

# Military Weekend

## Nostalgic Confederate Air Force coming to College Station for show this weekend

By TRAVIS TINGLE  
Senior Staff Writer

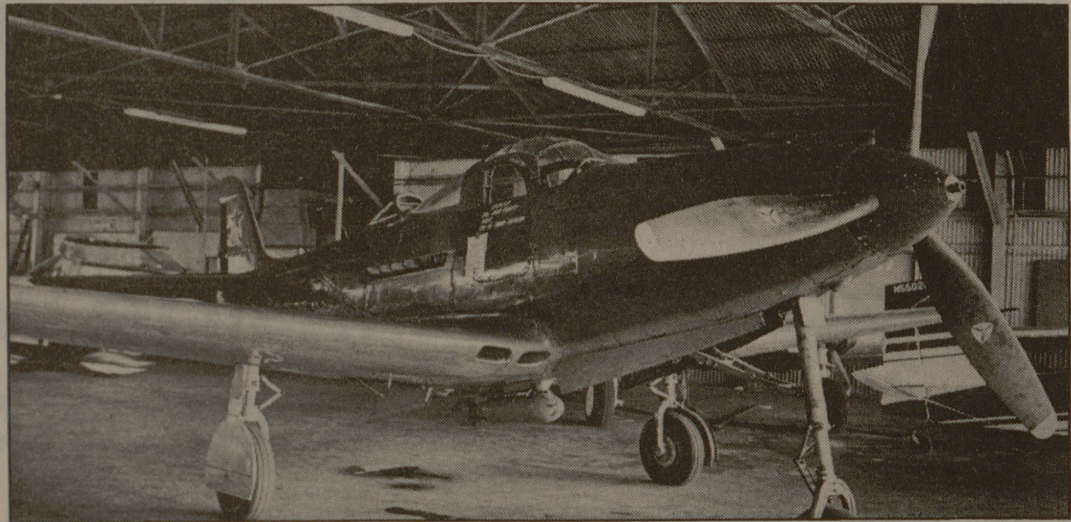
In a world where jet fighters have computers as standard equipment, the Confederate Air Force remembers how things used to be.

The CAF's Ghost Squadron will make its first appearance ever in College Station Saturday and Sunday at Easterwood Airport. Forty-five planes from as far away as Oklahoma City and as near as Houston, will participate in a ground display of restored World War II aircraft.

The new Aggie Wing of the CAF is sponsoring the event to begin the CAF's spring tour.

Lynn Starkey, an air traffic controller at Easterwood Airport and public relations committee member for the Aggie Wing, said the group was formed only in January and needs the publicity.

"The purpose of this weekend's show is to make ourselves known in this area and get people involved with what we're doing," Starkey said.



The wings of the CAF are based on geographic area, Starkey said. When the Aggie Wing was chartered by the CAF, it was supposed to cover about a 60-mile radius around College Station, but Starkey said many of the members come from other areas.

Most of the wing members who live outside the area are former students of Texas A&M, said John Hess, leader of the Aggie Wing. He said that when many former students heard that an Aggie wing was being formed in the CAF, they wanted to join.

Hess said that some of the members of the group are current students at Texas A&M, so they've got the best of both worlds.

"The Aggie spirit is really manifesting itself within the CAF," Hess said. "They say, 'If

there's an Aggie wing I want to belong to it."

Hess, president of Brazos Aircraft Inc., said that despite the name, members don't have to be Aggies; being a sincere lover of airplanes will do.

"You can't just join the CAF because you've always wanted to fly a P-51 fighter plane," Hess said. "You have to have more of a reason than that."

Hess' reason for joining was simple — he is obsessed with airplanes.

"I started flying when I was 35," Hess said. "After that, I got into it in a real big way."

Hess hopes that if others view the CAF's vintage war planes, they too can get into flying in a big way.

But Hess explained that the CAF has a serious purpose as well as being fun.

"It's not a flying club," he said. "The CAF tries to tell the story of World War II to those too young to remember and

even to those who do."

Among those too young to remember are members of Texas A&M's Corps of Cadets. At 10 a.m. Saturday the CAF will fly over the Main Drill Field

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where the Corps will be having a military review as part of its annual spring military weekend.

Kirk Joseph, public relations officer for the Corps, said the CAF will help make this year's military weekend memorable.

"They've never been down here before, so we thought it would be a good idea to get them to begin their tour here

and also make this year's weekend something special," Joseph said.

Hess said the morning flight over campus will be a tribute to the Corps.

"It will be the CAF's way of saluting the Aggie cadets," Hess said.

After the morning flight over the drill field, the CAF planes will return to join the rest of the group at Easterwood Airport where the show already will have begun at 9 a.m.

Starkey said that people may get to see the planes take off and land, but no other flying exhibitions are scheduled.

The ground display on Sunday will last from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Admission for both shows is \$3 for adults, \$2 for students with an I.D., \$2 for children 12 to 6 and free for those less than 6.

## New activities planned for Military Weekend

By Helen De La Rosa  
Reporter

Several new activities will highlight this year's Corps of Cadets Military Weekend.

Military Weekend is scheduled for today and Saturday, but activities began Thursday with the arrival of cadets from several military schools.

"This is the first time since the 1950s that cadets from other schools have participated in Texas A&M's Corps of Cadets' activities," said Col. Donald L. Burton, Corps commander.

Their presence won't be entirely ceremonial, however. Corps Public Relations Officer Kirk Joseph said the visiting cadets will participate in a roundtable discussion Friday on topics relevant to a full-time corps.

One of the topics will be "good bull" vs. the honor code, Joseph said. He also said that the Texas A&M cadets and the visitors will compare Texas A&M's combination of military and civilian students to military academies that have only cadets.

Friday's agenda also includes a luncheon/reception. Guest speakers at the reception will be Gerald D. Griffin, director of Johnson Space Center, and his twin brother, Richard L. Griffin, Air Force Colonel with Space Command and liaison at NASA. Both Griffins graduated from Texas A&M in 1956.

Another new Military Weekend activity will be the USO show. The Southwest Jazz Bal-

let, directed by G. R. DeFellipo, will perform for the cadets free-of-charge. As an unofficial USO group, the Southwest Jazz Ballet travels around performing for the U.S. military. Last April the group went to Lebanon and entertained American troops with dancers and singers. An 18-piece Navy show band from New Orleans also will participate in the show.

The Combat Bash will follow the USO show. The Bash will be held at the Lakeview club.

The Corps will hold its annual Military Review Saturday morning at 10, with Brig. Gen. Charles Cargill, U.S. Air Force Reserve, serving as reviewing officer. But even that traditional event will be embellished. During the review, the Aggie Wing of the Confederate Air Force Ghost Squadron will fly over in military formation.

Cargill is a 1953 graduate of Texas A&M and the University's vice president for operations.

Joseph said the review, which will be held on the main drilling field by the Memorial Student Center, will be a "first" for many Texas A&M cadets. "In the past few years the review has been rained out," Joseph said. "If it does rain this year, we've received permission to hold review in Kyle Field."

A reception will be held after the review. Col. Burton will present special military awards and scholarships to Corps members.

The climax of the weekend is the Military Ball.

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