



# THE DISPATCH

AIRBASE GEORGIA, COMMEMORATIVE AIRFORCE, PEACHTREE CITY, GA  
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## Airbase Leader

Col Joel Perkins



### POINTS OF INTEREST:

- P-47N  
Thunderbolt :  
After the War
- SBD-5  
Dauntless:  
Defining  
Moment in the  
Pacific
- ABGA Mission  
to New Orleans

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Safety Report
- Facility Rentals  
and Events
- Development  
Report
- On the Horizon

### A Message of Gratitude and the Power of Communication

As another busy and successful season comes to a close, I want to extend my deepest thanks to every one of you—our members, volunteers, and supporters of Airbase

Georgia. From our maintenance crews and hangar teams to our pilots, ride crews, and administrative staff, your dedication is the heart of our mission with the **Commemorative Air Force: to honor the men and women who built, maintained, and flew these historic aircraft** and to keep their legacy alive for generations to come.

This year has been one of remarkable achievement. We have seen our aircraft flying proudly across the country, representing Airbase Georgia with professionalism, passion, and teamwork. None of this happens by chance. It happens because of **you**—because you show up early, stay late, and give your time and energy to something bigger than any one of us.

As we continue to grow and take on new challenges, I want to take a moment to focus on one of the most important tools we have as a team: **communication**. Effective communication is what keeps our operations safe, our members connected, and our organization strong.

George Bernard Shaw once wrote, *"The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place."* It's a good reminder that simply speaking isn't the same as being understood. In aviation—just as in life—clarity, respect, and listening are critical. Whether it's coordinating maintenance, planning an event, or conducting a flight, success depends on our ability to communicate clearly and respectfully with one another.

We all carry responsibilities that can bring stress or frustration. Deadlines, safety demands, and the fast pace of our activities can test even the best of us. In those moments, let's remember that we are all working toward the **same goal**—to preserve and operate historic aircraft safely and to share the inspiring story of

*Continued on page 2*



## MEETING INFORMATION

Saturday November 1, 2025

Staff Meeting 0900 hrs.

Membership meeting 1300 hrs.

## Staff Officers

### Airbase Leader

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### Air Show Scheduling

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### Facility Rentals

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*Continued from page 1*

American aviation heritage. As Stephen Covey said, “Seek first to understand, then to be understood.” That mindset strengthens our teamwork and reminds us that mutual respect is not just courteous—it’s essential to mission success.

When we listen, clarify, and communicate openly, we build trust. When we show respect, even in disagreement, we preserve the spirit that has always made Airbase Georgia special. Communication doesn’t just make us more efficient—it keeps us united as a community.

So, as we look ahead to the next season, let’s commit to keeping our channels open, our minds clear, and our hearts aligned with the mission that brought us all here: **to honor history through flight**. Thank you for your continued dedication, your professionalism, and your unwavering support. Together, we will keep them flying.



## CAF—Airbase Georgia 2025 Unit Staff Election

### Election Day – November 1, 2025

The election to fill open unit staff positions for the 2026 /2027 term will take place at the November 1<sup>st</sup> Airbase Georgia Membership Meeting.

Here are the candidates running for open staff positions:

**Airbase Leader: Col Mark Richards**

**Development Officer: Col Philip Beegle**

**Education Officer: Col Chris Madrid**

**Finance Officer: Col Mike McElduff**

**Safety Officer: Col Dave Riesselmann**

**Election Day:** Paper ballots will be available to all members present and in good standing starting at Noon on Election Day. Your current CAF / Airbase Georgia membership status will be confirmed by the Election Committee prior to receiving your ballot. Ballots must be cast by 3:00 PM on Election Day.

**Absentee Ballots:** Absentee ballots must be returned post marked not later than October 25, 2025, per the instructions sent with them.

**Election Results:** Election results will be announced via the Airbase Georgia Hotline during the week of November 3, 2025.

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

Thank you,

The Election Committee: Cols Yvonne Haley, Lorraine Deloach, Stephan Kruit

## P47N Thunderbolt N844WA: Restoration Update

Col Wanda England-Roberts

The P-47 Restoration Team experienced slowed progress during the second quarter of 2025. Many of the P-47 crew assisted with the removal of the P-51's Rolls Royce engine and the subsequent installation of the new engine. Upon completion of the Rolls Royce install, the P-47 Restoration Team was back on task where they continue to make great progress.



Right: Bill Freyman works the left wing.



Left: John Flynn completed the fabrication of the mounting base/mechanism for the control stick.



