



COWL FLAPS

For Members of the Gulf Coast Wing—CAF



IMPORTANT DATES

- The Mon-through-Fri work days each week 0830hrs to 1630hrs, are being adjusted as manpower permits. Will try to inform you weekly on this schedule.
- TUESDAY and THURSDAY Nights each week, 1830hrs until closing, work at WR-5 on TR
- SATURDAY, July 11th
0900hrs—Staff Meeting
1030hrs—Wing Meeting
1145hrs—Potluck & Lunch
1230hrs—Work on TR at WR-5 Hangar
- SATURDAY, August 08th
0900 hrs— Staff Meeting
1030 hrs—Wing Meeting
1145 hrs—Potluck & Lunch
1230hrs—Work on TR at WR-5

Inside this issue:

Wing Leader Report	2
Maintenance Report and Adjutant Update	3
Food Donations, Rivet Certificates DVD Sales	4
B-17 TOUR TIPS	5
New Members 2009, TORA Schedule and Sponsorships	6
Photo Archives of Members Military Service	7
STAFF CONTACTS	8

Volume II, Issue XIX

JULY 07, 2009

LEFT WING MECHANICS

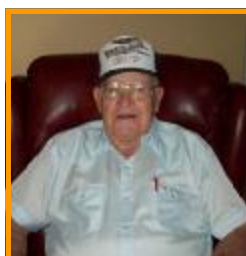


Photo by Col Stan Turner

Considering the wing-span size of a B-17 Bomber, we can understand the complexity, the finesse and the supreme safety precautions taken to hang the left wing extension — given the heat index was in excess of 100°. But the wing members never gave up, and on this Saturday, June 27th, TEXAS RAIDERS began to look more like a Flying Fortress than it has in seven years. If you want to participate in the hanging of the Right Wing Ex-

tension, be in attendance and be ready to work on Saturday, July 11th at Hangar WR—5. If time permits, we hope to get the Bomber towed outside, and test the engines once again. Then it's wrap-up and clean-up time. All Hands On Deck are needed for this opportunity to be a part of Keeping-'Em-Flying !

Col Sandy Thompson, Editor & Public Information Officer



History Within our Ranks

Meet one of our newest CAF and Gulf Coast Wing members, Col John Rennels of St Charles, Missouri. Col Rennels last flew on what is now TEXAS RAIDERS, nearly 60 years ago when the aircraft was a Navy PB-1W, serial #44-83872. Per Col Rennels: "(this) was a very different plane from Texas Raiders. There was no armament, no external paint — just the natural shiny aluminum. The bomb bay had been replaced with a CIC room for

four officers and radar scopes. A large radome between the landing gear housed a nine foot rotating parabolic antenna. The squadron, VX-4, was an airborne early warning one and also did a lot of work in submarine detection and hurricane tracking. We had the latest in radar equipment. I was an AT2 responsible for the radar operation. I last flew in the plane about August 20, 1948 and my enlistment was up four days later. I have not seen the plane since, but hope to when she's flying again."





Wing Leader's Report

CALCULATED RISKS vs. THE DOOMSDAY DEVICE

Flight is a beautiful equation of calculated risk. If all things are perfect it diminishes the risk. Things are rarely perfect, but we can still stack the deck in our favor. On June 18th I sent out a Change of Procedure notice to the Maintenance Workers primarily dealing with tools, but it really is a shift in what is acceptable in our work habits on TEXAS RAIDERS. What this means is that the risks I was willing to take on June 1st I am no longer willing to take as of June 18th.

"We need to treat the airplane as if every time we leave her, it is the last time we will be back to the hangar."

**Col Don Price on
Safety**

The start of June I was willing to accept marginal work habits in the name of productivity that I must now reject or risk having TEXAS RAIDERS wind up as a smoking hole off the end of a runway somewhere. So every day for the rest of my time as Wing Leader I will accept nothing less than treating TR as if she were ready for Flight. No tools, no loose fasteners can be left onboard. No unfinished project without notifying the Maintenance Officer or tagging the system is acceptable. We need to treat the airplane as if every time we leave her, it is the last time we will be back to the hangar, and we OWE it to the plane and those who will fly in her to leave her safe. That goes for me and everyone else working on the B17.

