: Election results will be announced via the Airbase Georgia Hotline during the week of November 11, 2024.

If you have questions about the election process, contact Yvonne Haley at (678) 313-6835 or yvhaley@gmail.com.

Thank you,

The Election Committee: Col Yvonne Haley, Col Lorraine Deloach, Col Charles Burcher



COMMEMORATIVE
AIR FORCE

Safety Update

By Col Steve Hoofnagle, Safety Officer

safety@airbasegeorgia.org

770-309-5584 cell



OCTOBER IS “FIRE PREVENTION SAFETY” MONTH

Fire Prevention Safety Month is held every October, and commemorates the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, which killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, and destroyed more than 17,400 buildings. This year, Fire Prevention Week is 6-12 OCT and the theme focuses on smoke alarms.

At the Airbase we have 100% coverage of the facility with a wet-pipe automatic sprinkler system. In addition, there is heat detection in the Shop and Hangar and smoke detection in the Electrical Rooms. All of these are connected to a 24-hour monitoring central station and they also sound alarms inside and outside the building.

Most of us are not fortunate enough to have such robust fire protection at home, but there is an important step that you can take and that is to ensure you have adequate working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in your home!

- Almost **3 of every 5** home fire deaths resulted from fires with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms (NFPA)
- Carbon monoxide is the **#1 cause of accidental poisoning** in the US (CDC)
- Unattended cooking is the **#1 cause of home fires** (NFPA)
- A fire department responds to a fire every **23 seconds** in America (NFPA)

As the cold weather sets in we'll see the perennial news reports of fires started in homes and typically they report that “there were no working smoke detectors,” and usually with casualties as a result.

You should practice good fire safety behaviors at home, work and at the Airbase! Many things you do every day can raise or lower the risk of a fire in your home or work areas:

- It's getting chilly out! Keep all portable heaters at least three (3) feet away from flammable items (these are NOT permitted at Airbase Georgia without written approval from Safety).
- Turn off space heaters before leaving a room, even if you will be gone only a short time.
- Do not overload electrical circuits, such as wall outlets and extension cords - use a circuit (power) strip. All extension cords at Airbase Georgia must be unplugged and put away when not in use.
- Candles and other “open flames” of any kind are NOT permitted at Airbase Georgia. Use with caution at home and don't leave them unattended.
- Do not run electrical cords under rugs, carpet, or furniture at home.

Cont.

Safety Update (cont.)

- Know how to handle and store chemicals (utilize flammable storage cabinets at Airbase Georgia).
- Know your chemical properties (check the SDS for flammable/combustible information).
- Do not block fire extinguishers and exit routes with clutter or equipment.

More information is available at: <https://www.nfpa.org/events/fire-prevention-week>



ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING

We will be scheduling Active Shooter Training with the Peachtree City PD following the monthly meeting on 2 November 2024. The training 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". ➔

"Don't fix the blame, fix the problem!"

Delta Flight Museum Honors 47 WWII Vets

Six Cols from Airbase Georgia served as WWII reenactors for the June 1 event at ATL at Delta Flight Museum, honoring 47 WWII veterans that the Best Defense Foundation, in cooperation with Delta, flew to Normandie, France for the 80th anniversary of D-Day on 6 June 1944.



Above: Cols Mike Daly and Jane Simpson take a moment to pose with Mr. "I shall return" himself.

Left: Col Vince Garland with one of the WWII vets.

Right: The entire group:
Cols Mike Daly, Chris Madrid, Vince
Garland, Jane Simpson, Robyn
Rosenzweig and Melina Galizzi





Lonnie Lee Webster

April 21, 1939 – August 25, 2024

Lonnie passed away peacefully in Peachtree City, Georgia, at the age of 85.

Lonnie lived a life filled with adventure, dedication, and love.

A proud military veteran, he served his country honorably for four years in the United States Air Force, where he cultivated a passion for aviation that would lead to an illustrious career as a Captain for Delta Air Lines spanning over two decades.

Lonnie's professional life was marked by excellence in the skies, but it was his devotion to his family and community that truly defined him. He was an active member of the Commemorative Air Force Airbase Georgia for many years and found great joy in spending time with those he loved.

Though no services are planned, Lonnie's memory will forever be held close in the hearts of those fortunate enough to have known and loved him. His life serves as a testament to the strength, courage, and unwavering love he showed every day.

