



COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE B-29/B-24 SQUADRON
HONORING AMERICAN MILITARY AVIATION THROUGH FLIGHT, EXHIBITION & REMEMBRANCE

NEWS RELEASE

B-29/B-24 SQUADRON

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ONLY AIRWORTHY B-29 SUPERFORTRESS “FIFI” TO JOURNEY TO FLORIDA FOR THE SPRING

ADDISON, TX— The Commemorative Air Force B-29/B-24 Squadron is proud to announce that the world’s only flyable Boeing B-29 Superfortress “FIFI” is going to visit Florida during the month of March. While in Florida “FIFI” will be visiting, Gainesville, Daytona, Titusville, Ft. Lauderdale, Punta Gorda, Lakeland and Tallahassee.

The highlight of the tour will be the appearance of “FIFI” at the TICO Warbird Airshow, Florida International Air Show, and Sun N Fun; demonstrating that the “Commemorative Air Force is unique, we aren’t like other museums,” said CAF President/CEO Stephan Brown. “We start our engines, we fly our airplanes and we get loud, taking history to the public, not waiting for them to come to us. “FIFI” attending these events is an opportunity for the CAF to continue doing what we do best, educating and reminding Americans of the cost of our freedom.”

“FIFI” will be available for guided tours (for a donation) and the public will be invited to purchase a ride on the only flyable B-29 in the world. Rides can be booked in advance by visiting the squadron website (www.rideb29.com). Living History Flight Experiences range in price from \$595 to \$1495 dependant upon seat location. It is encouraged to purchase Living History Flight Experiences early, as these seats fill up fast. Seat availability can be checked by visiting the squadron website (www.rideb29.com). Throughout the tour veterans of the U.S. Army Air Forces and the U.S. Air Force who flew B-29s will be welcome to visit “FIFI” with their family for no charge.

A full schedule for "*FIFI*" follows:

February 2012

24-26 Mobile, Alabama

26-28 Gainesville, Florida

March 2012

1-4 Daytona, Florida

7-11 TICO Warbird AirShow - Titusville, FL

14-18 Fort Lauderdale, Florida

21-25 Florida International Airshow - Punta Gorda, Florida

27-31 Sun N Fun - Lakeland, Florida

April 2012

3-5 Tallahassee, Florida

** High resolution images available by emailing pio@cafb29b24.org



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ABOUT THE COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE

Collecting flying warbirds for half a century, the Commemorative Air Force is the largest flying museum in the world. The CAF is a nonprofit aviation association dedicated to Honoring American Military Aviation through flight, exhibition and remembrance, by maintaining a flying museum of classic military aircraft.

The CAF has approximately 8,500 members and a fleet of more than 160 airplanes representing 60 different types of American and select foreign aircraft from military conflicts since WWII. The aircraft are assigned to 74 CAF units across the country. These units, comprised of CAF members and volunteers, restore and operate the planes which are viewed by more than 10 million spectators annually.

More than just a collection of flyable warbirds, the Commemorative Air Force's fleet of historic aircraft, known as the "Ghost Squadron," recreate, remind and reinforce the lessons learned from the defining moments in American military aviation history. The demands of aerial combat drove the great technological advances in aviation that occurred during and after World War II. Many different types of aircraft were developed, often designed for very specific missions.

Members engage with the mission to protect these rare flying monuments to freedom. They keep them in flying condition, repair, rebuild and pilot these unique assets. Future generations will benefit from the CAF's preservation efforts, educational programs, museum exhibits and airshows.

The Commemorative Air Force International Headquarters is located in Midland, Texas, along with the nationally-accredited [CAF Airpower Museum](#).



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ABOUT THE CAF B-29/B-24 SQUADRON

The B-29/B-24 Squadron of the Commemorative Air Force was created in the 1970s to support the B-29 "FIFI." In 1976 "FIFI" introduced the concept of warbird barnstorming; "FIFI" would be flown from city to city and open her hatches to the American public. Already by 1976; the American youth were not as knowledgeable about World War II, as the CAF believed they should be. Squadron founder and supporter "Vic" Agather envisioned a group of dedicated individuals responsible for the care and operation of this one-of-a-kind warbird. Agather convinced the Confederate Air Force (now Commemorative Air Force) General Staff (Board of Directors) that a squadron of volunteers would be able to tour the aircraft around the nation and make enough money that she would be self-sustaining. The CAF General Staff approved of this concept and allowed the B-29 Squadron to be formed. From this small start, the squadron has grown to over three hundred members from around the world and for almost forty years have generated enough revenue to keep the B-29 (and now the B-24A Liberator *O/ 927*) flying.

