

VIRIBUS TERRA

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A Publication by the Ground Forces Detachment of the Commemorative Air Force

THE NEWEST CAF UNIT!



The CAF Ground Forces Detachment materialized from the idea that bringing together the CAF aircraft, ground equipment, and living history, the public will learn about and experience a richer, more diverse perspective of the life and equipment of WWII. This picture from the 2017 Wings Over Dallas event shows the CAF bombers and liaison aircraft among the Camp Howze MVPA, Able, 1/501st PIR (part of the WWII Airborne Living History Association historical society), and the Patton Third Army Living Historians. The public's experience was so successful that many CAF units are now asking how they can create such an experience during their public and educational events within their local communities. See more pictures inside.

Inside:

- Detachment Leader's Welcome
- Learn about the GFD and what we do
- What we're doing today & in the future
- Membership and how to get involved
- How to contact us
- Website, Facebook, and more

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Detachment Online

Visit CAF Ground Forces Det online at

<http://cafgroundforces.org>

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If you have articles, information, events
or photos to be in a future newsletter,
please forward your submission to:

info@cafgroundforces.org



KEEP 'EM ROLLING

From the Detachment Leader, Col John Sprouse

Hello from the Ground Forces Detachment.

It is a tremendous honor to be chosen to start the first ever ground-based vehicle detachment of the Commemorative Air Force (CAF). I'm sure that 20+ years ago a few of you would have laughed at the idea of a dedicated CAF Ground Forces unit. Even more so of me being challenged to lead it from here in Gainesville, Texas. Nevertheless, here we are with a fantastic group of people with a common mission to make just such a thing happen.

The Ground Forces Detachment was formed under the direction of the CAF Headquarters in January 2018. It was created as a unit to focus on the integration of ground vehicles, living history, and other non-flying activities into CAF events. Through this, the public will be able to learn about and experience a richer, more diverse perspective of the life and equipment of WWII. We believe that the public has a general love of WWII-era military vehicles and equipment, and that providing equipment and living historians at CAF events allows an expansion of our educational focus to a much broader audience.

To accomplish this, the Ground Forces Detachment will focus on 3 essential strategies:

- 1) **EDUCATION.** Promote public education of ground forces vehicles, equipment, and historical experiences.
- 2) **SAFETY.** Partner with CAF units having ground equipment to help them restore and operate safely thus minimizing potential risk and liability.
- 3) **ASSISTANCE.** Collaborate with CAF HQ to develop and implement policies promoting ground equipment experiences and living history at CAF events.

Over time, we expect to build the Detachment into a community of experts across the CAF to coordinate any repair/restoration of CAF ground equipment, efficiently manage ground equipment parts and parts procurements, safe equipment transportation, and to act as liaisons with our living history friends to execute seamless cross-organizational events that will give the public an entirely new perspective. The community of experts will also help us build a database of ground equipment types and needs that will serve as a support and sharing system that models what we have today for CAF aircraft parts and expertise. Once successful, our education, safety, and maintenance programs will help inspire future generations to take on the mission of preserving history and perpetuating knowledge.

Keep an eye out for us at future events. We'll be the ones on the ground making the fly-boys and fly girls look good.

"Let's Keep Them Rolling"

John Sprouse
Detachment Leader
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<http://cafgroundforces.org/>
<http://facebook.com/CAFgroundforces>



WHAT WE DO



Public education of ground forces vehicles, equipment, and historical experiences



Partner with CAF units with ground assets to help them operate them safely and minimize potential risk



Partner with CAF HQ to develop and implement policies promoting living history at CAF events

VISION & DIRECTION

The need to form a ground based detachment that could serve the HQ and each individual wing on a national scale has been a works in progress since early 2016. The Ground Equipment and Living Historians provide a strong compliment to the support, event operations, and educational aspect to the current CAF family. This detachment will allow the CAF HQ and all the wings to expand the educational focus to a broad landscape while creating organization and structure on the ground pieces. The direction and operations of the detachment will be focused on several key areas:

- Public Education of Ground Force Equipment through immersive experience
- Asset Inventory & Ground Force Equipment database (Includes of all CAF)
- Safety & Operational Program Development and Training Initiatives
- Ground Forces and Living Historian Event Management and Development Program
- Military Vehicle Operations including Risk Evaluation, Nationwide



THE CAF GROUND FORCES STORY

The driving force and people behind the Ground Forces Detachment have a genuine love for the history of the WWII Era Military Equipment, the Veterans, and the effort to have all these pieces (land, air, or sea operated) live again, and to tell the story for years to come of our greatest generation.

As with the new Ground Forces Detachment logo you will see various elements that define the many pieces that make up the whole. The Commemorative Air Force Ghost Squadron logo forms the foundation. Then you will notice the iconic Non-Direction Tread (NDT) tire as a body of the logo. With the tire as the base of the logo, both the image and the detachment will have a clear focus on ground equipment.

Finally the center crest was derived from the Army Transportation Corps logo. This began back in August 1899 when the War Department created the Army Transportation Service (ATS) which later was assigned to Quartermaster Corps. In 1942 the



U.S. Army established the Transportation Corps as a separate branch. The purpose was to oversee transport of all supplies, men, and machine, training, and movement control.

