

KEEP 'EM ROLLING

May 2018 | Volume 43 | Number 5

THE DISPATCH

The Official Magazine of the Commemorative Air Force



Introducing the
CAF 
**GROUND
FORCES
DETACHMENT**



CAF EDUCATION CONNECTION

THE MUSEUMS OF THE CAF

by Bill Shepard

Across the CAF, unit volunteers are working hard to bring back to life the surviving aircraft of World War II. Another important piece of the education puzzle is the many CAF unit museums that have created community spaces to showcase their collections. Here's a snapshot of what some units are doing to capitalize on their in-house educational resources—airplanes, artifacts, and knowledge!

MIDLAND ARMY AIR FIELD MUSEUM

The CAF High Sky Wing has built their museum to focus on the impact of West Texas on the War and to preserve the history of the largest World War II bombardier training school in the nation. Their exhibits include Hitler's fortress, the home front, the George Bush Mission Experience, large airplane engines, the Ghosts of West Texas travelling exhibit, the C-54 Experience, and various static aircraft including Vietnam jets and a restored F-14 Tomcat.

The museum is open Saturdays 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and by appointment. Admission is free.

CAF MISSOURI WING AIR POWER MUSEUM

This CAF Missouri Wing's museum, located near St. Louis, gives visitors a perspective of World War II from the home front to the front lines, looking at an era when every walk of life was involved in a cause that spread the whole world over. Docents lead tours through the museum, and then out into the hangar to view their aircraft and ground vehicle collection while walking in the footsteps of those who served in this authentic World War II-era Naval training air station. Their main gallery includes static and audio/visual displays spanning Allied and Axis items from all services.

The museum is open Thursdays and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays by appointment. Admission is \$5 and children under the age of 5 are free. The Wing hosts an annual open house each October and is slated to begin a speaker series this year.

CAF MINNESOTA WING MUSEUM

With a general focus on World War II, the CAF Minnesota Wing Museum guides visitors through exhibits that highlight the region's contributions and connections to the War, including gliders developed in the area, a B-25 fuel tank conversion for the Doolittle Raid, and the "Finding Loren P-47" engine and story. The location of the museum, in a hangar where George Bush Sr. trained, also serves as a historical talking point. Artifacts are on display from Germany and Japan from World War II, along with some from the Desert Storm era as well. Exhibits touch on the wartime home front, as well as the restoration of their B-25 *Miss Mitchell*. Static displays of the B-25, PT-22, BT-13, L-5, C-17, and motor pool vehicles are also available for up close viewing. To expand their reach, the CAF Minnesota Wing created a virtual tour of their museum that is accessible on www.cafmn.org.

The museum is open Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with additional times and days available for school tours and groups upon request. Admission is free, but donations are gladly accepted. Throughout the year, the Wing hosts speakers, open houses, hangar dances, a pet expo, and various other events at the museum to honor the police, military, and other service groups.

As you can see, the CAF has much more to offer beyond our remarkable fleet of warbirds. There are many other CAF units like these building and maintaining valuable museums for the education and enjoyment of their communities. To see the full list, visit CAFeducation.org.

Does your unit have a museum? Tell us about it! Email me at bshepard@cafhq.org so we can share what you're doing with your fellow CAF education officers. Help us achieve our goal of increased knowledge sharing between units, which will strengthen both our individual units and the CAF as a whole. ■

CAF UNIT MUSEUMS

Many CAF Unit Museums have great artifacts to view. Here are a few select pieces. The CAF education website will begin to feature more Unit Museum information and artifacts. Visit www.cafeducation.org

Air Group One Wing
El Cajon, CA
www.ag1caf.org

CAF Airbase Arizona
Mesa, AZ
www.azcaf.org

Central California Valley Squad.
Modesto, CA
www.cafvalleysquadron.org

Central Texas Wing
San Marcos, TX
www.centraltexaswing.org

Dallas/Fort Worth Wing
Lancaster, TX
www.dfwwing.com

Dixie Wing
Peachtree City, GA
www.dixiewing.org

Florida Wing - Stevens Education Hangar
Deland, FL
www.caffl.org

Great Plains Wing
Council Bluffs, IA
www.greatplainswing.org

High Sky Wing - Midland Army Airfield Museum
Midland, TX
www.highskywing.org

Highland Lakes Squadron
Burnet, TX
www.highlandlakessquadron.com

Houston Wing
Houston, TX
www.houstonwing.org

Inland Empire Wing
Riverside, CA
www.inlandempirecaf.com

Invader Squadron
Fort Worth, TX
www.a26invader.com

Lake Superior 101 Sqdn. - Armed Forces Museum
Superior, WI
www.cafduluth.com

Maxine Flournoy 3rd Coast Sqdn.- Museum of Military History
Aransas Pass, TX
www.thirdcoastcaf.org

Minnesota Wing
South St. Paul, MN
www.cafmn.org

Missouri Wing - Airpower Museum
St. Louis, MO
www.cafmo.org

Rio Grande Valley Wing
Opening soon in Laguna Madre, TX
www.rgvcaf.org

Rocky Mountain Wing
Grand Junction, CO
www.rmwcacaf.org

Southern California Wing
Camarillo, CA
www.cafsocal.com

Utah Wing - CAF Heber Valley Museum
Heber City, UT
www.cafutahwing.org



If your CAF Unit is not listed, but does have a museum, please contact Steve Buss at sbuss@cafhq.org. Please check the website or call the unit to determine the most updated information for hours of operation.

CAF UNIT ARTIFACTS



Air Group One Museum NORDEN BOMBSIGHT

This rare, authentic Norden bombsight was a technological wonder for its time in World War II. This device made it possible for a bombardier to measure an aircraft's ground speed and direction while in flight. The device used an analog computer to constantly calculate the bomb's impact point while in flight. The system boasted the ability to provide unprecedented accuracy. In a study done post war, scientists found the overall accuracy of daylight precision attacks with the Norden at about the same level as radar bombing efforts. Air Group One's museum also has an extensive art collection, which you can view along with an audio tour on www.ag1caf.org.

CAF Airbase Arizona Museum SSGT. ROBERT MOORE EXHIBIT

SSgt. Robert Moore was a gunner on a B-24 shot down during a raid on the Ploesti Oil Fields. He survived being shot down and evaded capture by the Nazis. Moore was among those rescued during World War II's largest rescue operation of downed airmen in 1944. One thing that makes this story special for CAF Airbase Arizona is that the aircraft which participated in those missions, C-47 Old Number 30 can be seen there in the hangar..



Rio Grande Valley Museum DAMAGED TAPESTRY

This 17th century Amsterdam tapestry was damaged by German bombs on September 1, 1939—Day One of World War II. The display includes the donor's comments on the tapestry's journey through Poland, England, and Canada before finally settling in the Rio Grande Valley. This precious artifact is currently stored in an airtight container for safekeeping while the Rio Grande Valley Museum relocates following hurricane damage



Houston Wing Museum SOLDIERS BOOK OF MANNERS

During the war, personal items like manuals and military issue toiletries were plentiful and disposable. Now, rare relics like complete mess kits and medical supplies are a fascinating and personal way people can relate to service in the 1940s. The Houston Wing Museum's collection contains several items such as this book of manners intended to teach American soldiers how to act while serving in Britain.

