

MINNESOTA ANG MUSEUM NEWS

*Minnesota Aviation History - Learn of the Past
Spring 2021*



Centennial and Current Events

by Bruce Graham

(reprinted from 133AW Retiree Newsletter)

On January 17, 2021, 100 years to-the-day of federal recognition, the 109th/133rd was called up to support Operation Capitol Response. They had five aircraft available, three were in heavy maintenance. Over the three days of MLK weekend, they flew all five aircraft successfully. They completed 16 missions, 42 sorties, and 105 flying hours hauling 850 Air and Army troops to Washington, D. C. To put that in perspective, they normally fly 100 to 120 hours of training sorties a month. They accomplished in three days what they normally fly in a month. Congratulations!

Col. Jamie Lindman, 133rd AW Vice Wing Commander, did a fantastic job telling the story of the 109th AS at the WWII round table hosted by the Minnesota Historical Society on January 19, 2021. The WWII roundtable normally meets on the second Tuesday of the month, but they moved it to the third Tuesday to be more compatible with the 109th/133rd anniversary on January 17. If you would like to view Col. Lindman's presentation, it is on YouTube. Go to YouTube and type in: Targeting the Reich WW2HRT_34_06. There were two programs that aired that night so you will need to fast forward to 1:23 where the 109th portion begins. It's worth the watch.



A loadmaster with the 109th Airlift Squadron watches a C-130 "Hercules" start engines in St. Paul, Minn., Jan. 18, 2021. More than 850 Minnesota Guardsmen joined Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen from across America who have been authorized to provide support to civilian authorities in Washington D.C. for the 59th Presidential Inauguration.

photo by Tech. Sgt. Amy M. Lovgren

Retired BG Haase becomes chairman *submitted story and photo*



Greg A. Haase, Brigadier General (Ret) continues to serve the community as board chair for the Minnesota Air National Guard Historical Foundation and other efforts supporting the wing and museum.

Prior to his retirement he served as Special Assistant to the Director, Air National Guard, and was assigned to the Headquarters, Air Force, Total Force-Continuum, the Pentagon, Washington, D. C. General Haase's prior assignment was the Vice Director Domestic Operations and Force

Development for the National Guard Bureau. General Haase graduated from North Dakota State University in 1983 with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. He then enlisted in the ND Air National Guard and attended Avionics Aerospace training at Lowry Air Force Base. After completing the course as an honor graduate in 1984, he trained as a guardsman on the F-4 Phantom while pursuing a master's degree in civil engineering. General Haase was selected for undergraduate pilot training with the 133rd Airlift Wing in 1985. He completed the course as an 'Academic Ace' in 1987.

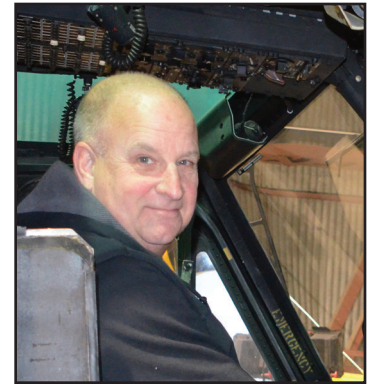
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Also inside:

- P-51D "Mustang"**
- Projects update**
- Thank you to Brian Wyneken**

Our volunteers: John Eichenberger story and photo by Terry Morris

John Eichenberger joined our museum family just before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. John is a Minneapolis native but grew up in Fargo N.D. After graduation from high school, he completed an electronics technology program and started a 39 year career at Siemens AG in the healthcare equipment area. Initially installing and servicing large x-ray systems such as CT scanners and catheter labs, John eventually moved into global sales with the Mayo Clinic being his primary client. This assignment allowed him to become a two million mile frequent flyer with Delta.



John became interested in military aviation as a teen after observing the Fargo Air Guard unit's F4 fighters flying near his home and attending regional air shows. His continued interest drove him to contact the museum after his spouse showed him a recruitment ad in the newspaper. After touring the museum, he immediately saw an outstanding opportunity to apply his electronics background and decided to become a volunteer.

Even though access to the museum has been restricted due to COVID, John has been actively contributing to museum projects. A key one was the restoration of the MiG-15's Plexiglas canopy to its original level of transparency. He is currently setting up an LED illumination system for the C-97 simulator and restoring the Huey's instrument panel's illumination. He is eagerly looking forward to participating in the future replacement of the windows on the air park C-130.