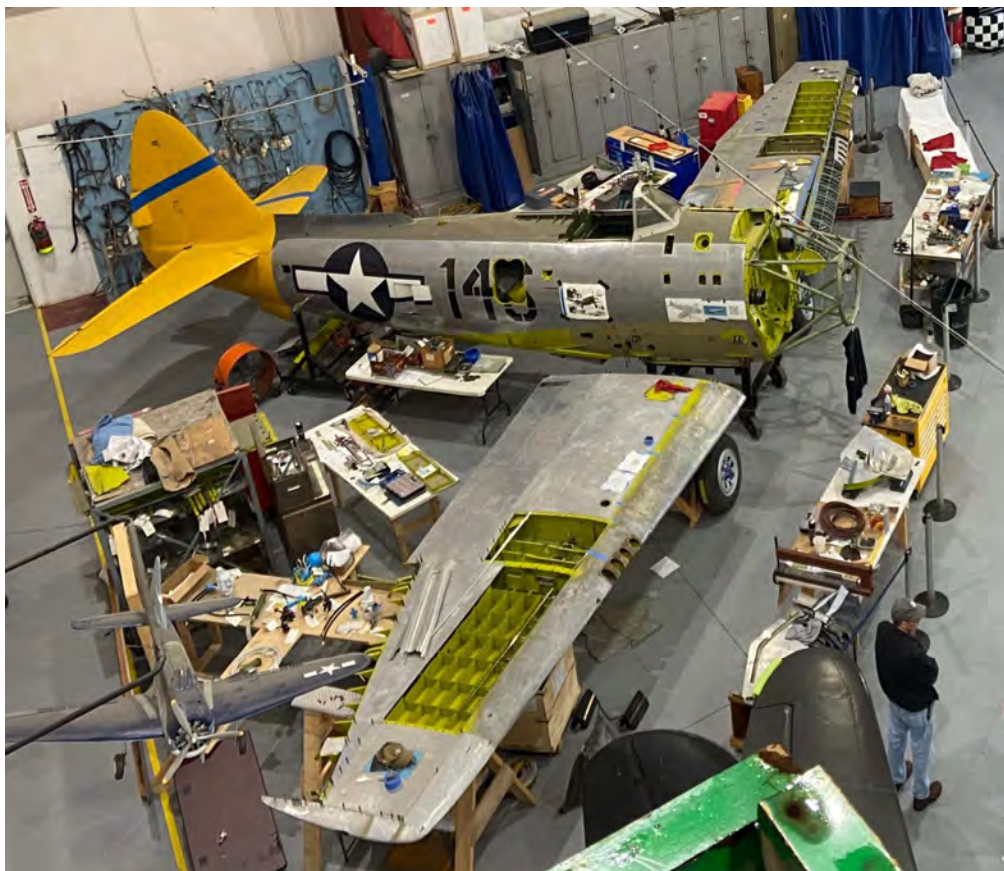
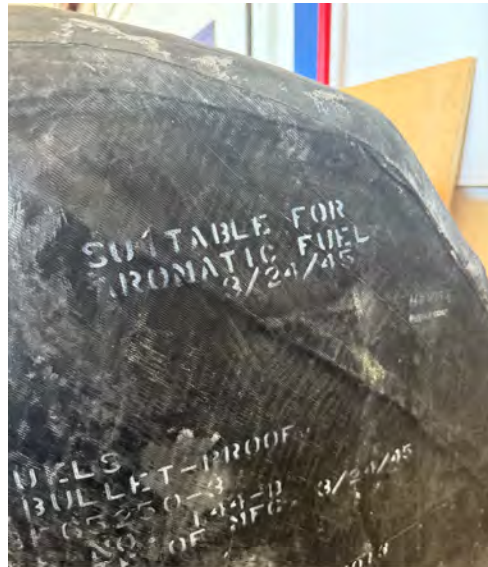
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Left: P-47 Crew Chief Dennis Beach sits on the P-47 fuel tank. Below: Original markings on the tank.



## Safety Report

Col Steve Hoofnagle



### **November is National “Slips, Trips, and Falls Prevention” Month!!!**

Where is this year going? It’s already autumn or “Fall” and that’s a good time to take a few minutes to review “fall” precautions.

Slips, trips, and FALLS are leading causes of injury in both the home and the workplace. They are often caused by environmental factors like spills, poor

lighting, and uneven surfaces, or human errors like improper footwear and distractions. Preventing these incidents requires a combination of things including maintaining good housekeeping, cleaning up spills immediately, use warning signs for wet floors, wearing appropriate footwear, and paying attention.

