

TENNESSEE AVIATION

January 2011



Elizabethton Municipal Airport's Outstanding Employee

WWII B-17 Training Base to Be Recreated

2010 Tennessee Aviation Hall of Fame Inductees

CAP Summer Encampment at Fort Campbell, Kentucky

From the Cockpit

By Bob Woods, Director

All of us in the Aeronautics Division hope that your Christmas and New Year's holidays were wonderful. We look forward to working with you and for you in the new year.

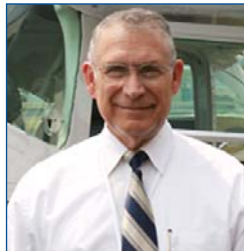
2011 will be busy! Funding will continue as our most important challenge as the Department of Revenue is still predicting equity fund shortfalls. We have withdrawn our self-imposed 50% restriction on the budget which was approved by the Tennessee Aeronautics Commission for this fiscal year, however, most of the money needs to go to runway preservations. "Nice to have" projects may have to wait a little longer.

This year we not only will host our annual Tennessee Airports Conference (Theme is "Roaring 20s: Decade of Aviation Growth"), but we also will host our National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) National Convention and Trade Show right here in Nashville.

Our Tennessee Airports Conference will be August 17-19, and the NASAO Convention will be Sept. 11-13, both at the Nashville Airport Marriott. In addition, we will participate in the Mid-South Aviation Maintenance Conference on March 8-9.

I am pleased to report that our annual ACIP meetings were well attended and proved to be very helpful to our planning staff. We appreciate your responses to our Stakeholder Satisfaction Survey.

Once again, HAPPY NEW YEAR.



Show Place for Tullahoma Municipal Airport



The new 3,740 sq. ft. terminal at Tullahoma Municipal Airport is open to the community. Donations funded most of the interior renovation.



The airside entrance design is welcoming to travelers. Rockers align the porch, and hot food will soon be available in the cafe.

Tennessee Aviation Tennessee Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division

www.tn.gov/tdot/aeronautics

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Smyrna Airshow in 2011



The Great Tennessee Airshow, May 7-8, 2011, featuring the USAF Thunderbirds.



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Elizabethton Municipal Airport's Outstanding Employee

The first person visitors see at Elizabethton Municipal Airport is Erika Thornton. She is providing flight information to pilots over the intercom, assisting aviation personnel, scheduling car and hotel reservations and doing it all with a gentle smile and calm and gracious manner. One would never guess that she had a massive stroke nine years ago when she was only 15.

Unbeknownst to Erika and her family, she had congenital arterio-venous malformation (AVM). A mass of abnormal blood vessels that had been growing in her brain ruptured and caused a stroke. Three brain surgeries and five years of physical therapy followed. "I didn't realize how long a road it was going to be," she said. "During the second surgery, right before I went in, they had told my mom that on a scale from one to 10 in difficulty, it was a 10."

The high school sophomore was an athlete, cheerleader, dancer and was active in the community; a stroke could not keep her down. She graduated high school with a 4.0 GPA. She also graduated college with a B.S. in English and a mass communication/journalism minor.

Airport Manager Dan Cogan said everyone loves her. "Erika is a great asset to the airport," he said, "She's 100 percent competent and professional in everything she does. When travelers from the Northeast, the Southeast or the Midwest land here and get out of their airplane, she's the first person they talk to, and the impression they get is friendly, courteous, professional and fully dedicated to



Erika Thornton, 24-year-old administrative assistant at Elizabethton Municipal Airport, had a massive stroke when she was 15 years old. She was awarded a regional award for Disabled Employee of the Year.

...serving them. She's great at it. She's intelligent, caring and has a great sense of humor."

Erika puts in long hours at the airport, not because she is required to, but because she loves her job. She also celebrated her first year wedding anniversary in 2010. Although she has endured a lifetime of health problems in her 24 years, Thornton says it has been an eye opener, making her appreciate everyone and everything in her life. "I am blessed," she said.

Tennessee Represented At NASAO Conference



In September, TDOT Aeronautics Director Bob Woods, Wanda Woods, TAC Chairman Fred Culbreath and Anna Culbreath, hosted a reception at the NASAO Convention and Tradeshow in Kansas City to showcase Nashville for the 2011 80th conference. Bucksport natives Jesse Wayne and Juanita even showed up and demonstrated local dances. Tennessee food, wine and door prizes were a great hit with the crowd.