When asked what he likes best about being a volunteer, he replied that it is working with and learning about the experiences of the other volunteers. He also gets a great deal of satisfaction knowing that his contributions are helping to educate future generations.

When asked what is his favorite airplane, he (like others) replied he "loves them all" with a special nod to the Huey!

Winter and Spring museum projects

story and photos by Mike Drews

This past year has been a challenge for the museum due to COVID-19 that eventually led to closing the museum in March 2020. Beginning in January 2021, the Guard allowed volunteers access to the museum with restrictions on how many people could be there at the same time, and masks needed to be worn while at the museum.

Despite these challenges, the volunteers continued to work on projects, and they have also been hard at work getting the museum ready for the Guard's 100th



Anniversary events that will be held in July 2022. In addition to working on projects at the museum, some volunteers are completing projects at home.

Great skill and pride went into painting the MiG-15. We only need to install the decals when the weather warms up.

Other completed projects include a new display showing

Projects story continues on page 4

Minnesota Air National Guard Museum News

Haase story from page 1

In 1998 he was selected as the 109th Airlift Squadron commander, his first of three command assignments to include the Maintenance Group and the Airlift Wing. He then became the Director of the Joint Interagency Counter Trafficking Center for European Command focusing on Counter Narcotics, Counter Threat Finance and Countering Transnational Threats to build partnership capacity to defend the homeland forward.

Grants enable more projects

by Karen Wolf

The museum has been busy with projects supported by grants that have been awarded by the MN Historical Society and the Department of Military Affairs Support Our Troops. Although it takes a lot of work to write the grant, when awarded it gives the museum the needed money to complete various projects that would otherwise be out of reach.

The grant from the Historical Society has almost been completed. It was used to digitize and preserve slides, films, tapes and negatives that relate to the history of the Minnesota ANG. We contracted with Home Video Studio because of their experience and expertise in archiving imagery with the ability to take old technologies and transfer them to the digital world. Of

Grant story continues on page 4

Mission Statement

The mission of the Minnesota Air National Guard Historical Foundation is to preserve the heritage and traditions of the Minnesota Air National Guard.

Board Members

Chairman: Greg Haase

Vice Chairman: Karen Wolf

Secretary: Terry Morris

Executive Dir./Dir. of Operations: Mike Drews

Operations Assistant: Anja Drescher

Treasurer: Tom Simonet

Members: Rick Dow, Herb Ketcham, Ray Pitman, Lowell Ueland, Deon Ford, Julie Jensen, and James Zwiefel

Wing Advisor: Col. Jamie Lindman

Legal Counsel: Kelly & Lemmons, P.A., Joe Kelly and Kevin Beck

Newsletter Editor: Pete Backlund

Assistant editors: Sharon Drews and Mark Moss

Past Newsletters can be accessed on the museum website at: <http://mnangmuseum.org>

Museum Hours and Access

The museum has been closed to the general public since March 2020 due to the pandemic. Please visit the museum's website at <http://mnangmuseum.org> for updates.

Address all correspondence to:
Minnesota Air Guard Museum
P.O. Box 11598
St. Paul, MN 55111-0598

(The Minnesota Air National Guard Historical Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization and not affiliated with the Dept. of Defense, Minnesota Air National Guard, or the 133rd Airlift Wing.)

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Comments from the board chair

First, let me thank our former Chair, Brian Wyneken. Brian led the museum and foundation with grace and courage, navigating some difficult times. Through the years he implemented an updated charter and by-laws in coordination with the 133rd Airlift Wing and then Air Space Minnesota. Through the past year he persevered to retain the integrity of a working board, regardless of the pandemic. Brian, you have done so much for the museum and foundation and we are all forever grateful for your professional approach, your humor and of course your friendship. All our best to you and your family!

Many different components of the board are working diligently to celebrate the Wing centennial as the "First Federally Recognized National Guard Flying Squadron." The uncertainties posed by the pandemic have forced the Wing and museum to redirect the bulk of the celebration to 2022. For 2021 we will have a large display in Concourse C at the MSP airport that includes 120 feet of wall space and five display cases. Herb Ketcham, Anja Drescher, Ted Biro and Karen Wolf are leading the way along with the expert support of the Museology company. Museology has created numerous exhibits displayed in various venues in the greater Twin Cities area. Hiring Museology was the direct result of Karen Wolf's grant writing abilities that secured a significant grant to fund the effort. So, if you pass by Concourse C between June and December 2021, take some time to view your history.

