

SPIRIT OF TULSA SQUADRON, CAF

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SPIRIT OF TULSA SQUADRON OFFICERS

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Squadron Adjutant -

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Operations Officer -

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Squadron 'PT-19' Update

Col. Chuck Heick

In the past week, Col. Sam McVay started the plumbing on the hydraulic system. The job on the fuselage will be

complete just as soon as some back ordered fittings arrive.

Hopefully, work on the other fluid lines will go just as fast. If all goes well we should be ready to de-mate the fuselage from the center wing section in around 2 to 3 weeks. Once the de-mate is accomplished the electrical system can be hooked up, the trim cables replaced and we should then be ready to cover the fuselage.

B-24 'Diamond Lil' Update

Diamond 'LIL' finally left to join the Summer Tour on Tuesday, June 1st. The 1:30 PM take off was flawless, highlighted by a low pass down the field.

COL. JIM GENTRY was part of the 3 man crew ferrying 'LIL' to Reading, PA. **"So long 'Lil'! We'll see you in October!"**

CORSICANA FLY-IN

On May 8th COLS. TOM VOYTOVICH,

BILL KENNEDY, JIM and KAREN DAGG flew to Corsicana, TX to the Coyote Squadron Fly-In. The fly-in was held in honor of the Army Air Corp Training Base located at this site during WWII. Former flight instructors and students were among those attending. Our Colonels were the special guests of COL. CHARLES OSBORN, Louisville, KY and Corsicana, TX.

The day long event included air demonstrations, fly-bys, and model plane demonstrations by a group from Dallas. Many WWII American and German vehicles were on site. The Colonels visited the local CAF museum. They also viewed Little 'LIL' an Ercoupe which is painted with the left over paint from our Diamond 'LIL' and who professes that "I'll have 4 engines when I grow up". The highlight of the Colonels' day was rides in Col. Osborn's PT-19. Best ride award went to Col. Karen for getting to ride in formation with the Coyote Squadron's PT-19. They did not get to stay for the Hangar

Dance but will try to next year.

The members of Coyote Squadron are currently raffling a motorcycle to help build their new hangar. The drawing will be held on December 11th. The Coyote Squadron was invited to bring their motorcycle to Tulsa for CELEBRATE FREEDOM 2004. Pictures were shown at the last Squadron meeting.

LIL' AWARDS BANQUET

An awards banquet for the workers on the Diamond 'LIL' maintenance crew team was held on Saturday, May 15th at the Tulsa Technology Center. Certificates featuring photos of 'LIL' were given to all persons who worked at least 10 hours. Hats were given to those who had worked 25 hours. Special recognition was given to the staff at Tulsa Technology for all of their help. Specially boxed aircraft parts were given to sponsors, including COL. MEL

TILLSBURY, JACK HITT, and COL. BOB PRATER. Cadets with many hours were given Diamond 'LIL' T-Shirts, they included LENA DETTER, KIM DEMAREST, MICHAEL DILEY, BLAKE FISHER, and ALAN HERRON. A Jr. Mechanic's award, of a toolbox, was given to CADET SCOTT 'SKIPPY' EDWARDS. Eagle trophies and 'LIL' shirts were given to COLS. CHUCK HEICK, JERRY EDWARDS, SHAD MORRIS, and CARL McQUIRE. And 'LIL' jackets were given for countless hours of devoted service to COLS. STEVE LEE, BILL POPEJOY, DENNIS SPRAGUE, and JIM GENTRY. A Bar-B-Q dinner was served. Approximately 60 people attended the event. The event was organized by COL. JIM GENTRY. The dinner and awards were paid for by private donors and the B-24 / B-29 Squadron of Midland. The guest speaker Col. Neils Agather, Squadron Commander of the B-24 / B-29 Squadron, was unable to attend do to bad flying conditions.

Refreshments

Col. Karen Dagg

If you can help with refreshments, for any meeting, please contact, **Col. Karen Dagg**, 224-6293.

**BARTLESVILLE
FLY-IN**

Remember the Bartlesville Bi-Plane Fly-In is this Friday, June 4th, and this Saturday, June 5th. Please contact Col. Bill Kennedy, PX Officer, if you can work this weekend. He will know of times when help is needed!

**AMERICAN
AIRLINES COOK
OUT**

The Spirit of Tulsa Squadron has been asked to cook hamburgers for an American Airlines Management Dinner on Saturday, June 12th, 6 PM. For our work AA will donate \$300 to the Squadron. We will need volunteers to cook and possibly do other jobs. Details will be available at the Squadron meeting, on June 8th.

