



Big Easy Wing

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Officers:

Unit Leader

David Capo

Executive Officer

Erin Seidemann

Officers

Adjutant

Harold Buchler

Communication

Shirley Colomb

Development

Kurt Jostes

Education

Jim Buchler

Finance

Jeff Segner

Operations

Glenn Northcutt

Maintenance

Sonny Schilleci

Safety

Don Clausing

Meeting Date and Place

Will be

Determined at this January Meeting

From the Left Seat

By David Capo, Unit Leader



Hello Big Easy Wing and a Very Happy New Year,!

As you know by now, we are planning our first general membership meeting of 2018 on Wednesday,

January 17 at 6:00pm in the second floor conference room at Lakefront Airport KNEW. This is going to be an awesome meeting as we are thrilled to have a USAF F-15 pilot, CAF Col. Ben (Evil) Cook, a Big Easy member. Col. Cook will be speaking to us about airplanes, the Air Force and his involvement with the 2017 WWII airshow. He will share some fun stuff about his amazing career. His presentation is not to be missed.

In early 2018, as a unit, we will be experimenting with days, times and locations of our meetings. You will be asked to share your thoughts on the best day and time to meet.

Until we have our first aircraft, we are going to be somewhat nomadic. Throughout this year, we will hold a few meetings at Hammond KHDC. Stay alert and let us

know what you think regarding our meeting times and locations..

Finally and most importantly, we are in the major stretch in raising money for our first airplane, a C-45. This airplane is amazing. It has new engines, spars, interior, paint job and history. The owner was asking a huge sum for this plane but has dropped the asking price by about 75%!



Immediately following the December meeting we have had several donations as well as commitments made toward the purchase of the C-45.

Folks, we have to grab this plane. It would be an awesome educational platform and really launch us as a Wing. Come out to the meeting and learn how you can participate in this history making process.

See you Wednesday !

Holiday Event Successful!

Sorry, we have no pics but there was so much conversation and camaraderie that no one thought of it. Jeff, our treasurer and photographer, had a continuous slideshow of his photos from this year's events especially his dynamic photos from the WWII Air, Sea and Land Festival.

A short business meeting was conducted at the holiday party. The Commemorative Air Force requires Units to have an Educational and Development Officer. So David Capo, our Unit Leader, recruited two members to assume these roles. Jim Buchler and Kurt Jostes were installed to fill these roles, respectively. The installation was conducted by Robert Dahames.



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More info on the C-45—Erin Seidemann and Kurt Jostes

Our XO Erin Seidemann's friend has made a very generous offer to our Wing: he has a C-45 Expeditor (Beech Model 18) that he has put over \$350,000 into, but he is willing to sell it to us for \$75,000 and use the rest as a donation for tax purposes.

It was built in 1944 and delivered to the USAAF's 311th Photo Wing, 16th Photo Squadron at Buckley Field in Denver. After WWII, it was bought by Northrup Aircraft. It was also previously owned by Muhammad Ali Sports. Please help us acquire this airplane by donating and soliciting donations from others

Any successful mission requires logistics, intelligence and a little luck. We are fortunate to be presented with an aircraft opportunity that combines all three: **Logistics:** The C-45 is a workhorse capable of providing an efficient source of revenue. Securing our own, combined with the millions of tourists who visit New Orleans annually, will help give us the steady revenue stream necessary for acquiring and maintaining further, more complex, aircraft.

Intelligence: Developing the proficiencies of both our pilots and ground crew on a C-45 will help us safely pave the way for more advanced warbirds such as the PBY.

Luck: This is a fantastic opportunity to bring "Pontchartrain Beech" back for New Orleans!

Wing-Wide Questionnaire by Kurt Jostes

Our December social was a great event for such a young organization. We should remember that at any moment many Wing members are around the globe due to work and other major commitments.

We want each of our members, regardless of schedule, to develop a meaningful role that connects with his or her interests and capabilities. You, first and foremost, can help make this happen.

In the coming days you'll receive a brief email questionnaire giving you the opportunity to tell our Wing Officers why you decided to join the CAF, what you bring to the table, and what your ultimate dream(s) would be for the CAF Big Easy Wing. Keep your eyes peeled and inbox ready!

Guest Speaker

[Lt Col Benjamin D. Cook](#) is the Commander of the 122nd Fighter Squadron of the Louisiana Air National Guard at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Belle Chasse, Louisiana. He is responsible for all personnel and squadron activities including over 3,500 flight hours per year. Lt Col Cook's joined the Louisiana Air National Guard in September of 2011 after his return from Afghanistan. Since then he has served primarily as an instructor pilot as well as chief of wing programs, alert commander and director of operations for the 122FS. He instructs pilots in all aspects of F-15C planning, execution and debrief.

On December 15, 2015, he was promoted to Lt. Col. He is a command pilot with more than 2,000 hours in the F-15 as well as more than 500 hours flown in combat. His major awards and decorations are Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf, Air Medal with three oak leaves, and Aerial Achievement Medal.

