



**CAF WASP SQUADRON  
NEWSLETTER Volume  
2 Number 5  
June 20, 2017**

## WASP Homecoming May 27 Sweetwater, Texas



Road Trip Driver, Debbie King



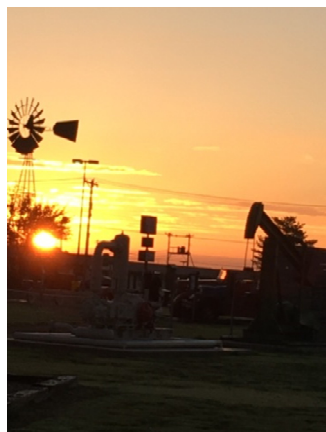
The new entrance



West Texas, of course



Beth Jenkins, the Devil Dog crew, and Christine Mau, USAF retired, F-35 pilot



Sarah Zimmerman, Kim Pardon, Ellie Dana, Wally Funk, Lisa Foster, Debbie King



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**Heather Penney, Luncheon Speaker**



**Old Hangar, with visiting planes on the line**



**CAF Curator Keegan Chetwynd  
in serious conversation.**

**THE STORY**

We were privileged to share the Homecoming with 8 WASP:

- Mickey Bright**
- Shutsy Reynolds**
- Jane Doyle**
- Edna Davis**
- Kay Hilbrandt**
- Shirley Kruse**
- Barbara Heinrich**

Florence Mascot, Trainee 44-10

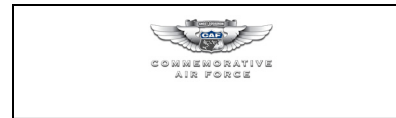


**Dressing the part**

This year was the opening of the new WASP Museum hangar, with A/C and so much more. This venue for the evening event could not have been better.

Also this year, Ann Hobing, the new Executive Director of the National WASP WWII Museum led the event.

The event included a **Celebration of Life for Marty Wyall, 44-W-10**, as well as a **Congressional Gold Medal presentation for Jean McFarland, 44-W-5**, to her family.



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*Lt Col Jade Reidy, USAF, spoke at dinner, giving specific examples of how individual WASP accomplishments relate to the successes and accomplishments of women in aviation today.*

*Heather Penney, National Chair for the CAF WASP Program, the luncheon speaker, gave recognition and respect to the WASP for all that they brought forward to this generation of woman in aviation. They showed the way.*

**And Then a Silent Auction... where the WASP Squadron Officers carefully selected numerous items for use when the T-6 becomes part of the Squadron, PLUS the acquisition of the print below:**

### **SPECIAL DELIVERY**

*By Gil Cohen*

**Signed by 13 WASP at the 2016 Homecoming,**  
And now protected by museum quality glass



**The place:** The tarmac of the Lockheed Aircraft Plant in Burbank, CA

A group of four Womens Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) is gathered around their flight leader. She is kneeling and pointing to a significant rendezvous point on an aerial map, reinforcing the path of the WASP flight plan. Their mission is to ferry five P-38 Lightning fighters to a port of embarkation where the planes will be shipped to bases overseas.

After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, several defense plants on the U.S West Coast, including Lockheed, were heavily camouflaged with netting and artificial foliage to resemble bucolic farmland, as seen from above

*This print will be displayed at events where the WASP Squadron presents. It is also available for loan to others within the WASP Squadron, for public display.*

*Contact: Ellie Dana  
WASPSquadronXO@att.net*

**News Coverage** of the event by KTXS, through the auspices of WASP Col Lindy Segall, is on the WASP Squadron web site: [www.riseaboveWASP.org/squadron-home](http://www.riseaboveWASP.org/squadron-home)



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## **FIFINELLA HISTORY**

*Source: On Final Approach  
by Byrd Howell Granger*

This is a very serious matter and we all need to be familiar with the *Fifinella* history in order not to offend "Them *Fifinellas*."

"Members of 43-W-2 will recall ... a warning ... that all students must carry used postage stamps to pacify Them Gremlins. (It is a grave social error to refer to Gremlins as anything but Them.) Not long thereafter female Gremlins, or *Fifinellas*, were seen shoving ships off the runways into the tenacious Texas mud. However, no male or female Gremlins were seen in the air."

