



MILE HIGH VIEW

NEWSLETTER OF THE MILE HIGH WING,
COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE (CAF)

Keep 'Em Flying!

March 2005

CAF News from the Winter Staff Conference

By Col Paul LaPrad, Wing Leader

On Thursday, February 17, 2005, Col Stan Peterson and I gave up flying to drive to the CAF Winter Staff conference in Odessa, Texas. This was my third or fourth Staff Conference, and I always look forward to attending these, not only for what one can learn but to see people I have met at previous conferences.

In addition, I think that attending the staff conference really helps us realize how our local Mile High Wing is indeed a part of a larger national/ international organization: the Commemorative Air Force.

On Friday morning, Stan and I attended a Safety Committee meeting, then had the rest of the day free until dinner. The primary conference started on Saturday morning with the "roll call" by Bob Rice's secretary, Sharon, who reads the list of all CAF squadrons/wings to see if someone from that group is present.

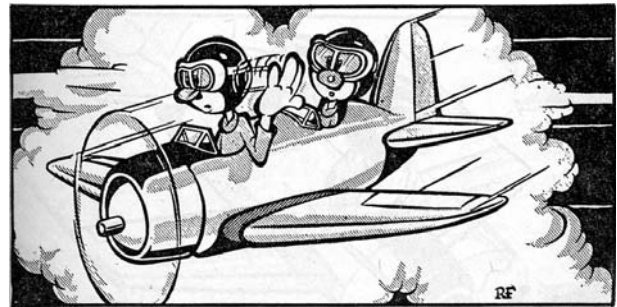
Often the attendees from various groups make some kind of a funny response. The response from the Mile High Wing was "glad to be here."

After the roll call, Joe Cowan, chief of staff, has those on the general staff introduce themselves. During this general session, we learned that HQ has an account that is available for loans to local groups (putting at least 20% down) for buying planes, building hangars, buying PX trailers, etc.

We also learned that CAF is changing its focus from WWII and is now going to include veterans (and maybe planes) from WWII through the Gulf War. A short video, "Celebrating the Past; Embracing the Future," was shown. The general staff also decided to allow Bob Rice to become a voting member.

Concerns were expressed regarding the declining CAF population. During 1998 and 1990, approximately 1000 new members joined the organization. In 1994, the number had dropped to about 750.

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Too Legit to Quit

By Col Stan Peterson

The Mile High Wing's outlook for its "new" airplane is coming around, but perhaps not as smoothly as one might hope.

The annual inspection has gone well and will be complete within the next couple of days, with the exception of the propellers, which won't return from the rebuild shop for another two weeks. New brakes were purchased, new brackets for the passenger seats were installed, flaps were repaired, a fuel boost pump replaced, and the engines and their compressions all checked out fine.

However, a major complication for me, and possibly the Mile High Wing, is insurability. Although there seem to be several insurance agencies to choose from (EAA, AOPA, etc.), there is only one, or perhaps at the most two, underwriters to choose from, neither of which is

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Calendar of Events

March 19, 2005 – Wing meeting:
10:00 a.m., Front Range Airport, terminal
building, upstairs conference room.

April 16, 2005 – Wing meeting:
10:00 a.m., Front Range Airport, terminal
building, upstairs conference room.

Wing meetings are held on the 3rd
Saturday of the month at 10:00 a.m.

Too Legit to Quit, continued

interested in insuring the C-45, due to our recent accident. Furthermore, the actual assignment of the aircraft will be the responsibility of the CAF headquarters.

Nevertheless, I'll continue with my plan to donate the aircraft and monies to the CAF as restitution for the losses they and the Mile High Wing have incurred and continue doing what I feel is "the right thing." We can only proceed with good intentions and hope for the best in our attempt to "keep 'em flying," because we're just too legit to quit! →

CAF Winter Staff Conference News, continued

The primary emphasis for this year, as well as last year, is **SAFETY**. It was stated that for us, as a corporate culture, safety is paramount. To promote this, the staff will hire a full time Flight Ops Manager, who will concentrate on ground and flight safety.

Another major CAF development is the building of the Commemorative Center. About \$880,000 has been raised and ground breaking should occur sometime this July. This new building will house the Texas Medal of Honor Hall, the Airman Combat Hall of Fame, The High Sky Wing, and a military vehicle display. In addition, it will hangar the B-29 ("Fifi"), with room left over for space to be rented to outside groups.

Finally, the Commemorative Center will provide space for the O Club. I'm sure the new O Club will be nice, but in some ways, I will miss the big tent that has been used at previous AIRSHOs. →



Above: The Wing's potential C-45 undergoes its annual inspection – see "Too Legit to Quit"



Mile High Wing, CAF

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