This is extremely important at Airbase Georgia as we routinely invite the public to tour our hangar and shop areas!

Be sure to clean up any spills you encounter, including drips from the aircraft. Stow towbars under the aircraft when not in active use (moving the plane). Don’t leave extension cords, air hoses, and other items on the floor when not in active use.

### **Here are the Top 10 causes of slips, trips, and falls:**

1. Wet floors
2. Slippery floors
3. Dusty floors
4. Loose mats and floor coverings
5. Unsuitable footwear
6. Icy conditions
7. Wet ground
8. Obstacles
9. Loose flooring
10. Uneven flooring

We routinely have many of these hazards. Please, look around, identify, and CORRECT any of these hazards when you are at the Airbase.

***“Accident prevention = Your No. 1 intention.”***

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

Hooper

770-309-5584 cell



## P-47 Parts Arrive at Airbase Georgia

Col Charles Burcher

Steve Shankle & his wife flew to Air Corp restoration facility in Bemidji, MN, rented a truck, loaded the parts & drove down to Airbase Georgia. New leading edges & super charger.



## Facility Rentals and Events

### Col Mark Richards

Airbase Georgia is “full speed ahead” with events for the last quarter of 2025. We began the fourth quarter by balancing an outdoor wedding and indoor wedding reception during the 2025 Airshow. A big thank you to everyone involved to make this event and weekend a success story for ABG. The balance of October is full of events, and



those events need volunteer help, especially the October 24<sup>th</sup> Midwest Food Bank Event. Please contact me by phone text or email if you can assist with any of the October events.

Also, watch the new TV monitors mounted in the hangar for a list of upcoming events and other news relating to Airbase Georgia.

November is a “HUGE” rental and event month for Airbase Georgia. We start out with the November 1 Member Meeting, Staff Elections and Active Shooter Training. It just gets busier from there with other hangar events and our final open house of 2025 on Saturday November 8 from 10a – 4p. We plan to feature the shop and both restoration projects, who wants to be the spokesperson for each project? We also need anyone who would like to dress as a reenactor. We will bring back some of the exhibits from previous open houses along with the rides program.

November also brings our first Gun Show on November 21, 22,23 and this event will require volunteers on all three days. We will need at least 5-volunteers on Friday November 21 for set-up day and at least 15-Volunteers on Saturday and Sunday November 22 and 23 for parking and golf cart shuttles.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Event Time / Location</u>
10-15	USAA Monthly Instructors Meeting	9a – 11a / Meeting Room
10-20	Fayette County School Social Studies Class	2p – 4p / Tour
10-21	Daedallian Luncheon	11a – 3p / Meeting Room
10-23	Midwest Food Bank event set-up	4p – 7p / Hangar
10-24	Midwest Food Bank Harvest of Blessings Event	5p – 10p / Hangar
10-25	Sam Ruffner’s Military Retirement Party	10a – 4p / Meeting Room
10-26	Nalin Wedding & Reception	9a – 5p / Ramp Meeting Rm
10-29	Fayette Chamber Board Meeting	10a – 11a / Meeting Room
11-01	ABG Staff Elections	12p – 3p / Meeting Room
11-01	November Member Meeting	1P – 2p / Meeting Room
11-01	Active Shooter Training	2p – 3p / Meeting Room

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



## Development Report

Col Chris Madrid

### Building Readiness for the Future: Key Takeaways from the Airbase Georgia Expansion Feasibility Study

Airbase Georgia recently completed the first feasibility study ever conducted by a Commemorative Air Force unit. Conducted by Convergent Nonprofit Solutions, the study was initiated in response to the suspension of the Living History Flight

Experience rides program following the tragic collision of the CAF B-17 Flying Fortress and P-63 Kingcobra at *Wings Over Dallas* in November 2022.

With demand for warbird participation and appearance fees at air shows declining in the aftermath of the accident, and with Airbase Georgia relying heavily on rides revenue to sustain operations, the study was designed to assess whether the Fayette County community would support a major fundraising campaign to expand hangar facilities and strengthen public engagement and long-term sustainability.

A total of 34 individuals participated in the study, including 20 community leaders, 6 staff members, and 8 Airbase Georgia members. The report was shared with members at the October 4, 2025, meeting.

The study concluded that while Airbase Georgia is highly respected within the warbird community, and to a lesser extent within the general aviation community, but it **does not currently have the broad community awareness and credibility necessary to raise \$5 million**. However, the report provides clear, actionable recommendations to improve readiness for a successful capital campaign.

