



2ND QUARTER 2010

Tennessee Valley Flyer

"TOP OF ALABAMA"

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"The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly"

"The good, the bad, and the ugly"; that is what Doug Garner promised to deliver to those in attendance at the Tennessee Valley AFA Chapter's 4 Feb meeting, and that is just what he did. For almost 45 minutes he kept everyone "spellbound" as they experienced what it must have been like to be a young airman in the European theater during WW II. In the simplest of terms, the good—we won the war, the bad—thousands of lives lost, and the ugly—the mistreatment POWs experienced.

His plane, "Miss Behave", was one of 18,000 B-24 Liberators which flew in WWII—flying faster, farther, and carrying a heavier load than any of bomber at that time, is how Doug passionately described his second love (the first, being his wife Patsy). A member of 8th AF, he knew his chances of making it to the magical 30th

mission was only one in three. In fact, throughout the war, 8th AF alone experienced 26,000 casualties and 28,000 POWs, the greatest percentage of any other unit in the war.

A "country-boy" from central Alabama, he was a Senior in High School when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. Following graduation he joined the Aviation Cadet Program. A shortage of combat crew members (gunners), would redirect Doug's dream as a pilot to Tyndall Field Gunnery School. There he lived and breathed the 50 caliber machine gun. He described his final exam as having to put a 50-cal together blindfolded — complicated with the inclusion of broken and missing parts!



Doug Garner (lower row 1st on the left) and his B-24 Crew

Assigned to 93rd Bomb Group, RAF Hardwick was his home in England.

There he participated in 30 combat missions. The 93rd flew the famous Ploesti Raid against the Romanian Oil Refineries, where 178 B-24s launched from Benghazi, conducting a then-revolutionary low-altitude (200 ft) bomb run.

One of many touching moments was when Doug described flying with his baby's shoes (a baby he hadn't yet seen) draped around his neck for good luck. In fact, he showed the group those same shoes, now-bronzed.

Prior to fielding several

questions, Doug left the group with this quote to remember, "It isn't important where you come from, but what you have become." Doug Garner is truly one of the "Greatest Generation" and this past February we traveled back in time to experience life as a B-24 gunner.



Doug Garner's Lucky Shoes



President Rick Driesbach (far right) presents a framed B-17 print to Randy Withrow (2nd from right) and the Veterans Memorial Museum .

Chapter's Donations to Veterans Memorial Museum

In concert with the theme of the evening, the Chapter teamed up with Huntsville Veterans Memorial Museum in hosting our Quarterly General Meeting (see B-24 Guest Speaker above).

The Veterans Memorial Museum, is a non-profit, educa-

tional institution for the purpose of historical preservation, public display, and public education.

In appreciation and to further their efforts, the Chapter donated a

framed Smithsonian Print of a B-17 in flight. In addition, the Chapter donated \$100, collected by those in attendance. Randy Withrow expressed his appreciation and sees future collaboration with the AFA.

Aerospace Education

AFA Awards Boaz Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Sqd 801 an Education Grant

Arlington, VA – This past February the Air Force Association announced twenty grants promoting aerospace education for hundreds of students through Civil Air Patrol (CAP) squadrons. Boaz CAP Squadron 801 was one of the twenty awardees.

These AFA grants, each \$250, are awarded four times each year, twice to units and twice to educators. These AFA grants were distributed to 20 squadrons for use in any Science, Technology, Engineering or Math (STEM) activity or materials that promote aerospace education.

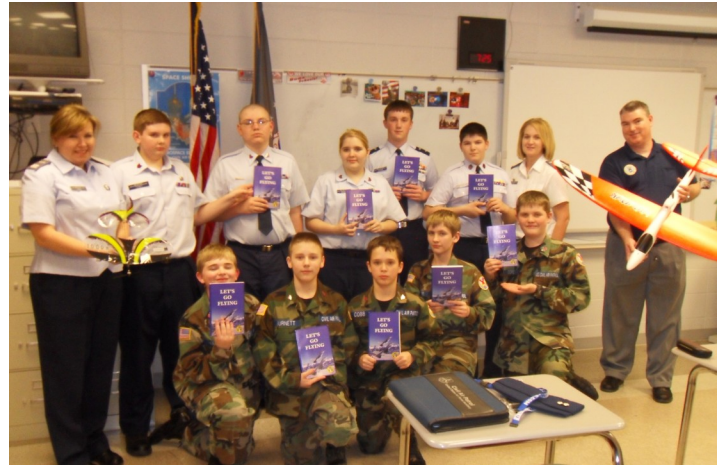
The Air Force Association advocates education in these crucial subjects to develop the skills necessary for the 21st Century jobs in fields sustaining U.S. air power. Use of the grants includes purchasing

textbooks, materials, or activities such as field trips to aerospace museums.