You may provide condolences, thoughts, and memories on a Tribute Wall at Mowell Funeral Home & Cremation Service, Peachtree City, www.mowells.com



Joseph "Joe" G. Broker July 22, 1948 – August 31, 2024



Joe passed away peacefully on August 31, 2024, in Peachtree City, Georgia, at the age of 76. Joe lived a life that was both full of adventure and warm family connections.

Joe proudly served his country as a member of the Air National Guard, an experience that set the stage for his impressive career as a Pilot for Delta Air Lines. His passion for flying was matched by his love for scuba diving, woodworking, traveling, and most importantly, spending time with his beloved family.

Joe's life was an inspiring journey of dedication and enthusiasm. He poured his heart into everything he did, whether it was soaring through the skies, exploring the depths of the sea, or crafting beautiful pieces of woodwork. His adventurous spirit and passionate nature touched everyone who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Joe's story is one of a life well-lived, rich in experiences, and filled with the warmth of family and friends. Though he has left us, his spirit will continue to inspire those who knew and loved him.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Commemorative Air Force that Joe supported so passionately.

We welcome you to provide your condolences, thoughts, and memories on our Tribute Wall.

Mowell Funeral Home & Cremation Service, Peachtree City, www.mowells.com

A Celebration of Life service will be held for Joe on October 6 from 11:00 to 2:00.



Stearman Update

Col Jeff Clark

Normally in this section of the Dispatch I try to provide an interesting update about the progress on the *Stearman*. It's been a little difficult keeping it interesting recently because I can only report that "we're still covering." That is my report this month too. We're still covering. There is a lot of covering to do on a *Stearman*. Fortunately, the team continues to make great progress. They are almost done with the wings and will be moving on the fuselage soon. We hope to order an engine and propeller by the end of this year.

This month, instead of focusing on a progress report, I wanted to take a moment to remember Joe Broker. We lost Joe in August, and he will be sorely missed at Airbase Georgia. Along with his many other contributions to the unit, Joe was a key member of the *Stearman* project team. You would find him working on the *Stearman* nearly every weekend, and Joe was a big part of getting the project as far along as it is today. I really wish he could have seen the airplane finished and flying. When the airplane finally does take to the air again, I hope we all will remember Joe and the countless hours he dedicated to restoring this important piece of history. Thanks Joe... blue skies! ➔



Cols Jim Prendergast, Malcolm Lelliott, Thomas Pfingsren & Roy Handler work on shrinking wing fabric.

Photos by Col Charles Burcher.



Gary Spenser & Thomas Pfingsten rib stitching wing fabric.

Stearman Update (cont.)



Col Roy Handler sprays primer coat.

Col Lelliott inspects the cockpit.



LT-6 Mosquito Delights Crowd at Annual Georgia Business Aviation Association Static Display

A restored North American LT-6 Mosquito trainer plane from the World War II era delighted members and guests of the annual Georgia Business Aviation Association static display Sept. 18 at Cobb County International Airport – McCollum Field.

At the end of a line of modern corporate and private jets parked at Hawthorne Global Aviation Services, the trainer from Commemorative Air Force (CAF) Airbase Georgia was a welcome sight to many as they wandered through the flight line. Airbase Georgia pilots Ken Holsten and Mark Richards answered questions and listened to aviation stories for three hours, while the LT-6 was on display.

Young pilots and future pilots were fascinated with the nine-cylinder radial engine and the 80-year-old cockpit design of the meticulously restored aircraft, known as “the pilot maker”.



“On-site displays like this support the CAF mission to honor, educate and inspire through the operation of restored, historic aircraft,” said Airbase Leader Joel Perkins.

Left Cols Ken Holsten (L), and Mark Richards flew Airbase Georgia’s LT-6 to Cobb County International Airport and spent several hours answering questions and showing off the restored aircraft.



Above right: A future U.S. Air Force pilot enjoyed her look into the cockpit of the North American LT-6 Mosquito.

Right: CAF Airbase Georgia members attending the Georgia Business Aviation Association aircraft display Sept. 18 in Cobb County were (L to R): Cols Robert Harris, Ken Holsten, Mark Richards and Steve Forsyth.



Thunderbolt Update



Col Chris Buzzeo letters the landing gear handle component.Q

Photos by Col Charles Burcher.