Enhancing Education ranked as the top external priority, with 58% of respondents citing education and aviation career exploration as critical to ABG's future. Stakeholders encouraged engaging youth through experiential exhibits, existing high school aviation pathways, and technology-enabled learning. These recommendations align closely with the CAF Mission and Unit Guidelines, reinforcing Airbase Georgia's role in honoring veterans through education and outreach.

The most frequently cited improvement opportunity was to **increase visibility through partnerships**. Stakeholders urged ABG to position itself not only as a flying museum but also as a **convener of organizations** advancing education, workforce development, and aviation history. Collaborations with schools, chambers of commerce, civic organizations, and aviation employers were highlighted as vital to strengthening credibility, increasing relevance, and expanding the membership base to better reflect the community and workforce.

**Building credibility** was identified as essential for long-term success. While ABG is highly regarded among its members, visibility and perceived effectiveness decline outside the organization. Interviewees recommended enhancing ABG's statewide profile through **strategic partnerships** in education, tourism, and technology; closer alignment with CAF National; and clearer messaging that Airbase Georgia serves the broader community—not just its membership.





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Together, these steps - **stronger partnerships, more robust educational programming and outreach, and strengthened credibility** - will improve Airbase Georgia's readiness to meet the future and conduct a successful major fundraising campaign.

**With gratitude to project donors:**

Philip Beegle, Tony Berg, Rik Carlson, Jeff Clark, Brian Dalton, Jim Dalton, Mike & Marsha Daly, Gerhard Frenz, Ron Gause, Robert Harris, George Harrison, Randy Hawkins, Ken Holston, Cindy Madrid, Stan Musick, Dave Riesselmann, Dave Serafin, Steve Shankle, Jane Simpson, Tom Thompson, and Jim Van den Hueval.



Col Mark Carteee cleaning the T6. He is creating a plane wash program for our members to maintain the aircraft.



Photos courtesy Col Marybeth Britton



## The P-47N After the War: From Island Escort to Guard Skies

Col Chris Madrid

When World War II ended, the piston-engine fighter era was not quite over. Among the last variants designed for combat service was the P-47N Thunderbolt, optimized with extended wing and fuel capacity to escort B-29s on long-range missions over Japan. But with the war's end in August 1945, the P-47N found a second life in peacetime, transitioning into roles that cemented its legacy beyond combat.

### Transition and Redesignation

After 1945, many wartime aircraft were retired or repurposed. The Thunderbolt family followed this pattern: in 1947 the U.S. Army Air Forces redesignated its fighters with "F" prefixes, so the P-47 became the F-47. The aircraft continued in service with the newly established U.S. Air Force, and especially in the Air National Guard, where ruggedness, maintenance simplicity, and residual parts availability made it attractive for early postwar defense. The Thunderbolt's thick radial engine, armored cockpit, and reputation for durability meant that even in a jet-driven future, the F-47 had a place in guard units until more advanced aircraft replaced it.

In this postwar era, the P-47N (or F-47N) appeared in both ANG unit colors and foreign air forces. While few of the N variant remained in active front-line USAF use, its deployment in the Guard and abroad extended the type's life well into the 1950s in some places.

### Georgia Air National Guard and P-47Ns

After World War II, the Georgia Air National Guard became one of the earliest ANG units equipped with the P-47N Thunderbolt, redesignated F-47N under the newly formed U.S. Air Force. Two Georgia squadrons operated the aircraft:

- The 128th Fighter Squadron, based at Marietta Army Airfield (later Dobbins AFB).
- The 158th Fighter Squadron, based at Chatham Field (later Travis Field and Hunter AFB).

Both squadrons formed part of the 116th Fighter Group, federally recognized on August 20, 1946.

The F-47N served as Georgia's primary postwar fighter through the late 1940s, performing air-defense, gunnery, and ground-attack training missions until replaced by early jet aircraft like the F-80 Shooting Star and F-84 Thunderjet by the early 1950s.

This ANG service kept the P-47N in American skies longer than many assumed. It linked veterans of the war and younger postwar pilots, bridging the piston-engine legacy into the early jet age in Georgia and other states.

### The Tuskegee Airmen's 1949 "Top Gun" Triumph

Perhaps the most celebrated postwar moment for the P-47N came in 1949, when pilots of the 332nd Fighter Group (Tuskegee Airmen) entered the first U.S. Air Force aerial gunnery meet (later known as "William Tell").