TENNESSEE AVIATION HALL OF FAME'S GATHERING OF EAGLES

The 2010 Tennessee Aviation Hall of Fame Annual Gala and Induction Ceremony was billed by some as a "Gathering of Eagles" based upon this year's class of inductees that included an East Tennessee Flight Attendant; a legendary Middle Tennessee Aviatrix; a beloved flight instructor/pilot examiner and a Memphian who was the first man to test fly the world's fastest airplane.

Inductees are as follows:

Carol Dobyns Fair of Johnson City, who began a career as a flight attendant for Piedmont Airlines at age 19, one year after the airlines allowed females to become cabin crewmembers. During her nearly 50-year career in aviation, she has become a tireless advocate for aviation. In 2008 she was inducted into the North Carolina Transportation Hall of Fame.

Cornelia Clark Fort (1919-1943) of Nashville, a legendary aviatrix, was the first American woman to die on active military duty. Ms. Fort learned to fly in Nashville and became one of the most accomplished pilots in the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS) during WWII; she was part of the original 28 female pilots who entered the service in 1942.

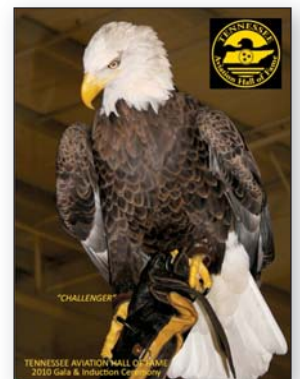


2010 Tenn. Aviation Hall of Fame inductees, from L to R: Clyde H. Shelton, Carol Dobyns Fair, the vacant chair represents Cornelia Clark Fort, and Robert J. Gilliland.

Memphis native and aviation legend, Robert J. "Bob" Gilliland of Burbank, Calif., was the chief test pilot and first man to fly the SR-71 "Blackbird." Gilliland has logged more experimental supersonic flight test time above the speed of sound (Mach 2 and Mach 3) than any other pilot.

Clyde H. Shelton of Fayetteville has logged over 35,800 hours of flying time, more than 20,000 hours of which was as a flight instructor. A mentor to thousands who have learned to fly and pursued careers in aviation, Clyde has also conducted more than 8,500 pilot check rides as an FAA Designated Pilot Examiner.

The nationally renowned American Bald Eagle "Challenger" took flight inside the hangar across the dining tables. Aviation Hall of Fame Founder and Chairman Bob Minter, who had arranged the Eagle's appearance with the American Eagle Foundation of Pigeon Forge, said, "I knew that Challenger was going to fly; this was not a surprise to me, but I was so moved I couldn't speak."



American Bald Eagle "Challenger" flew over the tables during the Tennessee Aviation Hall of Fame induction.



2011 Tennessee Airports Conference

1920s -- dawn of air travel, airmail, air freight, records in aviation speed and distance, Amelia Earhart, Charles Lindbergh. It was a glamorous new age with fast paced, energetic music and dancing. The Roaring 20s: Decade of Aviation Growth is the theme for the 2011 Tennessee Airports Conference. This tumultuous decade should provide ample ideas for costumes and vendor booth decorations. Performance Studios in Nashville will provide discount tickets for costumes, and Aeronautics personnel will return the costumes for you.

You asked for it, and we listened. Vendors have requested more time with attendees, and a vendor reception. Therefore, new this year is a ribbon-cutting ceremony to open the conference prior to a meet and greet cocktail hour in the exhibit hall from 7-8 p.m. on Wednesday, August 17. Booth space sells out quickly, so exhibitors need to get their requests in ASAP. More conference details will be mailed out at a later date. Mark your calendars!

WW II B-17 Training Base to Be Recreated



The legendary B-17 bomber, Memphis Belle, was one of the first to bring her crew home safely after 25 dangerous missions during WW II. An exhibit is on display at the Veterans Museum.



The flight crews at DAAB trained in a "ditching pool," on the chance they ever had to ditch over water.

