



# AIRBASE GEORGIA *Dispatch*



AIRBASE GEORGIA, COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE, PEACHTREE CITY, GA  
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January 2025 Education through living history. Keep 'em flying.

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**OUT WITH THE OLD!** Col Tom Langford inspects the Merlin engine being removed for installation of a new one. Photo by Col Charles Burcher.

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# IMPORTANT NOTICES FROM YOUR ADJUTANT

## Col Matt Kenner, Adjutant

### ANNUAL HOLD HARMLESS FORM / ANNUAL AIRBASE GEORGIA DUES

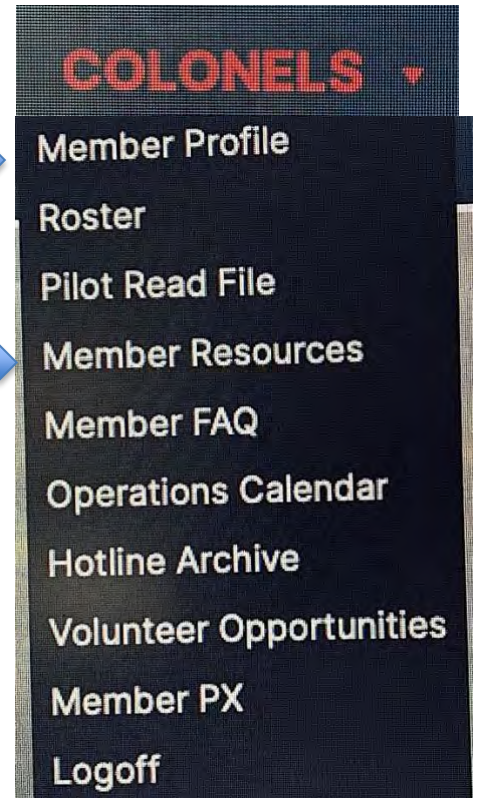
Welcome to 2025! Please remember to complete your required, annual hold harmless form and check the status of your Airbase Georgia membership dues. You can accomplish both these tasks at [www.airbasegeorgia.org](http://www.airbasegeorgia.org) by logging in and clicking on the "Colonels" menu. You will find a link to the hold harmless under "Member Resources." The status of your Airbase Georgia dues can be found under "Member Profile." If payment is due, you will find a payment link there. By the way, your general CAF membership with HQ can be checked by logging in at [www.commemorativeairforce.org](http://www.commemorativeairforce.org). See you at the hangar.



TO RENEW AIRBASE GEORGIA DUES



TO COMPLETE HOLD HARMLESS FORM





## Welcome, New Cols



zLeft: Riley J. Lorenz is sworn in by Recruiting Officer Dave Serafin, and Brian Bonnell receives his patch following his swearing in.



A good as new Merlin engine is uncrated and waiting to be switched out in the P-51 *Mustang*.

Photo by Col Dave Riesselmann.

# Safety Update

By Col Steve Hoofnagle, Safety Officer

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

770-309-5584 cell

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February is Safe Driving Awareness Month.

While most of our “driving” at Airbase Georgia involves vehicles with wings, we still have Ground Support Equipment (GSE) including Tugs and Forklifts.

Any time we are moving aircraft (either with the tug or by hand – e.g. T-34B), we need to have THREE (3) spotters in addition to the Tug Driver. When the forklifts are operating inside the buildings, we need to have at least ONE (1) spotter in addition to the driver. We will have additional GSE and Marshalling training later this year (watch the Dispatch, FB page and website for details).