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Invited from active and ANG units, the top three scorers in each fighter group competed. Despite their aircraft being considered obsolete, the Tuskegee Airmen flew P-47N Thunderbolts in the contest.

Over a series of events, aerial gunnery, dive bombing, skip bombing, rocket firing, and panel strafing, the 332nd team dominated. They led almost continuously and clinched the team championship, while their individual scores positioned them at or near the top in multiple categories.

Yet despite this achievement, their victory was not formally recognized at the time. In fact, for decades the 1949 winner was listed as “unknown,” and the trophy itself went missing. Only in the 1990s did retired Lt. Col. Harry Stewart and others successfully campaign to correct the record. In 1995 the official Air Force almanac finally listed the 332nd Fighter Group as the 1949 champion, and the trophy - rediscovered in Air Force Museum storage - was returned to public view.

In January 2022, the Air Force formally recognized the 332nd’s win with a commemorative plaque at Nellis Air Force Base. The win remains a powerful symbol: the P-47N, once thought obsolete, was still a winning tool in the hands of skilled pilots facing prejudice and outdated bias.

### **P-47N in Latin & Central America**

Even as the United States phased out piston fighters, many Latin American nations acquired surplus Thunderbolts, including P-47 variants, for their air forces. The N variant, while rarer, appears to have found limited use in the hemisphere’s postwar arms transfers.

- The Peruvian Air Force operated P-47Ds into the early 1960s. Some sources suggest that in order to maximize range and endurance, certain air forces considered or employed N-model features or modifications in their Thunderbolts.
- The P-47 family was among U.S.-supplied aircraft to Latin American air forces under military aid programs. These aircraft performed air defense, COIN (counterinsurgency), ground attack, and training roles.
- In Central America, Thunderbolts served in U.S.-backed regimes to suppress internal uprisings and support government forces. Their heavy construction and payload capacity made them preferable for rugged terrain and less-developed airfields.

While documentation of the P-47N specifically in Central America is more tenuous than for the D-series, the postwar export patterns show the Thunderbolt family’s persistence in the region. The N’s extended-range capability would have been an advantage in countries with long coastlines or dispersed regional threats.

### **Challenges & Obsolescence**

By the early 1950s, jet fighters rapidly supplanted piston-engine aircraft in front-line roles. The F-47 (all variants) was phased out of USAF active use by about 1949. However, many ANG units retained them through the early 1950s until better jets like the F-84, F-86, and others arrived.

The N variant, specifically, had limited postwar deployment given its specialization for ultra-long-range missions a role less relevant in continental U.S. defense. Maintenance of unique wing fuel systems and drop-tank

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capacities likely added complexity. Still, for Guard units and foreign air forces needing robust, forgiving aircraft, the N-legacy lived on.

### Legacy & Historical Significance

The P-47N's postwar era quietly bridged the gap between piston-era performance and the dawning jet age. In Georgia's Guard squadrons, it was more than a training tool it was a local symbol of continuity and readiness. In the skies over the 1949 gunnery meet, it became the platform for a racially significant victory that would only be honored decades later.

Even in Latin America, the Thunderbolt family including N derivatives played roles in regional security, internal conflicts, and national defense at a time when jet conversion was slow or unaffordable.

Today, only a few P-47Ns survive in flying condition, preserved by museums and warbird groups. But their postwar service, especially the stories of the Tuskegee Airmen and Guard squadrons, remind us that aircraft outlive wars. The P-47N may have been built with Japan in mind, but its second life was about honor, recognition, and the quiet persistence of the Jug in new skies.

Below: Georgia National Guard P-47N photos from *Republic P-47 - From Seversky to Victory* by Warren M. Bodie.



Left: A P-47N-25 from the 116<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing, Georgia National Guard, Marietta Air Base, May 1946. Photo from *Republic P-47 - From Seversky to Victory* by Warren M. Bodie.

Right: Georgia National Guard P-47N-25 Thunderbolts photographed some time in 1949. Photos from *Republic P-47 - From Seversky to Victory* by Warren M. Bodie.



332nd pilots at the 1949 Air Force 'Top Gun' Aerial Gunnery Competition. (U.S. Air Force)

Online article <https://www.military.com/history/tuskegee-airmen-won-first-air-force-top-gun-aerial-gunnery-competition.html>

## Around the Hangar: Stearman Update

Col Charles Burcher

Right & Below: Cols Roy Handler & Mark Chabot clean surfaces with alcohol. Roy sprays the bottom of two of the wings.



Below: Col Malcom Lelliott touches up letters.





