



MILE HIGH VIEW

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

Keep 'Em Flying!

January 2006

Wing Leader's Perspective on 2005

By Col Paul LaPrad, Wing Leader

Sometimes when we start a journey, the road ahead may seem a little unclear if not downright difficult. Our Mile High Wing has experienced this over the last 12 months, but we have kept marching.

The first major event for us occurred in February when Col Stan Peterson and I attended the Winter Staff Conference. The meeting itself and seeing people we knew from previous CAF events was interesting, as was meeting new people, one of whom was to play an important role for the MHW. It was also during this conference that we learned our Wing was minus not only a plane but also a pilot.

Over the next few months we not only had meetings, but kept busy in other things. For example, in March or April we took our PX to the Jeffco Airport Open House and had a decent experience. Perhaps a highlight there occurred when three of us tore down our PX in record time because an F-16 parked next to us was getting ready to leave. During the early summer we assisted the Arizona Wing in having *Sentimental Journey* at Jeffco.

Also over the next few months, Stan put a lot of effort into looking at a variety of aircraft. We considered three or four types and finally settled on a C-45. Due to his generosity, we finally came into possession of one. Some of us felt then, and more so now, that a C-45/AT-7 was a very good fit for the Mile High Wing. Meanwhile our small group kept moving along despite some strong headwinds. When we had no airplane, our focus centered on the PX and

the role it could play for our Wing. Two people in our group played a major role in these endeavors. Finally, due to hard work and other things, our Wing again had a pilot.

A few of us were blessed to be present at Platte Valley (I think in August) when Stan first flew the C-45 there. Indeed this was a momentous occasion and brought us to a unique location. In September we flew the plane to Akron, Colorado, for the National Radial Engine Exhibition. Our parking spot was not far from *Sentimental Journey* and our PX units were next to each other. Our PX felt much happier this year than last year, due to the amount of business that was generated. Again the dog tag machine played a major role in our business.

Four of us were privileged to attend the CAF AIRSHO and were pleased to have our C-45 in the show and on display. We fit right in with the other

Continued on page 3



With another productive work day complete, Col Stan Hanson is reflected in newly polished metal on the AT-7

Happy New Year

By Col Stan Peterson

Things are going pretty smoothly at this point for the Mile High Wing. We seem to be getting along well with our new landlords, and the beauty of the Platte Valley Airport (PVA) continues to unfold and reveal its secrets like a multifaceted gemstone. The stone may not be perfect, but like the democratic system, it's the best there is for our Wing.

We enjoy taking visitors out to our operation, being able to show them much more than they might have expected, introducing them to some great folks – people who do not just own and operate an airport, but are involved in keeping the past alive, and airborne as well: talented airmen and craftsmen who have no peers.

OK, so we're happy here and feel proud to be an "item" at PVA. However, there are a few things that might be different than at DIA: the sticker-burrs are

everywhere, sand and dust create maintenance tasks that don't exist in the asphalt jungles, and the flies or birds don't congregate in metropolitan areas as they do on the goat farms and alfalfa fields of Platte Valley. But overall the atmosphere is a nostalgic trip back in time.

The gods were shining down on the Mile High Wing when Santa himself paid us a visit just before Christmas. It seems he had been in the area collecting suggestions for gifts for all little boys and girls. He stopped by PVA looking for a ride back to the North Pole; his time was running short and he had to get back to pack up the sled and hitch up the eight tiny reindeer for the great Christmas sleigh ride.

Maintenance on the AT-7 held Santa up just a bit, but the installation of a new gear micro-switch had the plane up and flying; Col Mike Kalinowski is busy scheduling passenger rides now that the AT-7 is back in town. Several gift certificates were purchased over the holidays, and as soon as the weather permits,

Continued on page 3



Santa, aka Bob Elsloo, looks for a ride from Platte Valley Airport back to the North Pole

Wing Leader's Perspective on 2005, continued

seven or eight C-45s and we felt like our Wing had contributed to the show. Also at AIRSHO, we met a person who not only became a member of our Wing, but is a very dedicated worker. Later in October, we were active at Platte Valley's Open House and were able to show off our plane.

During the first weekend in November, several people assisted our group at the Holiday Fun and Food event. Again, we met another person who has become active in our group. Later in November we attended an Open House at Boulder airport; the weather was cold, the attendance was low, most of our PX sales were from existing members and our PX canopy was blown over, *but* we met another new person who has many skills to bring to our group. In December we had our meeting at Platte Valley, and at least six people had paid their 2006 dues. The January meeting will also be at Platte Valley.

In summary, I think our experiences are similar to three pictures I continue to look at while writing this piece. Two are of the C-60 when it looked its finest. Just as we persevered in working on that plane (even during times when the light in the tunnel seemed a long way off), so our group this past year has kept moving ahead.

The third picture is one taken of the C-45 at Boulder and represents some new beginnings, just like the three new people we have met, who bring a variety of talent.

In closing, I want to express my appreciation for all the people who over this past year have kept attending our meetings and working on various projects. In the final analysis, I think it is the people who make the difference. KEEP 'EM FLYING. →

Wing Dues Are Due

Don't forget! Your annual Wing dues are due in January. Please mail your \$45 to:

The Mile High Wing
P.O. Box 471596
Aurora, CO 80047

Or bring your payment to the next general meeting of the Mile High Wing.

CAF Wing Staff Conference

This year's Wing Staff Conference will be held on Feb. 18-19. Rooms have been reserved at a special price of \$62/night at the MCM Grande Hotel Fun Dome in Odessa, Texas. For reservations, call 866-362-2311. The conference is being held at the Fun Dome and registration fees are \$45.

Happy New Year, continued

rides will begin. Meanwhile Col Dan King is working on nose art and graphics for the "Cream Puff."

It feels good to be looking forward to the New Year with promise, an airworthy aircraft, and a solid financial status. On Saturday, January 7th, the weather looked good with unseasonably warm temperatures. Col Stan Hanson, Col Bob Elsloo, and I took advantage of the excellent conditions to clean and polish the aircraft, and enjoy another fine day with our friends at the Platte Valley Airport.

Happy New Year everyone. Please come join us when you can. →



Some creative scaffolding helps with the polishing of the Wing's AT-7. Can you find Col Stan Hanson hiding under a ladder?

Calendar of Events

January 21, 2006 – Wing meeting:
10:00 a.m. at Platte Valley Airport.

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

Directions to Platte Valley Airport

Platte Valley Airport is 3 miles
northwest of Hudson, Colorado:

- Take I-76 north to Hudson
and exit west on Highway 52.
- At CR 41, turn right (north).
- At CR 18, turn left (west).

At the Platte Valley Airpark sign, turn
left again.



Mile High Wing, CAF
P.O. Box 471596
Aurora, CO 80047-1596