So what is this about a Doomsday Device? One of my favorite movies is Dr. Strangelove where the Ruskies had developed an atomic Doomsday Device set to automatically trigger if the Soviet Union were ever attacked. The plot of the movie is that a SAC General goes "a little funny in the head" and launches his wing of B52s towards the USSR. As the plot thickens it is pointed out that the only good a Doomsday Device would do to prevent Armageddon is IF you warned the other side. So this is me, your trusted Wing Leader, telling the Gulf Coast Wing if I don't see safer work habits I will go "funny in the head" and bad things will ensue for the Ne'er-do-wells.

The teachers I have admired the most in my many vocations and hobbies are the ones who demanded the most from me. I remember their names- In Flight Training- Childs, Henry, Johnson and Bowden would not sign a rating or endorsement without rigorous proof of proficiency. Even my eighth grade drafting teacher, Col. Bud Bearce, would not pass his students if they could not letter neatly and clean up their drafting tables at the end of class period. Now don't get me wrong. There are some of you I like so much that if I HAD a sister I'd let you date her. BUT working on an airplane or being a Flight Engineer means people's lives are depending on the quality of all of our work and our attention to detail.

So back to calculated risks... Up until now I was willing to trade (calculated) sloppy work for productivity. The wiser amongst you have been looking at me like I am crazy! Does that make me some manner of cold calculating "so and so" OR a wise steward of CAF resources? The answer is... It makes me BOTH!

From now on out I will trade having a safe airplane OVER sheer productivity. I will protect the B17 over allowing work habits that I have known all along were wrong. We have about two months to turn this around and I have every confidence that we will. I hope you agree with me that SAFE is the only way to go!

Now for the Happy part. We are building a good airplane and we are on schedule. Thank you!

Col. Don Price- Wing Leader
Commemorative Air Force- Gulf Coast Wing

Maintenance Officer's Report



Three weeks ago when I left for Italy, the left outboard wing section was lying on the floor and we were still looking for a suitable lifting truss to install it. Imagine my surprise when I returned two weeks later to find it hanging there with all of the taper pins and bolts installed. Major kudos are in order for the entire team, and especially for Chuck Conway who fabricated the lifting apparatus and Tom Newton who made a return appearance to oversee the operation.

With the hanging of the left outboard wing (and hopefully the right wing in the next week or two), TR will have truly entered the final phase of our return to flight---the dirty details. When all of the big pieces are attached, what remains is taking all of the systems and smaller pieces from "almost there" to airworthy. As



Photo by Col R. Dietes

a whole, the maintenance team has really begun to excel at tackling the bigger projects: installing the engines, replacing all the flight control cables, hanging the wings, and installing the nose bowl. However we seem to have more trouble with the "last mile", that is making things perfect. I think it is clear that we're not going to make it by the end of July, or even by the time I leave for Boston in mid-August. That means whether we fly at Wings over Houston will be up to you.

In order to finish we must raise our standards to a new level. Team leads must take responsibility for delivering airworthy systems on schedule and seek outside assistance when needed. Worker bees must be extra attentive to the details. If you ever wonder if something is good enough, it isn't. Remember that we're building an airplane, and that mistakes could have disastrous consequences. Finally, the new MO and I will have to be extra diligent about keeping all the balls in the air. We really can do all of this, but it will take dedication and persistence. *Col David Carr—Maintenance Officer*

Editor's Note: Col Carr has been accepted into Graduate School at M.I.T. and will be leaving Houston in mid-August. Announcement of a new Wing Maintenance Officer will be made soon by the Wing Staff.