## The SBD-5 Dauntless: Airbase Georgia's Line to a Defining Moment in the Pacific

Col Chris Madrid

Visitors to Airbase Georgia are often drawn to the distinctive livery of our SBD-5 Dauntless. With its rugged lines and purposeful design, the Dauntless is a tangible reminder of the U.S. Navy's dive-bombing heritage and the crucial role these aircraft played in turning the tide of World War II. Though often overshadowed by faster and more modern aircraft that followed, the SBD-5 was still flying in the thick of battle as late as June 1944, most notably during the Battle of the Philippine Sea.



Photo courtesy of Kevin Hong

### The SBD-5 in the Battle of the Philippine Sea

By mid-1944, the Dauntless was a veteran of the Pacific War, its reputation secured by earlier victories at Coral Sea and Midway. Yet at the Battle of the Philippine Sea, fought west of the Mariana Islands in June 1944, the type made its final major appearance in U.S. Navy carrier service.

- **Operational Role:** SBD-5s, including those from Bombing Squadron 16 (VB-16) aboard the USS *Lexington*, provided direct support to U.S. Marines storming the beaches of Saipan. Their precision dive-bombing attacks helped neutralize Japanese fortifications and artillery, clearing the way for ground forces.
- **Last Major Engagement:** The Philippine Sea was the swan song of the Dauntless in Navy hands. After the campaign, the aircraft was largely retired from front-line carrier duty, with surviving examples transferred to U.S. Marine Corps squadrons for continued use in the island-hopping battles that followed.
- **Supporting Role in a New Era:** While the F6F Hellcat gained fame for the aerial slaughter of Japanese aircraft during the "Great Marianas Turkey Shoot," the Dauntless remained in its traditional role, delivering precision dive-bombing strikes on ships and shore targets.

### The SBD-5 Variant

The SBD-5 was the most numerous models of the Dauntless, with over 2,400 produced. It embodied the lessons learned from earlier versions while extending the aircraft's effectiveness well into 1944.

Key features included:

- **Powerplant:** A 1,200-horsepower Wright R-1820-60 engine that gave the Dauntless greater performance and reliability.
- **Firepower:** Two forward-firing .50 caliber machine guns, paired with twin .30 caliber machine guns in the rear cockpit for defense.
- **Bomb Load:** Capacity to carry up to 2,250 pounds of bombs, making it a formidable precision strike platform.
- **Survivability:** Extra armor and self-sealing fuel tanks provided protection for its crews in the hazardous dive-bombing role.

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- **Improved Ammunition Storage:** Allowing sustained combat capability during extended missions.



SBD-5 Flying over the USS Washington

### Reliving History in the Sky

Today, Airbase Georgia offers the rare opportunity to experience the Dauntless firsthand through the **Living History Flight Experience** program. Members of the public can purchase a ride in the SBD-5 and retrace the steps of the naval aviators who flew it into combat more than 80 years ago.

Climbing into the rear seat of the Dauntless, passengers experience the same roar of the Wright R-1820 engine, the same open canopy views, and the same sense of power and vulnerability that World War II crews felt as they launched from carrier decks. Each flight is not only a thrilling ride, but also a journey into the past—connecting generations to the courage and skill of those who served.

Proceeds from these flights directly support the ongoing maintenance and preservation of the aircraft, ensuring that the SBD-5 remains a flying tribute rather than a static relic. By taking part, riders help Airbase Georgia fulfill its mission to **educate, inspire, and honor the Greatest Generation**.

Learn about ABG SBD's History <https://airbasegeorgia.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/CAF-Douglas-SBD-5-Dauntless-BuAer-54532-.pdf>

### Where You Can See a Dauntless Fly

Only a handful of Douglas SBD Dauntless dive bombers remain airworthy today. Each represents countless hours of restoration and ongoing care by dedicated museums and volunteers:

- **Airbase Georgia (Peachtree City, GA)** – SBD-5, BuNo 54532 flies in our Living History Flight Experience program, offering the rare chance for the public to ride in a Dauntless and directly support its preservation.
- **Planes of Fame Air Museum (Chino, CA)** – SBD-5, BuNo 28536 regularly flies at West Coast airshows and commemorations.
- **Yanks Air Museum (Chino, CA)** – SBD-4, BuNo 10518 is a rare early variant kept in flying condition.
- **National Museum of World War II Aviation (Colorado Springs, CO)** – SBD-4, BuNo 10694 highlights the Navy's mid-war dive-bomber legacy in the Rockies.