“The next generation of aerospace development will be vital to the future of the nation,” said S. Sanford Schlitt, Vice Chairman of the Board, Aerospace Education. “These grants increase the visibility of the aerospace career field for some talented students.”

“We need to generate interest in aerospace early, and begin developing tomorrow’s innovators,” said Mike Dunn, President of AFA.

The cadets are reading “Let’s Go Flying”. In addition to being accountable



CAP Squadron 801—They’re ready to take to the air, with their “Let’s Go Flying” books and recently procured remote controlled aircraft.

for the tests, cadets will participate in flying the indoor and outdoor remote aircraft. The culminating experience will be the Extended Day Showcase, where cadets will demonstrate and instruct all that they have learned about flying the remote planes for the after school extended day program students. These students will then be given a chance to operate the planes. Ms Lynn Toney, Boaz Intermediate School, estimates that over 400 students will be touched by this program.

Tennessee Valley AFA Chapter 335— Once Again to Award 3 Scholarships

Once again, the Tennessee Valley AFA Chapter will offer three \$500 scholarships to outstanding senior Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFJROTC) cadets. Each of the AFJROTC units within the Chapter’s area, Huntsville High School, Butler High School, and Bob Jones High School, will identify a cadet whose efforts throughout his or hers tenure represents the core values of the Air Force and the AFA, “Integrity first, Service before self, and Excellence in all we do.” John Phillip, Chapter Vice President

for Aerospace Education, indicated that support for aerospace education is a key tenet of the Chapter’s activities, and that these scholarships demonstrate commitment to this effort. Donations and the Chapter’s Community Partner Program are instrumental in providing the funds to continue and expand our efforts in this arena.

In addition to the scholarships, Chapter representatives will also participate in presenting the AFA Medal for each of the area’s AFJROTC unit. The AFA Medal is awarded to the

outstanding AFJROTC cadet in his/her junior year of high school.

John Phillip invites AFA members and their guests to attend any, or all, of the AFJROTC ceremonies. The schedule for this year’s events are as follows:

3 May— 5:00 pm: Bob Jones High School

6 May—6:30 pm: Huntsville High School

7 May— 2:00 pm: Butler High School Pass & Review Scholarship Award TBD

For more information check the Chapter’s web page (www.hsv-afa.org) or contact John Phillip—256-830-0094.

CAP Cadet Receives Award

By: CAP 1Lt Kim Miller,
PAO CAP Ala Wing 119

On 22 Mar 2010 Cadet Captain Victoria Beck was awarded the Air Force Association (AFA) Award for Redstone's Cadet of the Year. This AFA-sponsored award consists of a medal and ribbon, and is presented annually to outstanding CAP cadets in each Squadron. To be eligible for the award recipients must display personal attributes such as initiative, judgment, and self-confidence, courteous demeanor, in addition to possessing the highest personal and ethical standards and strong positive convictions.

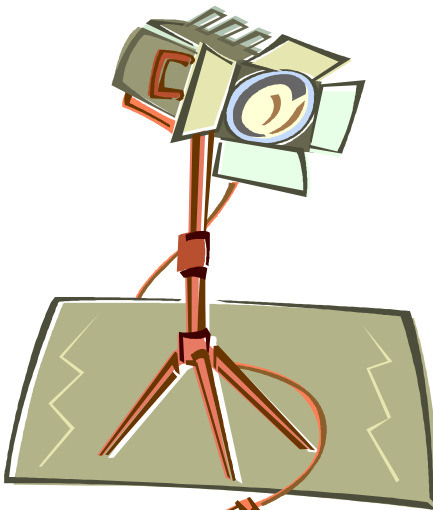
Cadet Capt Beck joined CAP in 2006 and has been a very active member since. She has participated



in numerous encampments and was selected to be a member of the National Blue Berets who support the Experimental Aircraft Association's annual air show at Oshkosh, Wisconsin. She has earned her Amelia Earhart Award and has served in staff positions to include Cadet Commander. Cadet Capt Beck is a student at East Limestone High School in Athens, AL.

Tennessee Valley Chapter's New Challenge Coin

The Executive Council recently approved and procured a new "challenge coin" for the Tennessee Valley Chapter. Tradition goes back to the days of the Army Air Corps, and the camaraderie the coin demonstrated then is still valid today.



Community Partner Spotlight— *GATR Technologies* *Enabling Communications* *Around the World*

Incorporated in 2004, GATR Technologies manufactures inflatable satellite communications terminals. GATR's patented, unique design enables deployment of large aperture satellite terminals in two airline checkable cases, making it ideal for first-in deployments, remote applications and contingency scenarios where transportation and space are limited. GATR also provides custom engineering services in the Military, Broadcast, and Public Safety markets.



