



HONORING AMERICAN MILITARY AVIATION THROUGH FLIGHT, EXHIBITION AND REMEMBRANCE

WING STAFF CONFERENCE '16

By Col Kent Taylor
Executive Officer

Bob and Sandie Caskey, Bob and Georgia Thompson, Dorothy Dutton, and I made the pilgrimage to the Wing Staff Conference, and I can sum the event up in one word – **Fantastic!** I don't know the exact number, but I would guess that close to 300 Colonels showed up for the event. They were fairly energized when they arrived, and seriously electrified at the end of the three days. It has been 7 years since I last attended a WSC, and the difference was night and day. Short story: the CAF has pulled out of a long shallow dive, and is climbing like a P51 at full combat throttle.

- Membership, sponsorships, donations, and other sources of income are all up, and we are once again cash flow positive.
- We have a great new Headquarters at Dallas Executive Field with plenty of nice office and hangar space plus 22 acres for future growth.
- The HQ staff and the CAF General Staff members are a nice combination of old faces and new, and they are all about making the CAF a national treasure.
- The Dallas mayor and city council value the CAF as an attraction equal to the Cowboys or the Mavericks,



Col Dorothy Dutton standing by Col Tom Dutton's CAF Hall of Fame award at the 2016 Wing Staff Conference at CAF HQ in Dallas, TX

and are helping to make a \$50 million world-class CAF Military Aviation Museum a reality.

- The Colonels who came to the conference were also excited and talked of things they were doing to grow their wings. The passion, enthusiasm, and energy in the conference rooms was amazing.

There were many great moments during the three days of the conference, but the highlight of the event was the induction of new members into the CAF Hall of

Fame. And two of the four inductees were Rocky Mountain Wing members. Cols Bob Thompson and Tom Dutton (posthumous) many years of dedicated service were recognized and applauded by the crowd. It was really a special event – Bob even wore a suit and tie!

Bottom line: the CAF is on the move - in Dallas, around the country, and here on the Western Slope. Change is in the air, and the sky's the limit!



Cols Bob and Georgia Thompson standing with Bob's CAF Hall of Fame award, CAF Wing Staff Conference 2016.



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RMW AIR SHOW SCHEDULE - 2016						
MONTH	DAYS	LOCATION	SHOW	TBM	CUB	STATUS
Apr	2 - 3	Luke AFB, AZ	Air Show			CANCELLED
	16-17	Riverside, CA	March AFB			CONFIRMED
May	28-29	Clovis, NM	Cannon AFB			CONFIRMED
Jun	4-5	Albuquerque, NM	Kirtland AFB			CONFIRMED
	18	Boulder, CO	Airport Day			CONFIRMED
	25-26	Ogden, UT	Warriors over the Wasatch			PROBABLE
Jul	27	Cheyenne, WY	Frontier Days w/TB			DOUBTFUL
Aug	19-20	Powell, WY	Wings & Wheels			CONFIRMED
	27	Evanston, WY	Airport Day & Airshow			CONFIRMED
Sep	2 - 4	Steamboat, CO	AirFest			CONFIRMED
	10	Eagle / Vail, CO	Wings & Wheels			CONFIRMED
	17-18	Durango, CO	Aviation Celebration		?	PENDING
	30-10/1	Prescott, AZ	Arizona Skyfest			CONFIRMED
Oct	1	Telluride, CO	Airport Open House			CONFIRMED
	28-30	Dallas, TX	CAF AirSho			POSSIBLE

Close, but no cigar.

We hoped we would be at Luke AFB in early April but the continued delays with final repairs to "309" required cancelling that appearance. Plans are still in place to travel to Mesa and take "309" to March AFB the middle of the month. Fingers crossed!!

Change is in the Air

By Col Kent Taylor
Executive Officer

At last month's staff meeting, your leadership team came to the realization that

we have been doing the same things at our meetings for a long time, and we keep getting the same results. So we're going to try something different for a change.

- We've set a target of driving the staff meetings down to 30 minutes or less, by only discussing items that directly affect the general membership, or need staff approval or direction, and counting on elected and designated officers to do their respective jobs and interact with others as needed outside of the meeting.
- The time saved will be

used for other activities – maybe an interesting speaker, a movie, working on a project, or just socializing.

- We will have a second monthly meeting that will be focused entirely on fun and fellowship. Movies, speakers, other activities, and a pot-luck lunch, are on the agenda, and we're looking for input from the general membership about what else might be fun for everyone.



If you haven't been attending the monthly staff meetings / social / lunch—you've been cheating on yourself.



First 2016 Rocky Mountain Wing Training

*Col Tom Howe
Propwash Editor*

On Saturday, March 5th about 30 RMWCAF Cols gathered at our Wing Hangar / Museum for the first annual operations training session. Col Bob Thompson, Wing Operations Officer opened the session and then Wing Leader Bob Caskey made a presentation outlining the Wing's new philosophy regarding operations in general with many rules pointed specifically towards aircraft operations, movement and support.