It was referred to as "the young girls' dream and the widows' delight." Dyersburg Army Air Base (DAAB) in Halls, Tenn., was home to one of the largest B-17 combat crew training schools from 1942-45. Approximately 7,700 people trained there and the ones who return say it was the happiest times in their lives.

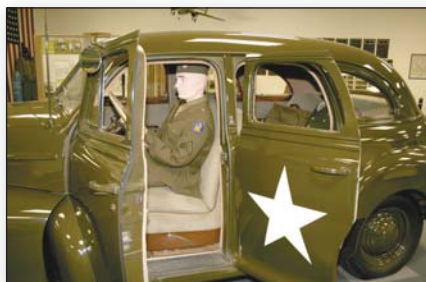
Thanks primarily to the hard work and dream of a local history teacher, Pat Higdon, a master plan is being designed to create a facsimile of the training facility. City and county officials plan to utilize available property of the former base. The entire project is divided into three phases, eventually resulting in barracks, officers' club, control tower, chapel and reception hall, restaurant, hotel and more.

According to Higdon, proposed funding for the project will come from private investment and the county, city and state. Higdon is the co-founder of the Dyersburg Army Air Base Memorial Association, Inc., and museum director. The facility will provide jobs, attract tourists and provide a commemoration to veterans.

Higdon said she keeps a journal of memories collected from visitors to the museum. For instance, one visitor said when she ran out of rations, she used vasoline for cooking. Wrigley's spearmint gum is on display because it was a luxury item. People actually

did keep it on their bedpost overnight. Crewmen were given a pouch of candy before every mission to exchange for favors if they crashed.

It is easy to become immersed in the WW II era as big band music wafts through the building and you walk by the display of a modest livingroom with a potbellied stove and a floor radio that families gathered around to hear their favorite broadcast. Photos and personal stories introduce visitors to the people who lived and loved at Dyersburg Army Air Base.



One of the WW II Era vehicles at the Veterans Museum in Halls.



Enlisted personnel lived in tarpaper barracks that were sweltering in the summer and frigid in the winter.

The base was a major boon to the rural town of Halls with a population of 1,200. Soldiers were sent there for their final phase of training before joining the European arena. Needless to say, living quarters were scarce. Locals opened their attics, closets and even playhouses for military families. Enlisted personnel lived in tarpaper barracks which were sweltering in the winter and frigid in the summer.

DAAB was a hubbub of activity. Two bands played for dances on Friday and Saturday nights. Buses picked up young women and brought them to the dance hall.

An entertainment group regularly sang and performed skits, trying to keep the soldiers laughing. Troops came from all over the U.S., and unfortunately, some of them believed the stereotype of southern girls not wearing shoes. One of the former soldiers told Higdon that he and his friends saw some young women walking down the road with

cont. next page

Dyersburg Army Air Base...cont.

shoes on and figured they must be from out of town.

The gaiety didn't detract from the seriousness of the mission. Former State Chief Pilot Jim Fulbright wrote in his book, **Aviation in Tennessee**, that..."B-17 crewmen were trained at DAAB in everything from individual skills to formation flying and simulated day and night bombing missions. At the peak of training in early 1945, there were seventy-one B-17 Flying Fortresses at the base." He further added that 114 airmen died on the training grounds and 23 bombers crashed at the base. Others died in midair collisions resulting from the demands of formation flying.

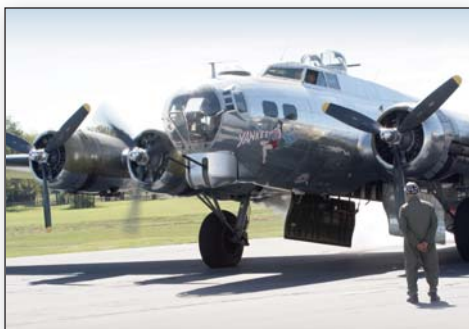
When the base was dismantled in 1946, the buildings were moved to private property; the barracks were cut in half for rental homes, and the land reverted back to the farmers. One runway and a portion of a ramp is used for Arnold Field. The Veterans' Museum was opened on the site in 1997. To learn more about



The Veterans' Museum is located on the former DAAB and stays busy all year around with tourists.