Adjutant's Report



2009 is turning out to be a bountiful year for our wing membership. Since January, we have thirteen (13) new members who've joined our wing and it's only July. When you meet them — and some you've seen around for quite a while — give them a handshake, tell them how much you appreciate their membership and welcome them aboard. Our new members: Anthony Branson, Kathleen Doucette, Kim Eisenbeis, Chet Falkenhainer, Terry Fogelson, Jim Gleason, Mark Gregg, Howard Quoyeser, John Rennels, Art Shaddix, George Weisinger, David Winchell and Matthew Yarrison. When you see a new visitor in the building, walk up and engage them in some "CAF warbird" talk. The Commemorative Air Force brings young and old together and with our mission of Education, we have a lot to offer through CAF and Gulf Coast Wing membership. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact me at

craig@swtrgroup.com or by phone at 281-298-1818

Col Craig Freeland, Adjutant

Dog-and-Burger Lunch Donations Help !



Mild-mannered Clark Kent could not have leaped from tall buildings in a single bound had it not been for nourishment, from his “Superman-Protein-Shake” each morning. Likewise, our hard-working and sweating volunteers need nourishment on Saturdays (the day when more volunteers are present to work).

You can help by donating to the Royal Order of the Dog & Burger Society:

Levels of donations are:

- PLAIN-DOG or SOLO BURGER LEVEL.....\$5.00/month
- CHILI DOG or TAIL DRAGGER BURGER LEVEL.....\$10.00/month
- BIG DOG or BIG BURGER BOMBER LEVEL.....\$15.00/month
- FOOT LONG DOG or 50 MISSION BURGER LEVEL.....\$20.00/month

Please indicate your level of sponsorship/donation AND thank you for your previous contributions.

Enclosed is

\$ _____ for 3-months of Saturday Lunches or
 \$ _____ for 6-months of Saturday Lunches or
 \$ _____ for 9-months of Saturday Lunches or

I'm too exhausted to think about it.....here's my donation of \$ _____. Apply it to the level you think it needs to be.

Please mail this donation form and your check, PAYABLE TO GULF COAST WING – CAF to
 Col Mark Allen
 GCW – Finance Officer
 18042 CR 127
 Pearland, TX 77581

RIVET CERTIFICATES and DVDs



RIVET CERTIFICATES: \$25 each or \$30-for matted copy, \$40-for framed copy. Please indicate the name you wish printed on the Rivet Certificate and the mailing address where you wish it to be mailed.



DVDs \$10 each

PUT YOUR HANDS ON A PIECE OF HISTORY !
Either one of these items makes a great gift for someone special, or for yourself. It also brings needed revenue into the Gulf Coast Wing.

To order, send check or money order payable to GULF COAST WING—CAF to:
 Col Sandy Thompson, GCW Public Information Ofcr
 113 Coldwater Creek Lane
 Weatherford, TX 76088-6402

Questions? thompsonb17@uwmail.com

FYI— Combined sales to date on these items now total \$825. Every penny helps. If you would like a DVD or even a “framed” Rivet Certificate, please let me hear from you. Col Sandy Thompson



Col W Thompson

B-17 TOUR TIPS

I've recently been asked about the crew-assignment priorities on TEXAS RAIDERS. We have published this in our *B-17 Operations Manual* (last issue July 2007), and it remains relatively unchanged. In review, I am enclosing that section below. If you have any questions or desire further explanations, please contact me at txraidiers@uwmail.com or via phone at 817 341 1541.

B17 TOUR OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES and CREW ASSIGNMENTS

A. DEFINITIONS

1. **ACTIVE MEMBER:** Must be a member in good standing in the CAF and Gulf Coast Wing. Must attend GCW wing and crew meetings on a regular basis and must be an active participant in either maintenance, PX, Finance, flight operations, fundraising or supply or serve as an elected GCW staff member.
2. **INACTIVE MEMBER:** Member in good standing who does not meet the above criteria.
3. **SPONSOR:** TEXAS RAIDERS (TR) Sponsor as noted below:

Full Flying Sponsor:	\$3500
Restoration Sponsor	\$1750
Supporting Sponsor	\$ 350
4. **ESSENTIAL CREW:** Pilots, Flight Engineers, Loadmaster and any other persons (this could include news media, "payback" rides to individuals or companies who have made significant contributions to TR) required to accomplish the mission. Includes also, 2 seats for "Maintenance Colonels" on missions away from base.