In addition, we all get to/from the Airbase in our automobiles AND to offsite Rides Events, etc. Here are some tips for safer driving habits:

1. Aim high. ... look several car lengths ahead, not just at the vehicle directly in front of you.
2. Get the big picture. ... watch the vehicles in front of you, cross traffic at intersections, and traffic behind you.
3. Keep your eyes moving. ... our pilots will tell you that short, regularly spaced eye movements (scanning your instruments and outside the cockpit) to bring the different areas into your central visual field for at least a second is the best method for situational awareness.
4. Leave yourself an out. ... be thinking what your “emergency out” move is (e.g. is the lane to your left and/or right open, etc.) just in case.
5. Make sure they see you... many new vehicles with automatic lights won’t activate them on cloudy days. In Georgia, it’s law to have your headlights on whenever your windshield wipers are on. Consider overriding the “auto” setting on your headlights and turn them on manually on cloudy days and at dawn/dusk when changing light conditions make it the most difficult for us to see.

Cont.

## Safety Update (cont.)

Here's a short quiz:

1. What does a yellow light mean?
  - a. Stop
  - b. Caution
  - c. Floor it
2. How much distance should you allow between you and the vehicle in front of you?
  - a. 100 feet
  - b. 100 yards
  - c. 3-4 seconds
3. Where do you find the proper inflation pressure for your tires?
  - a. On the tire sidewall
  - b. In the owner's manual
  - c. A placard on the door jamb
4. Which items can impact your ability to drive safely?
  - a. Fatigue
  - b. Medications
  - c. Alcohol
  - d. Vision
  - e. Age
5. How soon before your turn should you activate your turn signal?
  - a. What's a turn signal?
  - b. 100 feet
  - c. 100 yards
  - d. Far enough in advance to alert the other drivers



See page 6 for the answers

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

***"Seatbelts are more comfortable than wheelchairs."***

Hooper



## Safety Update (cont.)

## Answers to Driver Safety Quiz:

1. What does a yellow light mean?

Stop – it doesn't mean "slow down" or "caution", it means "**STOP**, we're about to turn loose the other drivers". A red light means, "**STOP**, we've already turned loose the other drivers".

2. How much distance should you allow between you and the vehicle in front of you?

3-4 or more seconds – since speed varies, a set distance isn't the right measure. At 20 mph, 100 feet might be plenty. At 60 mph (88 fps) it's NOT. Three seconds is the minimum. Add a second for each of these mitigating factors: bad weather, dawn/dusk when it's hardest to see, when you are tired, when you are lost/distracted, etc. Pick an object ahead (e.g. road sign, power line, stripe on the road) and when the vehicle in front you crosses it start counting "one Mississippi, two Mississippi, etc." until YOU cross the same spot. Easy peasy.

3. Where do you find the proper inflation pressure for your tires?

- a. On the tire's side wall.
- b. In the owner's manual.
- c. A placard on the door jamb – likely to be found here, but sometimes the owner's manual has it too. The pressure on the sidewall of the tire is the MAXIMUM cold inflation pressure, not the PROPER cold inflation pressure. Under or overinflated tires can cause severe handling problems in emergency situations and can cause poor fuel economy (under inflated) and premature wear (under or over inflation). Check them at least monthly with a quality pressure gage when cold (sitting at least 1 hour since driven). Do you know the proper inflation pressure of your tires without looking?

4. Which items can impact your ability to drive safely?

All of them (a-e). Duh!

5. How soon before your turn should you activate your turn signal?

Far enough in advance to alert the other drivers – since road layout, speed, obstructions, etc. vary, there is not a "set distance."



# Facility Rentals And Events

## Col Mark Richards, Facility Rental Officer



Happy New Year and Welcome to another exciting year at Airbase Georgia.

The Facility Rental Team is gearing up for another busy year and we've already booked \$42,800.00 in events for 2025. Several of this year's events are repeat events from last year which is a testament to the job our volunteers do to make every client's event special. I'm already being asked if our Docents will be at several of the events to talk to their guests.

Our friends and partners at the Peachtree City CVB are well into planning for this year's Hops & Props on April 26<sup>th</sup> along with Wine & Warbirds on October 4<sup>th</sup>. These two events are perfect opportunities to showcase our airbase and its volunteers. We will need a big Events Team during these two events along with our docents who played a huge role during last year's Hops & Props.