Dyersburg Army Air Base during WW II and see exhibits on other U.S. wars, you can visit the Veterans Museum from Tuesday to Saturday, from 2-5 p.m. except for holidays. You can schedule a private tour by calling 731-836-7400. For additional information, go to <http://www.dyaab.us/index.htm>.

B-17 "YANKEE LADY" LANDS IN LEWISBURG



The B-17 "Flying Fortress" was a tough, long-range, precision bomber. It was known for bringing its crew safely home through enemy fire.



L to R: Eleanor King, Myron King and James McDonough. McDonough wrote a book about King's experience as a B-17 pilot caught up in the Soviet Union/U.S. Cold War.



"Yankee Lady" is owned by Yankee Air Museum in Ypsilanti, Michigan.

Ellington Airport in Lewisburg was hopping in September when 1000-1500 people welcomed the B-17 bomber, "Yankee Lady," a former B-17 pilot Myron King and well-known Civil War historian James Lee McDonough. McDonough's book, *The Wars of Myron King: A B-17 Pilot Faces WWII and U.S.-Soviet Intrigue*, depicts King and his crew's innocent entanglement in the political crossfire between the Soviet Union and U.S. in the beginning of the Cold War. King and

McDonough signed books for the crowd as they awaited rides (for a mere \$425) on the B-17 and walked through the aircraft.



CAP SUMMER ENCAMPMENT AT FORT CAMPBELL, KENTUCKY

Cadets with the Civil Air Patrol's Tennessee Wing learned what basic training is all about during their summer encampment at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

They participated in classroom courses, drills, and physical training which included completing an obstacle course. Approximately 50 cadets toughed out the 103 heat index when they put their land navigation classroom instruction into practice by hiking for miles in the woods.

Sgt. Wallace, a 28 1/2 year veteran, instructed two Aeronautics Division staff members on the preparation of MREs (meals, ready to eat) while they were in the field. It must be noted here that MREs have come a long way in taste! According to Wallace, active duty non-commissioned officers (NCOs) volunteered for the week long instruction.



Cadets with the Civil Air Patrol's Tennessee Wing learn the basics of military basic training at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, during their summer encampment.



Sgt. Wallace instructs Aeronautics staff members on preparing MREs in the field.

A civilian instructor, Rodney King, demonstrated the importance of convoy training for drivers, shooters, communicators and decision-makers on the Virtual Combat Convoy Trainer (VCCT). It provides immersive training in different scenarios with a variety of military vehicles. For

instance, the driver and team move through a village where people are moving in and out. They must watch for suspicious behavior to determine who is the enemy and who is not.

King said many of the young soldiers grow up playing computer games and start shooting at everything. He said, "I tell them there are always consequences to what you do, so think before acting."

After 31 years in CAP, Montill Warren, Lt. Col., Tennessee Director of Cadet Programs, decided this was her last encampment. Warren is the manager of the Savannah-Hardin County Airport. She praised the cadets, saying she was proud of all of them.

Lt. Col. Montill Warren, Tennessee Director of Cadet Programs, retired after 31 years in CAP.

Warren was awarded Career Contributions to Aviation in 2009 by the Tennessee Aeronautics Commission.



Cadet Lt. Col. Daniel Fry, Cleveland, received the CAP 2010 Scholarship Award. He also earned his pilot's license on June 30, 2010.



The Virtual Combat Convoy Simulator is a much-used tool for combat training at Fort Campbell. The cadets had the opportunity to test their skills.



PORTLAND MUNICIPAL DEDICATES NEW AIRPORT BUSINESS CENTER AND T-HANGERS

Local and state officials joined Portland Airport Authority Chairman Doug Hunter and community leaders on November 16th to celebrate the completion of two new T-Hangars with a total of 20 aircraft bays. The Larry Collins Aeronautical Business Center was dedicated in honor of Larry Collins, a third-generation resident who has been a key figure in developing the airport and the city's industrial base.

The two new facilities, each housing 10 T-hangars for single light aircrafts, add to the airport's 10 existing T-hangars; a community hangar, two privately owned corporate hangars; and a maintenance hangar. A \$1.3 million grant from the Tennessee Department of Transportations' Aeronautics Division funded the addition. "The new hangar were needed because people have wanted them for a long time. All but four hangars are already leased," Hunter said.



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