"The first student to see a *Fifinella* on board in flight was Sidney Miller whose phenomenal practically on-the-back spin recovery during a check ride was definitely due to three *Fifinellas* visibly (1) swinging on the throttle, (2) holding the stick firmly forward, (3) throwing dust into the Lt's eyes so he failed to note the goings on."

"Formerly only Gremlins and male children, or Widgets, rode the air waves, it being claimed that the diminutive *Fifinellas* lacked the ability to undertake such hazardous Gremlintrix as (1) playing see-saw on the artificial horizon, (2) using the compass as a merry-go-round, (3) drinking gasoline, (4) sliding down the beam and rolling up the runway, thus making planes undershoot."

"Like members of the 319th, *Fifinellas* needed only training in order to turn in a good job. When the 319th was formed a squadron of pioneering *Fifinellas* arrived with the first Gremlins, forcing Them to undertake specialist jobs such as that of the big-stomached Puff Gremlin who sucks air from under a plane, making it jounce..."

"Them Gremlins have come a long way from their original home a 1000 years ago in the quiet shadows of river pools, thence to mountain crags and finally taking to the air. Now Them have taken another step: Them *Fifinellas*, like the gals of the 319th, are taking to the air."

*Fifinella* was designed by Walt Disney for a film based on Roald Dahl's book *The Gremlins*. The Wasp requested and were granted permission to use the image as their mascot.

It is urged that our Wasp Squadron pilots carry used WW II era stamps on their person while flying ... just to be on the safe side, Elaine Webb purchased some cancelled WW II era U. S. Postal stamps. "We can't be too careful!"

*On Final Approach* is an excellent resource for those researching Wasp formation and history.

Elaine Webb  
Wasp Squadron Historian



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**WASP Squadron was an  
AirPower History Tour  
participant**

A Special Report was published May 24, with video. Below are a couple photos, just to remember that FUN was had by all:



Windy, the WASP mannequin, with Mason Brown and his dog Lucky



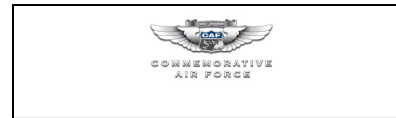
The whole family wanted to be WASP engineering test pilots.



The instructions were to “suit up” and go for a “ride” in the PT-22. This participant was “all in.”

**Maintenance Officer change:**

Don Obrieter, Maintenance Officer, has requested that he be permitted to step down and become the intern coach for Tiffany Whittington in that position. Tiffany has been his intern in that role and is enthused about her new role. The squadron officers have agreed to the change. Tiffany and fellow WASP member, Tara Pope, were mechanic/presenters at the CAF AirPower History Tour stop in Dallas last month. You may recall seeing her with *Fifinella* painted on her face.



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## UPDATES

### T-6 Business Plan:

The acquisition of the T-6 used in Sweetwater for Wasp training is underway, followed soon by the painting and any needed mechanical attention. The assignment request enabling the Wasp Squadron to assume responsibility for its “care and feeding” has been written. It is now making its way through a review process. First step is concurrence with each of our partners in the venture – the B29/B24 squadron for specific touring dates for 2018 and CAF Red Tail Squadron for partnering in delivery of the message. After that we need approval by the Squadron officers, a discussion with the current aircraft sponsors and major donors to the Rise Above initiative, and then conference calling for all Squadron members that wish to participate in a review. At the completion of this process the request will go to the Flying Museum Board for approval. The Squadron has 120 days from the date the CAF acquires the airplane to make its request for assignment.

### Trading Cards

- 6 different cards were previewed at the AirPower History Tour event with positive reviews and interest.
- The Squadron will continue to add to its collection of cards and use them for rewards for engagement at events.

