



# Big Easy Wing

Volume 2, Issue 2

March 21, 2018

## Officers:

### Unit Leader

David Capo

### Executive Officer

Erin Seidemann

### Adjutant

Harold Buchler

### Communication

Shirley Colomb

### Development

Kurt Jostes

### Education

Jim Buchler

### Finance

Jeff Segner

### Maintenance

Sonny Schilleci

### Operations

Jim Helms

### Safety

Don Clausing

## Meeting

Saturday 10 A.M.

March 31, 2018

Lakefront Airport

8550  
Lloyd Stearman  
Blvd.  
70126



*From the Left Seat by  
David Capo, Unit Leader*

Greetings !

The Big Easy Wing's permanent hangar is at Lakefront Airport (KNEW), on the Northeast Side next to the control tower. No gate pass will be needed. Please check out the photo below that Jim Riviere provided for us. I know that March 31st may not be the best day for our first hangar meeting, but do



try to come out if only for a bit. We are excited to have everyone check out our new home.

Recently, I was contacted by some Mississippi folks who were very active in the CAF for many years. They wanted us to know that back a few decades, there existed two CAF units in Louisiana, The Chennault Wing and The Cajun Wing. Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Julian and Betty Williamson for bringing us up to date historically and for providing these four fine (and very rare) patches. These beautiful examples of CAF history will be a proud addition to our future museum. Keep 'em flying, Williamsons!



**Note:** One year ago, on April 28 the Big Easy Wing was officially designated as a Wing by CAF. We are in the planning stage to recognize this first milestone.

## Welcome to Our New Home

You are invited to attend our first Hangar Work Party

When: Saturday, March 31, 2018

Where: CAF Big Easy Wing  
8550 Lloyd Stearman Blvd.  
New Orleans, LA 70126

Time: 10 A.M.





COMMEMORATIVE  
AIR FORCE

Big Easy Wing  
C/O Col. David Capo  
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On Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/  
bigeasywing/](https://www.facebook.com/bigeasywing/)



## Operation Officer's Report on C-45

I recently attended my first meeting as the new Operations Officer. Learning of the activities and workings in progress stirred my enthusiasm. With the possibility of procuring a Beech 18/C-45, it took me back 50 years as an 11 year-old playing in a rusty old airplane fuselage with all the flight controls and neat items. Being raised in south Texas, the son of a WWII veteran turned crop duster after the war, gave me plenty of opportunities as a child to be around many famous and discarded aircraft. I didn't know what it was at the time, but it looked different than most airplanes. It had a glass front nose, twin vertical tail, and bomb doors and was a cool toy to practice my dreams of being an aviator. It was a variation of the C-45 designated as the AT-11 Kansan, which was used as a bombing trainer in WWII.

Let me share the history of this aircraft commonly known as the Beech 18 or Twin Beech. The aircraft is a 6-11 seat twin-engine, low-wing, tailwheel aircraft. It was continuously produced from 1937 to November 1969 for a total of 32 years with over 9,000 built.

During and after WWII, over 4,500 of these aircraft saw service in the Army Air Force and Navy as light transport carriers and air-crew trainers for bombing, navigation, and gunnery. They were designated as:

The C-45 Expedito for Army Transport

AT-7 Navigator for Army Navigation Training

AT-11 Kansan for Army Bombing and Gunnery Training

UC-45J Navigator for Navy Navigation Training

SNB-1 Kansan for Navy Bombing Training.



Continued on Pg. 3

## Fundraising

### Give NOLA Day and a Gift-Match Challenge!

- Save the Date! The Big Easy Wing will be participating in Give NOLA Day on May 1, 2018. Members will have the opportunity to create their own fundraising campaigns as well as participate in a Wing get-together at Lakefront Airport, at our new home. All funds raised will go to our Wing. Our GiveNOLA page address is:

<https://www.givenola.org/thebigeasywing>.

- We've now passed the \$20,000 mark in fundraising between realized donations and pledges coming by the end of this month, and we're excited to announce a \$15,000 dollar-for-dollar gift-matching challenge from an anonymous Big Easy Wing member! Gifts from Wing members are eligible for the match, so another \$15,000 in Wing donations will get us to the \$50,000 mark! Let's keep the balls to the wall and get airborne!