Col Caskey enforced a new "safety stand down" policy which allows any Col to question any potential safety issue seen. This philosophy will prevail in all Wing operations—no matter how small or perceived unimportant.

Training included presentations by Col Kent Taylor regarding Air Show operations, crew qualifications, responsibilities, position assignments, aircraft movement, hand propping the Cub, etc. Col Dick Maddock covered basic PX operations and Col Tom Howe on aircraft marshalling basics.

Once the TBM is back in GJT expanded training will occur that includes ground crew responsibilities for TBM operations, detailed instructions on how to pack and load a complete Air Show PX into the TBM, unpacking that PX, setting up all the tables, tents, etc.



Col Bob Caskey opens the 2016 RMW Training, March 5th



Just part of the large crowd of Colonels that attended.



Col Kent Taylor explaining why we do ... something??



Don't Shoot!! Aircraft and People Marshalling by Col Tom Howe

A little catch up from the Wing Staff Conference was also in order.

A complete surprise occurred when our representatives at the conference were presented with the Tom Barnes Memorial Recruiting Award for 2015!



This award was the result of direct efforts by our superb Recruiting Officer Col Dick Maddock. What great recognition.



Keep your eyes open and watch for the next training announcement. Plan to join your fellow Colonels for this informative and important wing activity.

It's important to Keep 'em Flying!"



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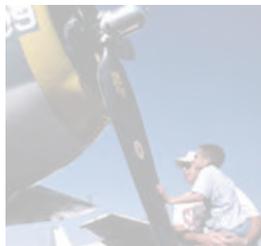
“Keep 'em Flying”

WING LEADER'S REPORT

By Col Bob Caskey
Wing Leader

Welcome to the new Rocky Mountain Wing (Wing). That may come as a shock to some of you, but in reality we are becoming a new wing. We let our Wing develop a culture that was divisive, secretive, cliquish and one that tended to ignore problems hoping they would just go away. That culture was tearing our Wing apart. At our safety stand down, we as a Wing decided that our past culture was not acceptable; we are embracing a new culture for our Wing. We will embrace all our members to be a united team. Things have changed; come out and be a part of it.

From now on out we will address issues, no matter how difficult they appear, up front instead of hoping that they will solve themselves. If any Wing member sees anything that is destructive or detrimental to our Wing, bring it



up and we will address it and move forward. Starting now our maintenance program and our safety practices will mimic the most professional aviation organizations that are out there. We are all volunteers and joined this organization because we love old airplanes and sharing them with the public. We are here to have fun but make no mistake about it safety takes priority. We will not cut corners just to make it to an airshow.

Thank you to all of you that attended our safety stand down and crew training. It was a resounding success. We will provide more follow-up training. Thank you to the people that worked so hard to develop the program and

gave informative presentations. You will see the results of that effort, as it becomes part of our culture. We need everyone to hold each other accountable for maintaining a professional standard and reinforcing good practices.

We have decided that we will not be able to make the Luke airshow. Our first airshow is March Air Force Base (AFB) in Riverside, California. We will ground transport PX and crew to Mesa, Arizona, then fly out of there to March AFB and return to Grand Junction. Once we attend our first airshow, we will have a positive cash flow and will be on our way to fulfilling our mission.

For the record, we have spent \$244,743 to date on repairing our TBM. The Wing is still broke but things aren't as bleak as they used to be. If you come out to the Wing on Saturdays to help out or do some work, you'll notice that the donation barrel is out with the lunch. Please donate what you are comfortable tossing into the jug. We started this on March 5th. Come and share a meal with us. So far the luncheon donations have raised \$323.05 for our

ANSWERS ON PAGE 5

WWII QUIZ

Multiple Choice

1. When did the US officially declare that the war with Germany had ended?

A. May 7, 1945 B. Jan. 1st, 1945 C. Oct. 19, 1951

The Air War

2. Who won fame in the Battle of Britain as the "legless air ace"?

Thanks to author Timothy B. Bensford

TBM's restoration. Thank you so much for your generosity and to those willing to bring the food.

At the Winter Staff Conference in Dallas, our Wing was honored three times. Tom Dutton and Bob Thompson were inducted to the Hall of Fame and our Wing received an award for recruiting. That's pretty spectacular since we haven't had an airplane at the hangar in over two years. With that effort; however, now is not the time for us to rest on our laurels. Put on your thinking caps and let's come up with some new projects. These projects could be another aircraft, maybe a new display for the Museum, or an effort to spruce up our facility. I think it's time that we revisited using the PXulance at car shows and other events in the community for advertisement and also selling our PX. Let us know if you see an event where you think we could be successful and get us more exposure in the community. We'll put together a crew and take the PXulance.

Thanks again for all of your work, dedication and support you have given to our Wing. We are turning a corner on a bright new future.