B. CREW ASSIGNMENT PRIORITIES

1. Essential Crew
2. Active Full Flying Sponsors
3. Active Members
4. Inactive Full Flying Sponsors
5. Inactive Members
6. Other CAF Members
7. Non Members

Note: Full Flying Sponsors are given assignment priority within each category (active or inactive status) as per the CAF Unit Manual issued by Headquarters, CAF.

C. ASSIGNMENT RULES

The operational objective of tour assignments will be to fairly rotate as many active B-17 crew members into the flying tour schedule as possible.

1. Once a crew member flies an operational mission, their recent trip will be taken into account before being assigned to a subsequent mission ahead of an active member who has yet to fly.
2. Normally, crew assignments for preplanned missions are "set" no later than 30-days prior to the mission. Longer duration missions (1 week or longer) will require the crew assignments to be set further in advance.
3. Exceptions to the above policy (30-day rule) may be made by the B-17 Operations Officer in extenuating circumstances.
4. Pilots and Flight Engineer assignments are scheduled through the B-17 Operations Officer.
5. "Maintenance Colonels" (2) for away-from-base missions will be scheduled by the B-17 Maintenance Officer.
6. All other crew member assignments are scheduled through the B-17 Mission Tour Director.
7. On short-notice, unscheduled missions, all crew assignments will be made by the B-17 Operations Officer or Air Mission Commander.
8. The annual "AIRSHO" at Midland and WOH Air-show crew assignments will be scheduled through the B-17 Operations Officer. Flight-time contributions during the season will be considered in these assignments.

As always, thanks for your continued support and trust in the mission of the CAF and the Gulf Coast Wing.
Regards, Col Walt Thompson—Bomber Operations Officer

Welcome to New Members - 2009



Howard Quoyeser



Kathleen Doucette



Jim Gleason



Terry Fogelson



Matthew Yarrison



David Winchell

These new members have already been working, volunteering their time and efforts to help TR get back into flying condition. When you see them, thank them for their membership. There are other new members, however I just didn't have the opportunity to capture their smiling faces yet. We can all recruit...it just takes a few moments to say hi and "let me show you what a great organization this is!" New CAF membership applications are located on the wall as you enter the hangar.

TORA's 2009 Schedule



Photo: Col C. Ebdon



Photo: Col C. Ebdon

Date	Location
July 10	Gary Chicago Int'l Airport—Gary, IN
July 18-19	Dayton Int'l Airport—Dayton, OH
August 13	Chicago, IL
August 14-17	Offut AFB—Bellevue, NE
August 22-23	Selfridge ANGB—Detroit, MI
October 02-03	Jackson, MS
October 10-11	Sheppard AFB—Wichita Falls, TX & Midland, TX
October 17-18	Edwards AFB—California
Oct 31-Nov 01	Ellington Field—Houston, TX
Nov 07-08	Randolph AFB—Shertz, TX & Monroe NC

Photo: Col K. Hong

SPONSORSHIPS are INVESTMENTS

New Sponsors 2009

- Col P. Finnegan (multiple Full Flying)
- Col S. Smith (Full Flying)
- Col D. Loftin (Supporting)
- Col J. Casey (Supporting)

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Each donation you make in the CAF Sponsorship program is an investment in keeping our aircraft flying. The levels of Sponsorship are:

- FULL FLYING SPONSORSHIP \$3500
- RESTORATION SPONSORSHIP \$1750
- SUPPORTING SPONSORSHIP \$ 350

Monies are sent to CAF Headquarters and are deposited into the respective aircraft's maintenance account. TEXAS RAIDERS account is noted as N7227C. All pilots on Texas Raiders (N7227C) are required to become a full flying sponsor. All Flight Engineer candidates are required to become supporting sponsors. All pilots and flight engineers are recommended to their respective crew position via the F.E.B. (Flight Evaluation Board). Should you have questions regarding these crew-positions on Texas Raiders, please contact the Bomber Operations Officer, Col Walt Thompson.