The next item we hope to get on the shelves is the book, "A Century in the Sky," that museum volunteer Lowell Ueland began and continues to help refine. The Wing generated a writing team to help with the edits, add pictures and complete some of the recent history. Our hope is to have this to the publisher in time to be available for the hangar dance in September 2021. We will also have the book, "The Making of a Spy in The Sky: A Story of a World War II Pilot," republished. This book was written by Hoyt Warren, a WWII 109th pilot. Lowell was the inspiration to get this book republished, and he coordinated with the Warren family for the rights to do so.

The plans for 2022 are currently being developed. The Mall of America (MOA) is excited to host a tribute to the Wing, likely in June 2022, with the air expo in August. From now until the fall of 2021 we will hopefully raise enough funds for the MOA event and completely support the air expo to include a Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM) hangar.

The museum and foundation are very appreciative of the generous donations from the Guard retirees. That

Chairman's comments continues on page 4

course, this included the contractor having up-to-date equipment and an attention to detail. Mark Moss has been the primary project manager in this endeavor. Final products will be used in the various venues and exhibits that are being planned for the Centennial.

The grant from Support Our Troops was awarded in December 2020. This grant will be used to fund an exhibit for the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP IAP) Thomson Reuters Art Gallery on Concourse C. This art gallery space is managed by the MAC Foundation. The project had to be vetted with the Foundation to make sure the exhibit would be of professional quality.

Ted Biro, Lt Col (ret.) 109th AS, a centennial committee member, was instrumental in providing the information to the MAC Foundation which resulted in our being chosen to exhibit. We have contracted with Museology Museum Services to develop a cohesive and meaningful visual experience of images, artifacts and objects for the traveling public passing through the MSP airport. This exhibit will celebrate the history and legacy of the 109th Observation Squadron's 100 years of service. In addition to the history of the 109th, the bigger history of the MNANG 133rd Airlift Wing will be celebrated as well. The exhibit will be moved to the MNANG Museum when it is removed from MSP IAP.

Projects story from page 2



a pilot's survival equipment, a P-51 weather vane that was repaired, and newly acquired mannequins to display General Miller's original 1920s leather flight suit and General Dolny's flight suit that was placed next to the Dolny display. Also, the L-4 landing gear bungee cords have been repaired so that the aircraft sits correctly.

For the rest of the time we have before the anniversary celebration, we plan to paint the F-102 and C-97 aircraft, change out many of the museum's C-130 cockpit windows, illuminate the C-97 simulator in bay 3 with LED lights, and create new displays for the empty display cases that are at the museum.

In spring 2022 the airport fire department will bring their fire trucks over to the museum to wash down the aircraft in the air park.

money is earmarked for the books to be published and for the media work by Mark Moss. Mark completed the 100-year video for the 2020 Wing Awards Ceremony. You can view this on YouTube by searching for the 133rd AW WAC 2020 video where you will find the Minnesota Air Guard at 100 Years by Mark Moss. Mark is editing the video to appeal to a more general audience. Depending on the final approach to the airport exhibit, the video could stream continuously in a section of Concourse C.

Through the incredible work of Anja Drescher, the museum will roll out a new website. Everything currently on the site will remain, but there is a substantive update from the existing site. Some of the enhancements are quite spectacular - Anja is our technological superstar.

I think I can safely speak for all of us in hoping that 2021 brings feelings of joy and happiness as we transition from the pandemic and into 2022. In fact, I believe the air expo could be a splendid social reawakening. Imagine a free event featuring numerous Air Force aircraft, displays and exhibits on a welcoming August day. We may also have the A.C.E.S. simulators formerly located in the MOA thanks to the efforts of volunteer and board member Ray Pittman. I can see smiles and happiness beaming across the tarmac!

Finally, many thanks to the volunteers who find ways to work around the pandemic by completing projects at home or coming to the museum to paint the MiG. This has not been an easy year but their perseverance is an inspiration to all of us. Mike Drews, Executive Operations Director, is incredible at keeping all the wheels turning, even with the changing requirements for base entry. Thanks to all!

Greg Haase
MNANGHF Chair

Projects restoring a P-51 weather vane, page 2, MiG-15, above left, and a Jeep, below, continue.



