



## COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS FACT SHEET

The Commemorative Air Force Headquarters (CAF), is located in Midland, TX, preserves the memory of those men and women who built, serviced and flew aircraft during World War II through hosting air shows nationwide. Visitors will see 14-20 aircraft on display in the hangar, and many other aircraft are displayed outside. The variety of aircraft change quarterly, so there are always new aircraft to see.

CAF Headquarters is also the home of the internationally-recognized American Airpower Heritage Museum. The Airpower Museum is the educational affiliate of the CAF, aspiring to keep people free by telling stories of airpower through the preservation of a vast collection of 80,000+ objects, educational programs and exhibits. The Airpower Museum is nationally accredited by the American Association of Museums. Of nearly 8,500 museum nationwide, only about 10% of those are nationally accredited. Permanent exhibits at the museum include the story of American Airpower for the WWII period, The Bush Mission exhibit, and The Dynamics of Flight Discovery Center.

The Airpower Museum also preserves the largest collection of Aviation Nose Art in any museum today, all 33 panels housed in a special gallery designed specifically for their preservation and display. Affectionately dubbed "The Girls," this unique expression of American Folk Art was designated an official project of "Save America's Treasures" in 1999, sponsored by the White House Millennium Council and the National Trust of Historic Preservation. Also unique to the Airpower Museum is the largest collection of WWII Sketches by Peter Hurd. Though commonly known today for his southwest landscapes, Hurd began as a journalist for LIFE magazine during WWII.

The museum maintains an active Oral History Program, with more than 4,100 interviews currently on file. This extensive reference collection of first-hand accounts of World War II have been captured on tape by numerous volunteers and is available to students of all ages upon request.

Each year, approximately 5,000 students from 24 school districts in Texas and New Mexico, visit the Airpower Museum for educational programs like guided tours, seminars and Aviation Boot Camp. The museum also provides a traveling trunk kit called the Footlocker Program for educators who are not able to make the trip. Both the Aviation Boot Camp and the Footlocker program are unique outreach programs that have received awards for excellence in education by the Texas Historical Commission.

The Airpower Museum of the CAF opened its doors in December, 1991, and hosts approximately 45,000 visitors each year. The museum is a distinct and self-sufficient 501(c)(3) organization, earning 100 percent of its income through admission fees, memberships, rentals, grants and other unsolicited gifts. The museum continues to unveil capital improvements each year in conjunction with the annual AIRSHO.

The hard work of its staff and volunteers is vital to the success of the CAF and Airpower Museum. To be part of this spirit of teamwork and camaraderie, or for information, call the museum at (432) 567-3009.

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