RMWCAF STAFF OFFICERS

Wing Leader	Bob Caskey
Executive Officer	Kent Taylor
Finance Officer	Robert Toth
Adjutant	John Mummery
Operations Officer	Bob Thompson
Maintenance Off.	Dick Maddock
Museum & Mess Sergeant	Dorothy Dutton
Safety Officer	Floyd Suits
Judge Advocate	Gerald Feather
Public Information Officer	Tom Dennis
PX Officer	Dick Maddock
Newsletter Editor	Tom Howe
TBM Aircraft Coordinator	Bob Thompson
Cub Aircraft Coordinator	Charlie Huff
Facilities Manager	Kay Johnson
Recruiting Officer	Dick Maddock
Grants Officer	Dave Shepard

OTHER WWII AIRCRAFT



The HE-280 was the first turbojet-powered fighter aircraft in the world. Only nine were built and none reached operational status. The He-280 first flew 9/22/1940 almost two years before the first Me-262.

**SHE ANSWERED THE CALL
OF A COUNTRY AT WAR**
Now she needs YOUR HELP!



On March 17, 2014 the Rocky Mountain Wing of the CAF's TBM Avenger "309" suffered a collapse of the left main landing gear. Besides replacing the engine and propeller, structural repairs will also be required to the wing, bomb bay, and forward fuselage. Parts for these warbirds are scarce, not easy to find, and expensive when they are located. Many parts will need to be machined from scratch. The CAF is taking donations to help get "309" repaired. Now's your chance to help get the TBM Avenger back to an airworthy condition!

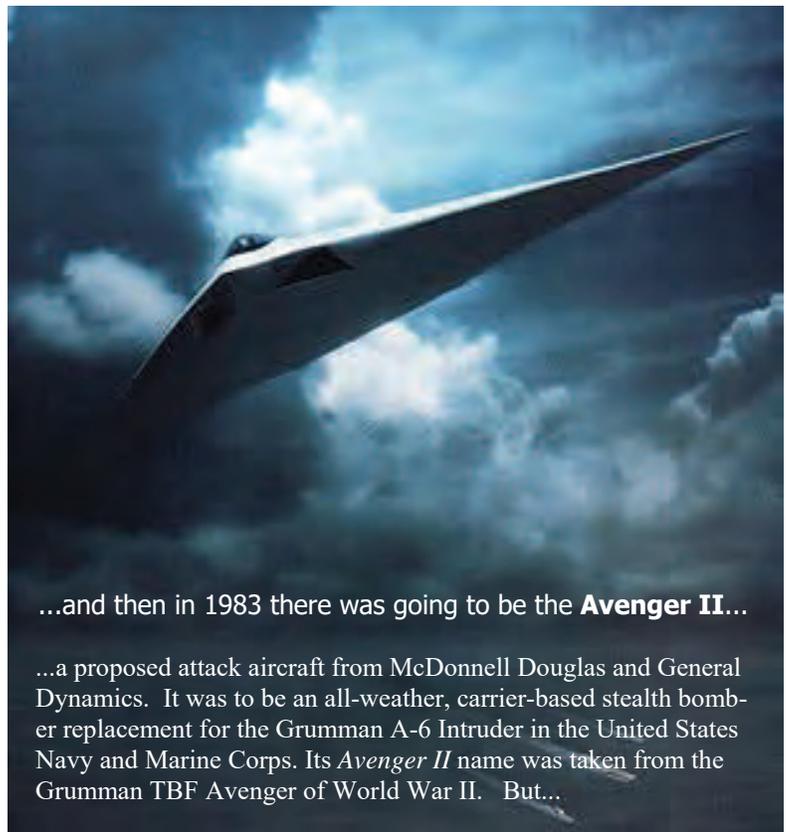
TO MAKE YOUR DONATION, PLEASE VISIT:
www.rockymountainwingcaf.org

WWII QUIZ (SEE PAGE 4)

ANSWERS

1. C. Oct. 19, 1951. Britain, France, Australia and New Zealand declared war with Germany as officially ended on July 9, 1951
2. Squadron Leader Douglas Bader lost both legs in a 1931 crash. In 1939 wearing artificial legs he re-joined the service. He is credited with 23 "kills".

Photo of the Month



...and then in 1983 there was going to be the **Avenger II...**

...a proposed attack aircraft from McDonnell Douglas and General Dynamics. It was to be an all-weather, carrier-based stealth bomber replacement for the Grumman A-6 Intruder in the United States Navy and Marine Corps. Its *Avenger II* name was taken from the Grumman TBF Avenger of World War II. But...

"309" Update

Editor's note:

As of publication time of this issue of the Propwash Gazette (March 31, 2016), "309" was still waiting for parts necessary prior to the engine start. Maintenance Officer Col Dick Maddock advises that if those parts

arrive this week, there is a possible chance that the first engine start could occur this weekend (April 2nd.)

Plans are in place to make the March AFB Air Show (April 16 - 17) should "309" be back in the sky. Cross fingers!!