- The trading cards graphics and supplier information are available to any CAF Squadrons for easy adaptation, with their own URL and Squadron logo.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- **EAA AirVenture, Oshkosh, WI  
July 24-30**
- **Warbirds on Parade, Lancaster, Sept 2:**  
The Squadron is working with the DFW Wing to determine how it might be helpful in support of their event. Space is at a premium, so the size of the Wasp exhibit will determine how many volunteers could have an opportunity to assist in making this event even more family friendly than it already is.
- **Wings over Dallas October 6-8:**  
The event will feature bombers. Your Squadron will again participate, exact content will change based on what we learn this week. Contact Lisa to join in [retsoflm@yahoo.com](mailto:retsoflm@yahoo.com). Aside from the Squadron, there are numerous opportunities to volunteer. Contact [Lstrhan@cafhq.org](mailto:Lstrhan@cafhq.org)
- **2018 Wing Staff Conference, Dallas, TX  
March 1-4, 2018**



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**INQUIRING MINDS...want to know what the difference is between a T-6 and an AT-6: Simply stated the WASP flew the AT-6. The designation was changed to T-6 in 1948, see below:**

### AT Series



North American AT-6A

**AT-6 Texan** - Advanced Trainer - powered by a 600 hp R-1340-47 and armed with forward-firing 0.3in machine gun, nine original started as BC-1As and 85 built.

**AT-6A** - Same as AT-6 but with 600 hp R-1340-49 and removable wing center section fuel tanks, 1847 built with 298 transferred to the [United States Navy](#) as the SNJ-3. Survivors re-designated T-6A in 1948.

**AT-6B** - Same as AT-6A but with 600 hp R-1340-AN-1 and dorsal gun fitted as standard, 400 built.

**AT-6C** - Same as AT-6B but with material changes to low-alloy steel and plywood, 2970 built including transfers to the [United Kingdom](#) as the Harvard III.

**AT-6D** - Same as AT-6B but with a 24V DC electrical system, 4388 built including transfers

to the United States Navy as the SNJ-5 and to the United Kingdom as the Harvard IIA. Re-designated T-6D in 1948.

**XAT-6E** - One AT-6D re-equipped with a 575 hp [V-770-9](#) V-12 inline engine for trials.

**AT-6F** - Same as AT-6D but with a strengthened airframe and minor modifications. 956 built including transfers to the United States Navy as the SNJ-6; re-designated T-6F in 1948. Clear fixed rear canopy.

**T-6A** - AT-6As re-designated in 1948.

**T-6C** - AT-6Cs re-designated in 1948 including 68 re-builds with new serial numbers.

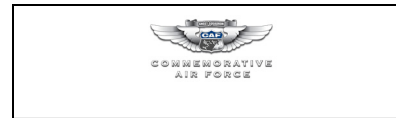
**T-6D** - AT-6D re-designated in 1948 including 35 re-builds with new serial numbers.

**T-6F** - AT-6F re-designated in 1948.

**T-6G** - Earlier model AT-6/T-6s re-built between 1949-1953 with improved cockpit layout, increased fuel capacity, steerable tailwheel, updated radios and a 600 hp R-1340-AN-1 engine. Identifiable by simplified canopy framing. 2068 modified.

**LT-6G** - T-6Gs converted for battlefield surveillance and forward air controller duties, 97 modified. Nicknamed *Mosquito*.

**T-6H** T-6Fs converted T-6G standard.



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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Wally Funk	<a href="mailto:wallyfly22@gmail.com">wallyfly22@gmail.com</a>
Bob Lawrence	<a href="mailto:bob@unitedfsi.com">bob@unitedfsi.com</a>
Alan LeBlanc	<a href="mailto:alanleblanc@att.net">alanleblanc@att.net</a>
Graeme Keeping	<a href="mailto:gk@gkeeping.com">gk@gkeeping.com</a>
Freya Shiller	<a href="mailto:freya767@gmail.com">freya767@gmail.com</a>
Kim Mauck	<a href="mailto:kmathis45@aol.com">kmathis45@aol.com</a>
Dan Fordice	<a href="mailto:dkf@fordiceconstruction.com">dkf@fordiceconstruction.com</a>

## WASP VIRTUAL PX

### 1. Business Cards.

[Order WASP Business Cards here](#)



2. **WASP Wings in gold and silver** The little WASP wings pin that you received as a member of the Squadron can be ordered in sterling silver or 14k gold. They are each custom ordered, and run about \$100 and \$350, respectively.