### Related Army Versions (A-24 Banshee)

Two Army A-24s, essentially Dauntlesses without carrier gear, remain flyable:

- A-24A, 42-60817 (Erickson Aircraft Collection, Madras, OR)
- A-24B, 42-54682 (Lone Star Flight Museum, Houston, TX)




## AIRBASE GEORGIA TO NEW ORLEANS

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**November 13:** Begin with departure to the vibrant city of New Orleans. Upon arrival, check into your elegant Higgins Hotel before enjoying a true taste of iconic Creole cuisine with an included dinner at the Court of Two Sisters. Then, enjoy cocktails on your own at Rosie's On The Roof at your hotel before returning to your room. **D**

**November 14:** Start your day with breakfast included at Café Normandie before embarking on a private guided tour of the National WWII Museum. Then, experience *Beyond All Boundaries*, the award-winning 4-D film produced and narrated by Tom Hanks. That afternoon, delight in an included luncheon and matinee performance by the *Victory Belles*, with additional time to explore the museum's exhibits and the Freedom Theater for another remarkable 4-D film experience. After a brief hotel refresh, transfer to a private banquet dinner at the Kushner Restoration Pavilion, where you'll get a behind-the-scenes view of the restoration and preservation of priceless WWII artifacts. That evening, take some time to wander the city under the glow of neon lights. **B D**

**November 15:** After another breakfast at Café Normandie, meet with your step-on guide for a narrated city tour where you'll discover New Orleans' rich culture and storied history. Following your experience, begin the journey home with unforgettable memories. **B**

#### PACKAGE PRICE:

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**Single: \$1,369.00**

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#### DEPOSIT:

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#### PACKAGE INCLUDES:

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#### CONTACT YOUR GROUP LEADER FOR MORE INFORMATION:

**Chris Madrid**

[Chris.madrid@airbasegeorgia.org](mailto:Chris.madrid@airbasegeorgia.org)

**(770) 655-3315**

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**COACH TRANSPORTATION**

Coaches will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized prior and during each trip & hand sanitizer stations will be placed at bus loading areas and will be available onboard.

***Passengers must follow local guidelines laid down by the venues and locations visited.***

**TO CONFIRM RESERVATIONS**

Reservations will be accepted on a 1st come 1st serve Basis. It is important that reservations and deposits be made as soon as possible to ensure availability of a particular tour. Reservations will not be accepted without initial deposits.

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A final trip letter will be provided three weeks prior to the trip outlining pick up and drop off points, departure and return times, hotel details, a current itinerary and any local Covid 19 restrictions.

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Double: \$1,099.00

**CANCELATION**

On multi-day bus tours not involving flights, there is no cancellation penalty if a trip is cancelled before the final payment due date minus any vendor payments which are unrecoverable. There is a 100% cancellation penalty if a trip is cancelled within 45 days of trip departure. On multi-day bus tours involving flights, deposits are refundable 75 days or more prior to departure minus any vendor deposits which are unrecoverable. On Cruise & International Trips, deposits are refundable 95 days or more prior to departure, minus any vendor deposits which are unrecoverable. Day trip payments are non-refundable but are transferable one time as a credit on account, minus the cost of shows or event tickets if unrecoverable. ***Purchasing TRAVEL INSURANCE is highly recommended.***

**LIABILITY & INDEMNIFICATION**

By booking, financially committing to and physically traveling on a trip with Kelly Tours, passenger(s) do so at their own risk and will indemnify Kelly Tours and Kelly Tours employees in totality against any claim(s) resultant to any actual or perceived harm caused by potential exposure to covid 19. In addition, passenger(s) will not hold Kelly Tours or Kelly Tours employees liable for any actual or perceived harm caused by potential exposure to Covid 19 during a trip.

**Cut below line and send form with payment to: 2788 US HWY 80 W, GARDEN CITY, GA 31408**

**Airbase Georgia to New Orleans**

**November 13 – 15, 2026**

**Trip #21426**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ or Female \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home# (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell# (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

All receipts are sent by email. Email \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact #1 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact #2 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_





COMMUNAL  
AIR FORCE  
AIRBASE GEORGIA

# CAF AIRBASE GEORGIA **OPEN HOUSE**

Honoring Veterans & the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the End of WWII

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2025 | 10 AM – 4 PM**

CAF Airbase Georgia | 1200 Echo Court, Peachtree City GA

## EXPERIENCE HISTORY UP CLOSE

- ★ Enjoy a behind the scenes look at warbird restoration featuring our P-47 Thunderbolt & PT-17 Stearman
- ★ Customize a WWII dog tag souvenir & see historic artifacts
- ★ Mingle with WWII reenactors & hear stories of triumph told by our resident docents
- ★ Enjoy a tour of our hangar and warbird restoration shop
- ★ Food, fun, and more for the whole family

## TAKE A LIVING HISTORY FLIGHT IN AN HISTORIC WWII AIRCRAFT!

Take the ultimate trip back in time by booking a living history flight in one of our fully restored authentic WWII aircraft.