Don't forget that we are planning two open houses this year and the first one is just around the corner on May 10, 2025. If you'd like to volunteer to be part of the planning team, please email, text or call me, or attend the next planning meeting on Saturday February 1<sup>st</sup> at 11am.

While we cannot schedule rental events for the hangar during the heavy maintenance and inspection period, there are still many opportunities to volunteer. Our Welcome & Docent Center is a great place to get started if you have a few hours each week to assist. This is a perfect opportunity to meet our members, learn about our airbase and the aircraft, along with making our visitors' experience special.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Event Time / Location</u>
02-11	GBAA Board Meeting	10a - 12p / Meeting Room
02-16	FCDBA Duplicate Bridge Game	11a - 5p / Meeting Room
03-12	FCEF Planning Meeting	8a - 11a / Meeting Room
03-15	Steve Roundy Awards Banquet	5p - 9p / Hangar
03-22	Northgate Baseball Hangar Event	5p - 11p / Hangar
03-23	Young Life Banquet	4p - 9p / Hangar
03-28	FCEF - Fayette Fling	6p - 10p / Hangar
03-29	Whitewater Baseball Hangar Event	5p - 11p / Hangar

Anyone wishing to volunteer for any of these events can contact me by email, text or cell. →

# Recurrent Ground Training

## Col John Currenti, Operations Officer

From 9-12 January, Airbase Georgia's Ops team hosted its annual Recurrent Ground Training. Traditionally held over multiple weekends, 2025 saw all required classes presented within a four-day window. Also new was the concept of keeping much of the meal and post-class social activity under one roof. Murphy, not to be ignored, delivered Snowpocalypse 2025, with its greatest impact on Friday. Despite the challenges, many Colonels were able to make it to the hangar and an additional contingent participated virtually.

Annual GT is not only required by CAF and FAA Rides regulations, but it also provides a valuable opportunity to put the collective experience of ABG's crew lineup in one room, sharing information critical to the safe operation of our fleet. ABG credits the Ops Staff, John Currenti, Ken Holston, and Dave Riesselmann, plus Wanda Roberts for leading the food & social effort, Jeff Clark for leading the Tech effort, and Mark Richards for Facilities support. To all the presenters, attendees, and those who lent a hand along the way, a sincere "thank you" for your efforts! →

Photo by Col Mo Agulari





# Love aviation news?

If “yes,” then you will feel right at home by checking out *Vintage Aviation News* at : <https://vintageaviationnews.com>

One of our own, Col Moreno Agulari, edits and writes the stories on the site. Of particular interest to readers of the Airbase Georgia Dispatch is this issue’s story about the recent Ground School held at the Commemorative Air Force’s Airbase Georgia at Falcon Field.



The site describes the recent Ground School:

## **An Unparalleled Learning Opportunity**

With a speaker lineup that included airline veterans, military aviators, and retired fighter pilots, the CAF Ground School Weekend was an unparalleled opportunity to learn from seasoned professionals with decades of experience. The sessions underscored the importance of recurrent training, fostering camaraderie among participants while promoting the safe and responsible operation of historic aircraft. Through events like these, the Warbird community continues to honor its aviation heritage while ensuring that safety and excellence remain at the forefront of its mission.



So don't delay ... sign up today! You won't regret it. →



# Scenes From the Hangar

Photos by Col Charles Burcher



Cols Rodney Higginbotham, Dennis Beach, Tom Langford, and Bill Freyman remove the Merlin engine from Red Nose. The replacement has already been uncrated and will soon be installed. →







# ON THE HORIZON .....

February 1, 2025

Staff & Members Meetings

March 1, 2025

Staff & Members Meetings

April 5, 2025

Staff & Members Meetings

April 25-26, 2025

PTC CVB Hops & Props

May 10, 2025

Airbase Georgia Spring Open House