Col Tom Thompson fabricates one of the wiring harnesses for the P-47.



Greetings

Mark your calendar, get your memorabilia together, and plan to bring the whole family. The event is open to the public. We are working on some cool stuff for this year's show. We are focusing on appreciation and recognition of our Vietnam Veterans this year.

13th Anniversary



DELTA 2024



FLY DELTA JET



Veterans Day Oct 31 & Nov 1

Delta Technical Operations
1775 M.H. Jackson Service Rd., Atlanta, GA 30354

- * 40+ Vintage and Active Duty Military Aircraft on Display
- * 200' Wall of Memorabilia, Military Vehicles, & Static Displays
- * Food and Drinks available at the event

<p>Thursday, 10/31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Celebration Begins Thurs - 3 PM * Ceremony & Cake at 5PM * Ceremony & Cake at 11PM 		<p>Friday, 11/1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Ceremony & Cake at 9AM * Aircraft Departures 12 PM * Event Closes Fri - 3PM
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Facility Rentals And Events

Col Mark Richards, Facility Rental Officer



The Airbase Georgia Facility Rental business is about to kick into "High Gear" with anticipations of a strong finish in 2024.

The Boy Scout camp-out on 9/27 & 9/28 at Airbase Georgia is a wonderful opportunity for our members to help these young individuals realize their Aviation Merit Badges. On Sunday September 29, a Celebration of Life for Paul Strube will be conducted from 1pm – 4pm.

Then here comes October with six big hangar events that include an outside wedding ceremony followed by the hangar wedding reception.

Please mark your calendars and attend the Celebration of Life for Colonel Joe Broker being held on Sunday October 6th from 11am to 2pm.

October will have a big finish with the Falcon Field 2024 Air Show featuring the United States Air Force Thunderbirds.

Remember, due to all the October rental events, the October Staff and Members Meeting has been moved to Saturday October 19, 2024.

November will be another busy facility rental month with our second outside wedding ceremony and wedding reception. The 3rd ABGA Open House dedicated to celebrating our veterans and themed to remember our "Women at War" will take place on Sunday November 10th. We will close out November with the G5 Gives Back Hangar Event.

As you can see, there are a lot of rental events between now and December. Volunteer help is always needed and appreciated.

Anyone wishing to volunteer for any of these events or to be part of the planning team for the November 10th Open House can contact me by email, text or cell.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Date	Event	Event Time / Location
9-23	Braniff Luncheon	11a – 2p / Meeting Room
9-27	Boy Scouts O/night camp out	7pm - / Airbase
9-28	Boy Scouts Classroom & O/night camp out	All Day / Airbase
9-29	Paul Strube Celebration of Life	1p – 4p / Hangar Event
10-04	Cloths Less Traveled	5p – 9p / Hangar Event
10-05	Astrachan Wedding Reception	6p – 10p / Hangar Event
10-06	Joe Broker Celebration of Life	11a – 2p / Hangar Event
10-11	Midwest Food Bank – Harvest of Blessings	5p – 10p / Hangar Event
10-12	Littlejohn Wedding & Reception	4p – 11p / Hangar Event
10-18	Denim & Diamonds	6p – 11p / Hangar Event
10-25	Falcon Field Air Show	All Day / 10/25 - 26 - 27
11-08	Basilone Wedding Rehearsal	5p – 8p / Hangar Event
11-09	Basilone Wedding & Reception	3p – 11p / Hangar Event
11-10	ABGA Fall Open House	12p – 4p / Hangar Event
11-16	G5 Gives Back	5p – 11p / Hangar Event

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



ON THE HORIZON

October 19, 2024	Staff & Members Meetings: NOTE CHANGE OF DATE
October 26-27, 2024	Atlanta Air Show – Falcon Field, Peachtree City
October 31 – November 1	Delta TechOps Veterans Day Event
November 2, 2024	Staff & Members Meetings

Heroes of Aviation

Submitted By Col Casey Roszell



NINETEEN YEARS OLD! Lieutenant Edwin "Lucky" Wright, age 19, with the flak-damaged propeller of his P-47 Thunderbolt, Oct. 1944. He had just returned from his 39th mission over Munster. This was the 6th time that he had been hit by flak, hence his nickname.

Source: <https://planehistoria.com>