The GATR team specializes in the design, integration, and implementation of large-scale, high-performance, portable telecommunications systems in support of end-to-end multimedia applications. GATR Technologies has also been awarded a Research contract in Advanced Optics for Sensor and Scene Generation.

Located in south Huntsville, GATR Technologies is at 11506 Gilleland Road

For more information go to their web site: www.gatr.com



AFA Tenn Valley Chapter Upcoming Events

- 8 Apr @ 6:30—8:00 pm
AFA Chapter 335 Meeting—
Guest Speaker: Bob Jaques and
the Doolittle Raid.
Location: L3Comm
654 Discovery Dr
Huntsville
- 15 Apr @ 5:30 pm—7:00 pm
Executive Council Meeting
Location: NeXolve HQ
655 Discovery Dr
- 24 Jul @ 1:00—4:00 pm
Ala AFA State Convention
Downtown Huntsville Holiday
Inn (401 Williams Ave SW)
4:00—7:00 pm
Ala AFA State Social & Dinner
Guest Speaker: Joe Sutter,
AFA Chairman of the Board
- 28 Aug: Chapter to support Medal of
Honor Gala
- Sep: Air Force Birthday Celebration
with Guest Speaker
- Nov: Huntsville Veteran's Day Parade



Doolittle Raiders Launch from
Aircraft Carrier Hornet

B-25 B

- Max Speed—300 mph
Range—2,000 miles
Service Ceiling—23,500 ft
- April 18, 1942, sixteen B-25B's leapt off the storm-swept decks of the carrier *Hornet*, 700 miles from their targets on the Japanese Home Islands.
 - All the bombers were lost; eleven crews bailed out, four crash-landed, one was interned in the Soviet Union.

SAVE THE DATE—24 July Tennessee Valley Chapter Hosting the Alabama AFA State Convention

This summer your own Tennessee Valley Air Force Association Chapter will host AFA members from across the State of Alabama to the AFA State Convention. This year's event will be held on Saturday, 24 July at the Downtown Huntsville Holiday Inn (located at 401 Williams Ave SW). In addition to the Business Meeting during the afternoon, the Chapter has arranged a

No-Host Social and a dinner where guests are encouraged to attend.

The Chairman of the AFA Board, Mr. Joe Sutter, has agreed to be the Guest Speaker. The Holiday Inn has promised to put on a first-class affair.

Reservation and sign-up procedures will be provided in the coming weeks.

Mobile Chapter of AFA is Back on the Map— Efforts Also Underway in Birmingham

This past February, with Tom Gwaltney, Alabama AFA State President in attendance, "The South Alabama Air Force Association Chapter 101" was officially reborn. Steve Carey and (former University of Alabama quarterback) Scott Hunter accepted the challenge to co-lead the formation committee. Next on their agenda will be to formally complete the chapter's application and forward it to the

Alabama State President for his approval and then on to National.

Meanwhile, Tom Gwaltney indicated that efforts are underway to revitalize the Birmingham Chapter as well. Most recently, Life Member Austin Landry has been solely carrying out AFA activities in the Birmingham area.

The Tennessee Valley Chapter wishes both Chapters continued success.

Doolittle Raid the Focus of 8 April Quarterly Meeting

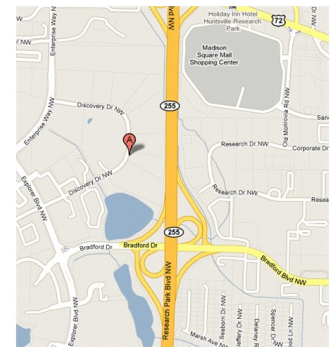
Only 10 days before the 68th anniversary of the famed Doolittle Raid against Japan, noted historian and expert, Bob Jaques will be the guest speaker at the Tennessee Valley AFA Chapter's Quarterly meeting on 8 April. Scheduled to begin at 6:30 the meeting will be held at L3 Comm at 654 Discovery Drive in Research Park.

With over 35 years of research and expertise as an aviation and space historian, Bob Jaques has spoken at numerous venues, to include the Air Force Museum for the 64th Annual Doolittle

Reunion.

The Doolittle Raid was in response to the devastating attack on Pearl Harbor just five months earlier. Designed to cause the Japanese to doubt their leadership and to raise American morale, the Doolittle raid was one of the first indications of the value that strategic air warfare would play in World War II.

In addition to an interesting PowerPoint presentation, Bob Jaques will have some memorabilia for review.



L3 Comm Huntsville in
Research Park at
654 Discovery Drive

Doors open at 6:00 PM —
contact Russ Lewey (425-
8791 or PublicRelVP@hsv-
afa.org) for questions and
more information.