**BICYCLE CLUB
FUND RAISER RIDE**

The Tulsa Bicycle Club will hold a ride in August to benefit the Spirit of Tulsa Squadron. We will need volunteers for this event. More information will be given when the details and date are known! Thanks to COLS. CARL HALFPAP and BILL KENNEDY for arranging this event.

**EMPATHY
CHAIRPERSON**

COL. LINDA HERRON has graciously accepted the duties of Empathy Chairperson, in addition to her duties as historian, for the Spirit of Tulsa Squadron. Linda has already sent condolences to RACHEL ROTZ, death of mother, and to LINDA POPEJOY, wife of COL. BILL POPEJOY, on the death of her mother. Get well wishes have been sent to SARAH McQUIRE, wife of COL. CARL McQUIRE,; COL. ED STRAIGIS; and COL. FRED KUMPF. If you know of anyone needing to be recognized by the

Squadron, please contact Linda at 918-493-3427.

**JONES / RIVERSIDE
AIRPORTUSERS
ASSOCIATION
COOKOUT**

The Spirit of Tulsa Squadron was present with a booth at the JRAA's cookout on Saturday, May 15th. The cookout was held at the airport pavilion. It was a recruiting time for all of the airport groups. The booth was manned by Cols. BILL KENNEDY, JIM & KAREN DAGG. They contacted many people who are interest in our organization. Other Squadron members attending included MEL TILLSBURY, DOLLIE MORRIS, JIM MILLS, and CARL HALFPAP. Approximately 100 people attended the event, which included viewing the Warbirds parked on the tarmac.

**CELEBRATE
FREEDOM 2004**

CELEBRATE FREEDOM 2004 is only 5 ½ months away! The best way to make money for our organization is to have all the event

expenses paid through donations. COL. KAREN DAGG has presentation letters ready for you to take to companies and individuals who might be generous enough to help with these expenses. She will also provide you with blank stationary to write your own personal letter to accompany the presentation. These will be available at the June 8th meeting or call Karen at 918-224-6293.

NEW SPIRIT OF TULSA SQUADRON PATCHES

The new Spirit of Tulsa Squadron patches redesigned by COL. BOB PRATER are here! The updated Commemorative Air Force patches are approximately 4" in diameter. The patches cost \$2 each and are available to Squadron members only! They will be on sale at Squadron meetings.

DEPLOYMENT

COL. BOB PRATER will return to the warfront in June. This

will be his third tour. He is currently stationed at The ANG facility at OKC Will Rogers airport.. Bob and wife Barbara are currently enjoying a tour of Australia. He is taking a few Spirit Tulsa patches for the Australian CAF members. We all pray for his safe return.

TRIBUTE TO A FALLEN FLYER

On September 11, 1944, native Tulsan Lt. William M. Lewis, Jr., age 22, was flying a P-51 over Oberhof, Germany. Lewis was with the 38th Air Corp, 55th Fighter Group, escorting the 100th Bomb Group. During the mission his plane went down. His body was found by a local man who buried the remains and tended the grave for the next 30 years. Because the crash site was behind the Iron Curtain, the man was unsuccessful in finding and notifying Lewis' family. Lewis' daughter Sharon was only 6 months old when her father died. About three years ago his daughter, now Sharon Lewis Cross of Houston, TX renewed the search for answers to questions

about her father's death. Through an unusual set of lucky circumstances, his grave was finally located and his remains were brought to Tulsa for burial, this Memorial Day weekend. The complete record of these events will be available in a book by Ken Breaux, out this summer.

The Spirit of Tulsa Squadron was represented at the memorial service by COLS. BOB NICHOLS, JACK HITT, BILL KENNEDY, JIM and KAREN DAGG. After a moving service at the Memorial Garden's Chapel, a 21 gun salute was given by the Fort Sill Funeral Honors Team. A wreath was presented by the 100th Bomb Group. A missing man fly over was performed by the local Warbirds group, and a fly by was provided by two F-16s. Lewis was buried next to his only brother, Ted who died 19 days after William in a bomber crash, in Walla Walla, Washington. A sobering reminder that "Freedom Isn't Free!"

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday June 8th at Tulsa Technology. The time will be 6:30 for the social period and the meeting will start a 7 PM. Hope to see you all there.