Call 644-FLYWARBIRD or you can book online at [airbasegeorgia.org/event/fall-open-house](http://airbasegeorgia.org/event/fall-open-house) or scan here →



"Our open house is one of the best ways we can connect the public to the incredible stories of sacrifice and service from World War II," said Airbase Leader Joel Perkins. "Through events like this, we honor the Greatest Generation by educating the public and inspiring youth."



## ABOUT CAF AIRBASE GEORGIA

Founded in 1987, Airbase Georgia is one of the largest units of the CAF and one of the largest flying museums in the Southeast, maintaining nine historic military aircraft. Comprised of more than 300 volunteer members, Airbase Georgia is a founding partner of the Georgia WWII Heritage Trail and offers a unique educational experience for enthusiasts of all ages.

Media Contact: Steve Forsyth, PIO | 770-714-7750 | [sforsyth106@gmail.com](mailto:sforsyth106@gmail.com)



# VETERANS DAY 2025

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



DELTA 2025

FLY DELTA JETS

NOVEMBER 6TH & 7TH  
14TH ANNIVERSARY



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**250<sup>TH</sup> MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2025 AT 1800 (^5 PM)  
Faithful Service To God, Family, Corps & Country  
&

THE CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THE READING OF THE COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE TO HIS MARINES  
THE READING OF GENERAL JOHN A. LeJEUNE'S FIRST BIRTHDAY MESSAGE

ONCE AGAIN WE WILL HAVE THE CEREMONIAL CAKE CUTTING  
Chesty Puller did it in Korea, We ought to do it here & now.

POST 6330 VFW Tara Blvd. HWY 19/41 (732 VETERANS' PARKWAY)  
JONESBORO (CLAYTON COUNTY) GEORGIA  
TARA BLVD. A/K/A 19/41 OR THE HIGHWAY TO ATLANTA MOTOR SPEEDWAY

**CHECKPOINT GOING SOUTH****IF YOU GET TO GREAT BIG CLAYTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

IF YOU REACH ATLANTA MOTOR SPEEDWAY YOU REALLY MISSED IT !

Phone Number at VFW Post # 6330 is 770-471-3285

**EACH OF YOU ARE SPECIAL GUESTS FOR THIS OCCASSION.**

HAPPY VETERANS' DAY TO ALL WHO HAVE SERVED  
NOVEMBER 11, 2025

Semper Fidelis  
"the maddog sends"

Your only excuse, should you decide to give one, is that you have been deployed to SYRIA, AFGHANISTAN or THE KHYBER PASS or other foreign lands to close with and kill the enemy. My phone number is no longer available to anyone who hasn't figured this out, yet!

Or you are on Active Duty with the United States Air Force!

But this is still my active email: LawDalton@aol.com

"Send Money, Guns, Marines & Lawyers"  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR ROYAL MARINES 361 YEARS OLD

**SOUTHSIDE MARINE CAKE CUTTING CEREMONY**

\$





1200 Echo Ct.  
 Peachtree City, GA 30269  
 Phone: 678-364-1110  
<https://airbasegeorgia.org/>

## On the horizon....

2025 Date(s)	Event	Planes	City	State
November 1	ABGA Staff and Member Meetings Staff Elections & Active Shooter Training	—	P'tree City	GA
November 6-7	Veteran's Day at Delta	All	Tech Ops Center	GA
November 8	ABGA Fall Open House	TBA	P'tree City	GA
November 21-23	GA Gun Show LLP	—	P'tree City	GA
December 6	ABGA Christmas Party	—	P'tree City	GA
December 13	Poor Little Lambs Book Debut	—	P'tree City	GA
January 3, 2026	ABGA Staff & Member Meetings	—	P'tree City	GA

**KEEP 'EM FLYING!**



Articles and photos for publication in the Dispatch are welcomed and encouraged. Submissions must be received by the 15th of the month. For questions and submissions, email [marsha.daly@airbasegeorgia.org](mailto:marsha.daly@airbasegeorgia.org)