By Kurt Jostes



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## Lt. Col. Ben Cook, Guest Speaker @ January Membership

At our first 2018 wing membership general meeting on January 30<sup>th</sup>, we were honored to have Lt. Col. Ben “Evil” Cook as our featured guest. He is currently the commander of the Air National Guard unit at NAS New Orleans.

If you were lucky enough to have attended the first day of the 2017 WW2 Air, Land & Sea event, then you would have seen him and his wingman making multiple passes over the airfield in F-15 Eagles. He also joined up with two P-51 Mustangs and demonstrated some very impressive formation flyovers.

During his meeting presentation, he talked about the logistics involved with planning and executing both the jet flyovers and the P-51 formation flying. Ben also provided insight on what it is like to fly an F-15 in both combat and non-combat situations. The members had many questions, and Ben graciously answered all of them. A field trip to NAS New Orleans is being planned with the possibility of members getting a few minutes of F-15 simulator time or to watch night flights.

Stay tuned as Ben and the wing officers work through the logistics! On behalf of the officers and wing members, I wish to thank Ben for his time at the meeting, participating in our wing, and his service to our country.



By Jeff Segner

### Items For Sale

Our Wing is offering various items for sale. We have 2 types of hats, patches and polo shirts for sale. You can purchase them at meetings or on the website. Pick-up of item will be at a meeting. Big Easy Wing Logo long sleeve cotton shirts are also available. However, these shirts will be ordered as purchased.



### Continued from Pg 2 — Operations Officer's Report on C-45

In World War II, over 90% of all USAAF bombardiers and navigators trained in these aircraft.

The C-45 may not have the prestige of other WWII aircraft such as a bomber or fighter, but let me assure you the history is there whether it served time in the military or not.

What a pleasure it would be to fly the C-45 around to airshows and fly-ins and provide ride programs whether you're a pilot, part of the ground support crew, or maintenance personnel. Each of us would be a part of living and sharing the history of the brave men and women who fought and gave their lives for our Freedom today. Trust me when I say every time you hear those radial engines come to life and experience the sensation in flight, it is a unique and unforgettable experience.

By Jim Helms





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## Early Results of First Wing Survey

With 30 responses thus far, a solid picture of our membership is coming into view.

First, we are clearly committed to building esprit de corps, acquiring and operating multiple aircraft and setting the pace as a leading Wing within the CAF.

Second, we can now see we're evenly split on the best time for meetings, so we will do our best to accommodate everyone as equitably as possible, within limits (1/3 weeknights, 1/3 weekends, 1/3 either work just as well).

Finally, we assumed most everyone has a fond place in their hearts for at least one WWII-era aircraft. The P-51, Corsair, and PBY are leading the pack, closely followed by the B-25, P-38, and SNJ/AT-6. Rounding out the popular aircraft are B-17s, B-24s, C-47s, Spitfires, PT-17s, and B-26s, followed by nearly two dozen more. As more survey results come together, we expect to see the list grow. If you have not completed your survey, please do so now.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WK6NC65>

By Kurt Jostes

## Membership

Members, please send in your 2018 dues. If you joined the BEW after the 2017 WWII Air, Sea, and Land Festival, then you probably paid 2018 dues. If you are not sure if you still owe your 2018 dues, then please check with our treasurer, Jeff at [espundia@aol.com](mailto:espundia@aol.com).

Note: you can pay your BEW dues online by visiting our website <https://bigeasywing.org/>

## BEW Hangar

I am very happy and proud to announce that we have an official home base! Lakefront Airport, its non-flood board, and Tom Fierke (wing member and our liaison with the board) have generously allowed us use of the "Delgado" hangar. Tom was instrumental in working with the board to get us an agreement to use the hangar, so please thank him when you see him! The hangar is located just north of the tower and is over 13,000 square feet! Think of all the warbirds we can put in there! It hasn't been used in

years and so is in need of quite a bit of cleanup, so we'll need all hands on deck for likely a few cleanup days soon so we can get it ready to house our first airplane! Once we get it cleaned, we will be using it for meetings and hopefully lots of fun social events like aviation movie nights, hangar dances, and anything else that will help us connect with our community and further our effort in promoting WWII education! Please keep an eye out for emails about upcoming hangar work days!

XOXO from the XO