North American P-51D “Mustang” U.S. Army SN 68-15795

by Greg Bastyr

The P-51D was a fighter-interceptor flown by the 109th Fighter Interceptor Squadron and the 179th FIS of the Minnesota Air National Guard from 1947 until 1955 when the 179th FIS converted to the F-94 all-weather jet fighter-interceptor, and the 109th FIS converted to the T-28 Trojan as an interim aircraft. The P-51 was a long range, single seat fighter and fighter-bomber used during WWII and the Korean War.

During WWII “Mustang” pilots claimed 4,950 enemy aircraft shot down, the most of any allied fighter. The P-51 was conceived, designed and built by North American Aviation (NAA) in response to a specification issued directly to NAA by the British Purchasing Commission. The first aircraft rolled out, although without an engine, 102 days after the contract was signed. The Mustang was first flown operationally by the Royal Air Force. From late 1943, P-51s were used by the USAAFs to escort bombers over Germany.

Also, “Mustangs” used as fighter-bombers helped ensure air superiority in 1944. The P-51 was also in service with allied air forces in the North African, Mediterranean and Italian theaters and saw limited service against the Japanese in the Pacific war.

The “Mustang’s” first flight took place on 26 October 1940; a total of 16,766 were built. Despite the advent of the jet fighter, the Mustang remained in service with some air forces until the early 1980s.



Interesting Facts: The museum’s “Mustang” is actually an F-51 Cavalier “Mustang II” that was one of two Cavalier “Mustangs” the U.S. Army used as chase planes for the Lockheed YAH-56 “Cheyenne” armed helicopter project at Fort Rucker, Ala. These F-51s had wing tip fuel tanks and were unarmed. After the “Cheyenne” program, these aircraft were used for other projects.

The museum’s aircraft was fitted with a 106 mm recoilless rifle for evaluation of the weapons value in attacking ground fortified targets. The rights to the “Mustang” design were purchased by the Cavalier Corporation which attempted to market surplus

“Mustang” aircraft both in the U.S. and overseas. These aircraft were remanufactured from existing original F-51 airframes.

A number of “Mustangs” still exist today and can be seen at most air shows, others are used as air racers. Several sources report that the museum’s P-51 spent some time at a RAF museum from 1976 to 1980 at which time it was brought back to the USA and eventually ended up at the Minnesota Air Guard Museum.

Several “Mustangs” were damaged or destroyed at this airfield by a tornado in July 1951. Of the 89 aircraft on the field, 86 received major damage; a cockpit of one of the destroyed aircraft is on display within the museum hanger.



AP-51 “Mustang” patrols the skies about 1950, above, and another, lower left, sits at the air park today. photo left by Mike Drews and file photo above

Cost: \$50,985 in 1945

Crew: 1

Length: 32 feet, 3 inches P-51D Specifics

Wingspan: 37 feet

Height: 13 feet, 14.5 inches

Engine: Packard V-1650-7 liquid cooled, supercharged V-12, 1,490 HP at 3,000 RPM

Max Speed: 437 MPH at 25,000 feet

Range: 1,650 miles, with external tanks

Service Ceiling: 41,900 feet

Armament: 6 X 50 Cal, M2 Browning machine guns with 1,880 rounds (400 rounds each on the inner pair and 270 rounds each on the two outer pair), two-wing hard points for up to 2,000 pounds of bombs, 6 or 10 five-inch H.V.A.R. rockets.

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Brian Wyneken honored

story and photo by Mike Drews

The Minnesota Air National Guard Historical Foundation Board Members thank Brian Wyneken for his many years of dedication as chairman of the board. Brian's involvement with the museum began while he was still active in the Guard. At that time, he was the Guard's liaison advisor to the museum. After Brian's retirement from the Guard, he became a volunteer with the museum. The museum was in need of a board chairman and Brian stepped up and accepted the position. Brian's legal background was instrumental in updating agreements, and he also provided for a smooth relationship between the Guard and the museum. He leaves the museum in great shape operationally and financially. Even though Brian is no longer chairman of the board, he continues to be a museum volunteer and will be helping with the Guard's 100th anniversary events in 2022. With much thanks, the board members presented Brian with a plaque in recognition of everything he has done for the museum these past nine years.



Board members retired Brig. Gen. Greg Haase, left and Karen Wolf, right, presented outgoing board chairman Brian Wyneken with a plaque on Mar. 30, 2021 in the museum, thanking him on behalf of all members.