In all past wars overseas where the US has participated, the importance of the Transportation Corps and its operations were extremely vital. Early, and for the duration, all of the upper echelons were actively involved. We understand such focus and importance on this Transportation Corps by the US Army can cultivate and continue in our efforts as the Ground Forces Detachment to restore, recreate, and educate.

Our Mission will always be to Educate our future while Serving our past through our Living Historians and Military Vehicles and Equipment. We can then accomplish this through our full immersion programs and events. We consist of People, Pieces, and Programs that accomplish our goals.

Written by Brad Meeks, XO, CAF Ground Forces Detachment

GROUND FORCES AT WINGS OVER DALLAS 2017



The Ground Forces Detachment of the Commemorative Air Force was created as a unit to focus on the integration of ground vehicles, living history, and other non-flying activities with traditional CAF flying events. Through this, the public will be able to experience a richer, more diverse perspective of the life and equipment of WWII. These pictures are from the 2017 Wings Over Dallas event with CAF aircraft, Camp Howze MVPA vehicles and tents, a large encampment with Able, 1/501st PIR (part of the WWII Airborne Living History Association), the Patton Third Army Living Historians with tent, equipment, and vehicles, and the Cavanaugh Museum with their Super Sherman tank. It was a fantastic event having something for everyone. Sign up online at cafgroundforces.org to join us at WOD 2018. See you there!





FIND US ONLINE



<http://cafgroundforces.org>



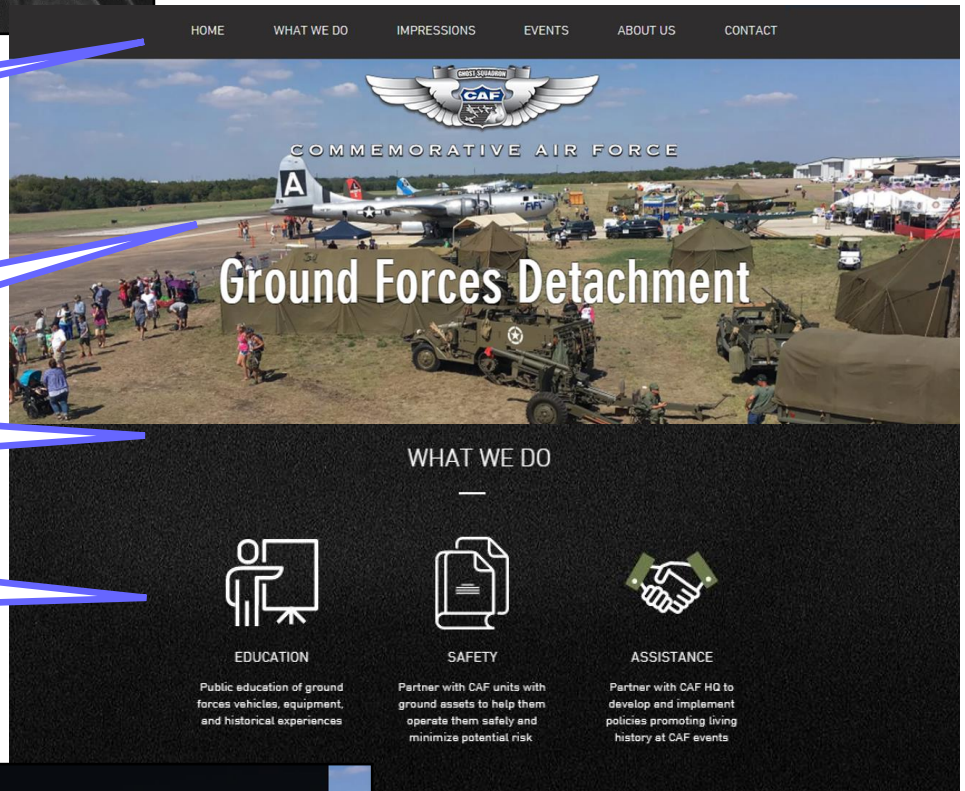
<http://facebook.com/CAFgroundforces>

Easy Navigation Menu

Cool Pictures

Quick Who, What, etc.

Contact Us in page



Member Application

Events Page

Event Sign Up too

Membership Application

There are two ways to apply. Fill out this application and mail with your \$30 per year to the address at the bottom or you can fill out the application online at <http://cafgroundforces.org>



Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Mail: _____

Mail: City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Association: ☐ MVPA ☐ CAF Wing ☐ Historian ☐ Other

Group/Chapter/Association you're affiliated with:

Position: _____

Select all that your Group Participates in:

- ☐ Airshows ☐ Parades / Convoys ☐ Living History Events
- ☐ Educational (Displays, Lectures, School Programs, Museum Support Etc.)
- ☐ Host Events (USO Shows, Displays, other)

Please Complete below on all Ground Forces Equipment you have (If any). Serial # or Registration # can be used. Conditional should be shown as: **Operational/Non-Operation**. Additionally Status should be shown as: **Using/Under Restoration/For Sale/Need Help**.

Make	Model	Serial #	Condition	Status
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
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☐ Please have CAF GF Motor Pool contact me for help in Restoring, Parts, and Technical Help, Resources or other.

☐ Please Have CAF GF Operations Contact me as we are looking for a Specific Vehicle, Event Assistance in Design, Operations, or Appearances, or other needs.