They can also be made into a necklace; 16" in 14K gold is \$600.

***If interested call, mention Ellie***

***Dana: 972-458-7188***

*Gem Classics  
5100 Belt Line Rd, Suite 700  
Dallas, TX 75254*

3. **Women's shirts:** Made by Cutter and Buck in navy, with long sleeves, mock collar, mesh inserts and wicking fabric will be available for viewing by next month. These are particularly suitable for on ramp/in sun events for those of us who must (Doctor's orders) have sun protection.
4. **OTHER STUFF:** Use the link for the Business cards, and you will find that you can order all manner of items from VistaPrint, with the WASP Squadron logo.

## SQUADRON LEADERSHIP

Squadron Leader: Debbie King  
[waspsquadron@gmail.com](mailto:waspsquadron@gmail.com)

Executive Officer: Ellie Dana  
[WASPSquadronXO@att.net](mailto:WASPSquadronXO@att.net)

Finance Officer: Beth Jenkins  
[bajpca@gmail.com](mailto:bajpca@gmail.com)

Adjutant Officer: Lisa Foster  
[retsoflm@gmail.com](mailto:retsoflm@gmail.com)

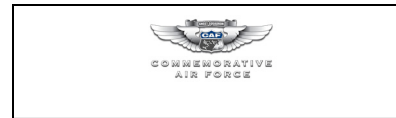
Public Information Officer: Kim Pardon  
[pardonb29@gmail.com](mailto:pardonb29@gmail.com)

Squadron Historian: Elaine Webb  
[webb.belaine@gmail.com](mailto:webb.belaine@gmail.com)

Maintenance Officer: Tiffany Whittington  
[tiffanypaige2287@gmail.com](mailto:tiffanypaige2287@gmail.com)

Education Officer: Sarah Zimmerman  
[TwizzyBeth@gmail.com](mailto:TwizzyBeth@gmail.com)





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## OFFICER REPORTS

**Squadron Leader:** The first WASP Squadron event was a success, as reported in detail in the May 24 Special Report. The Assignment Request will take us to the next step in our journey to educate the youth of this nation. Stand by for further progress

-Debbie King

**Executive Officer:** You may recall that we placed our "ad" in the Girl Scouts of North East Texas Program Supplement, for their 2017-2018 season. As a follow up we will be presenting our STEM based educational offerings to the Troop leaders and volunteers of the Northeast Texas Girl Scout Council on Aug 5. This is our opportunity to familiarize the leaders on what we can bring to their programs.

The roster/membership process has been automated, and switched to Squadron management completely. This means that we know who we are and can communicate with all of our members, which currently number 138.

As follow-up to the AirPower History Tour (APHT) event, we have developed a Presenters Manual to assist all of us in standardizing our delivery. It will be available on the web site, next week.

Numerous event adjustments will be made based on what we learned at APHT. This is part of our preparation for Wings Over Dallas, which includes increasing our quantities of materials for 10 -15 times as many visitors.

- Ellie Dana

**Finance Officer:** Our PayPal account has been activated, and as of May 19 became part of our

new enrollment process. This makes our funds immediately available to us.

Our balance now exceeds \$6,800, with an A/R balance of \$208.

-Beth Jenkins

**Historian:** History Team members have been contacted requesting an update on their biographical research. All who responded to a request for their mailing address have been sent sets of our first six trading cards to show them how their efforts may be used.

The CAF D/FW Wing is very, very pleased with the Ziggy Hunter + L-5 trade card. A Stearman card will be done when we have a photo of her wearing new silver colors. Not sure when the PT-17 will get her new "clothes" as she truly needs to earn some money doing rides to support that expense.

Patricia Eichler of the Big Country Squadron has expressed interest in sharing WASP artifact photos and the history of those artifacts as well as a short WASP biography associated with them. We would like to use them on our Facebook page and are requesting that they obtain written permission from the lender to share them in this manner.

-Elaine Webb

## Questions or Suggestions?

Contact Col Ellie Dana  
[WASPSquadronXO@att.net](mailto:WASPSquadronXO@att.net)  
214-244-0876