Wing Members - Past Service Appreciation

Col Sam Smith's 360th BS Crew
02 APR, 1945



Col Kent Gillum 1944

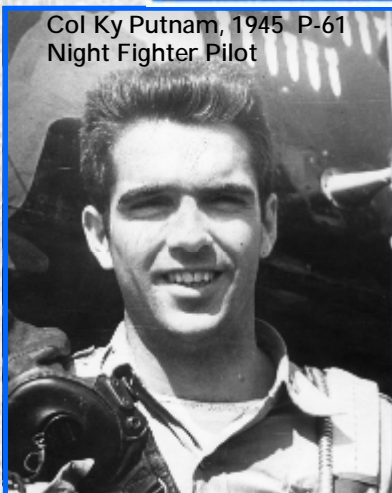


Thanks goes to our wing members who have served in our armed forces. There are many more of you whom we need to thank. If you have a dated photo you'd like to share in our archives, please forward to me at thompsonb17@uwmail.com

Col Van Skiles USAAF
1943



Col Ky Putnam, 1945 P-61
Night Fighter Pilot



Col Walt Thompson, 1961—Basic Training
Ft Leonard Wood, MO





**WINGS OVER
HOUSTON
AIRSHOW**

OCT 31—NOV 01 2009

Col Sandy Thompson
Gulf Coast Wing—CAF
Public Information Officer
113 Coldwater Creek Lane
Weatherford, TX 76088-6402

Phone 817 341 1541
FAX 817 341 2075

Email
B17Rides@gulfcoastwing.org
info@gulfcoastwing.org

We're on the Web!
www.gulfcoastwing.org

If you've received this newsletter by mistake, but you are happy with what you see, please feel free to contact any one of us listed in this document, to join our group. The Commemorative Air Force is dedicated to the educational preservation in flying condition of WWII and combat aircraft. Our mission extols the sacrifice made by veterans from all wars who have helped us live in freedom.



Gulf Coast Wing
Of The
Commemorative Air Force

COWL FLAPS

Gulf Coast Wing Elected Staff

Wing Leader.....	Col Don Price.....	don_price56@hotmail.com	713 988 2765
Adjutant.....	Col Craig Freeland.....	craig@swtrgroup.com	281 298 1818
Finance Officer.....	Col Mark Allen.....	mark.allen@ips.invensys.com	832 493 1368
Bomber Opns.....	Col Walt Thompson.....	txraiders@uwmail.com	817 341 1541
Executive Officer.....	Col Wayne Kennedy.....	wfkennedy@swbell.net	281 855 2520
Fighter Opns.....	Col Jim Ryan.....	tora113@yahoo.com	979 233 5919
Safety Officer.....	Col Ky Putnam.....	713 683 8930
Supply Officer.....	Col Bud Bearce.....	budk5jgu@hal-pc.org	713 864 7435
Maintenance Ofcr....	Col David Carr.....	dc@dcarr.org	817 907 1998

Gulf Coast Wing Appointed Staff

Webmaster.....	Col Herb Duncan.....	duncanenterprises@gmail.com
Public Info Officer...	Col Sandy Thompson...	thompsonb17@uwmail.com	817 341 1541
Deputy Mtce Ofcr....	Col Chuck Conway.....	chucksautoelectric@sbcglobal.net	281 482 8980
PX Officer.....	Col Vicki Thomas.....	vthomas4@comcast.net	281 807 7765
Morale Officer.....	Col Suzie Bredlau.....	rikkysue@aol.com	281 398 6977
Development Ofcr...	Col Don Outler.....	djoutler@comcast.net	281 486 1830

Gulf Coast Wing Hangar is located at 8249 Travelair, Houston, TX 77061 ph: 713 649 7227

Volunteers and wing members are dedicated to the preservation in flying status of WWII aircraft which include the TORA fleet and the B-17, TEXAS RAIDERS. Interested parties are encouraged to visit, volunteer and, of course, join our organization. CAF memberships with full-voting privileges are \$200/year. Supporting/Associate memberships provide benefits without voting privileges and are \$55/year (effective 03/01/08). Cadet memberships for ages 13-23 are \$45/year. Membership forms are found on our website at www.gulfcoastwing.org



Col Sandy Thompson
Gulf Coast Wing CAF
113 Coldwater Creek Lane
Weatherford, TX 76088-6402