Today the CAF B-29/B-24 Squadron is based at the Addison Airport (in the Dallas – Fort Worth area) with the Cavanaugh Flight Museum. Each year the Squadron travels to between fifteen and twenty cities across the nation. At each of these stops, the CAF B-29/B-24 Squadron allows the public to tour the cockpit of each aircraft (for a donation), and provides the ability to purchase a Living History Flight Experience. These Living History Flight Experiences allow passengers to experience the sight and sounds of a World War II bomber in the air.

Together, with the Squadron's aircraft, our members are our greatest assets. Members engage with the mission to protect these rare flying monuments to freedom for future generations through preservation, education, exhibition and airshows. Squadron members come from all walks of life. They all share the same interest in preserving and teaching the history of World War II airpower.

The Commemorative Air Force and the B-29/B-24 Squadron receive no support from the Federal Government or the U.S. Air Force. Both organizations have been recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)3 non-profit organizations; as a result, all donations to the squadron are tax-deductible. Without the generous support of the American people and our members, the aircraft of the B-29/B-24 Squadron would not be able to fly. If you would like to make a donation please contact any member of the Squadron.



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ABOUT THE BOEING B-29 SUPERFORTRESS

The Boeing B-29 Superfortress was the first very heavy bomber built for the United States Army Air Forces. Boeing submitted the design for the Superfortress in May of 1940, in response to a call for the most advanced bomber of the time. Three months later the USAAC approved of the original design, and Boeing began building the prototype. The first flight of the B-29 occurred on 30 December 1942. Due to the Superfortress being the most technical advanced bomber of the time, there were extensive changes and modifications made during the development of the aircraft before it entered service in April of 1944. The B-29 is most well known for two missions that occurred in August 1945, the missions flown over Hiroshima and Nagasaki that lead to the end of World War II. The B-29 would continue to serve in the United States Air Force through the Korean Conflict before being retired in the 1960s. Approximately four thousand aircraft were produced during World War II. Twenty-five aircraft remain today, with only one being airworthy.

Basic Info

Crew: 11 (5 officers, 6 enlisted)
Length: 99 ft 0 in
Wingspan: 141 ft 3 in
Height: 29 ft 7 in
Empty weight: 74,500 lb
Max takeoff weight: 133,500 lb
Engines: 4× Wright R-3350 turbo supercharged radial engines
2,200 hp each

Performance

Maximum speed: 357 mph
Cruise speed: 220 mph
Combat range: 3,250 mi
Service ceiling: 33,600 ft

Armament

Guns:
10× .50 in (12.7 mm) caliber Browning M2/ANs in remote controlled turrets
2 x .50 in and 1× 20 mm M2 cannon in tail position
Bombs:
20,000 lb standard



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ABOUT THE CAF's B-29 "FIFI"

When the Confederate Air Force (now the Commemorative Air Force) began searching for a B-29 for our collection of WWII aircraft, the war had been over for 21 years. The aircraft that helped end it had long since yielded to new generations of jet-powered strategic bombers, and vanished. According to the Air Force, no B-29s remained in inventory ~ even at storage or disposal depots.

Five years later, a pilot reported sighting a number of what might be B-29s on the California desert near China Lake Proving Grounds. The CAF learned the aircraft were indeed Boeing Suprefortresses that had been parked at a Navy weapons center for 17 years. They had been used as gunnery targets. After lengthy negotiations, paperwork and the pain-staking process of elimination to find the best survivor, the CAF became the owner of B-29 SN44-62070.

A CAF maintenance team arrived at China Lake on 31 March, 1971. In only nine weeks, with the help of CAF volunteers, they restored all flight control systems, replaced all cockpit instruments, and replaced fuel, oil and hydraulic hoses. They ran the engines, conducted landing gear tests and performed many other tests.

By 3 August, 1971, SN44-62070 was ready to fly again. The crew took on enough fuel to fly non-stop 1,250 miles to CAF Headquarters. The aircraft and crew lifted off at 7:48 am landing six hour, 38 minute later, in Harlingen, Texas.

The complete restoration was a long and expensive project involving more than three years of fund-raising and hard work. Late in 1974, the CAF's B-29 was christened "FIFI" and joined the other WWII fighters and bombers used to preserve the memories and teach of lessons of mankind's greatest war. Since the initial restoration, "FIFI" has flown thousands of miles bringing history to the entire nation.

In 2005, following a series of engine failures, the B-29/B-24 Squadron made the difficult decision to ground the aircraft and replace the unreliable engines with a hybrid Curtiss-Wright 3350. In August 2010 "FIFI" once again returned to the airshow circuit where she was enthusiastically welcomed. The CAF B-29/B-24 Squadron has received permission from the Federal Aviation Administration to sell flight experiences aboard "FIFI." Please visit our website find out more about this rare experience.