



COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE



LOBO WING CHATTER

December 2021

Scott Ruyle Flies West

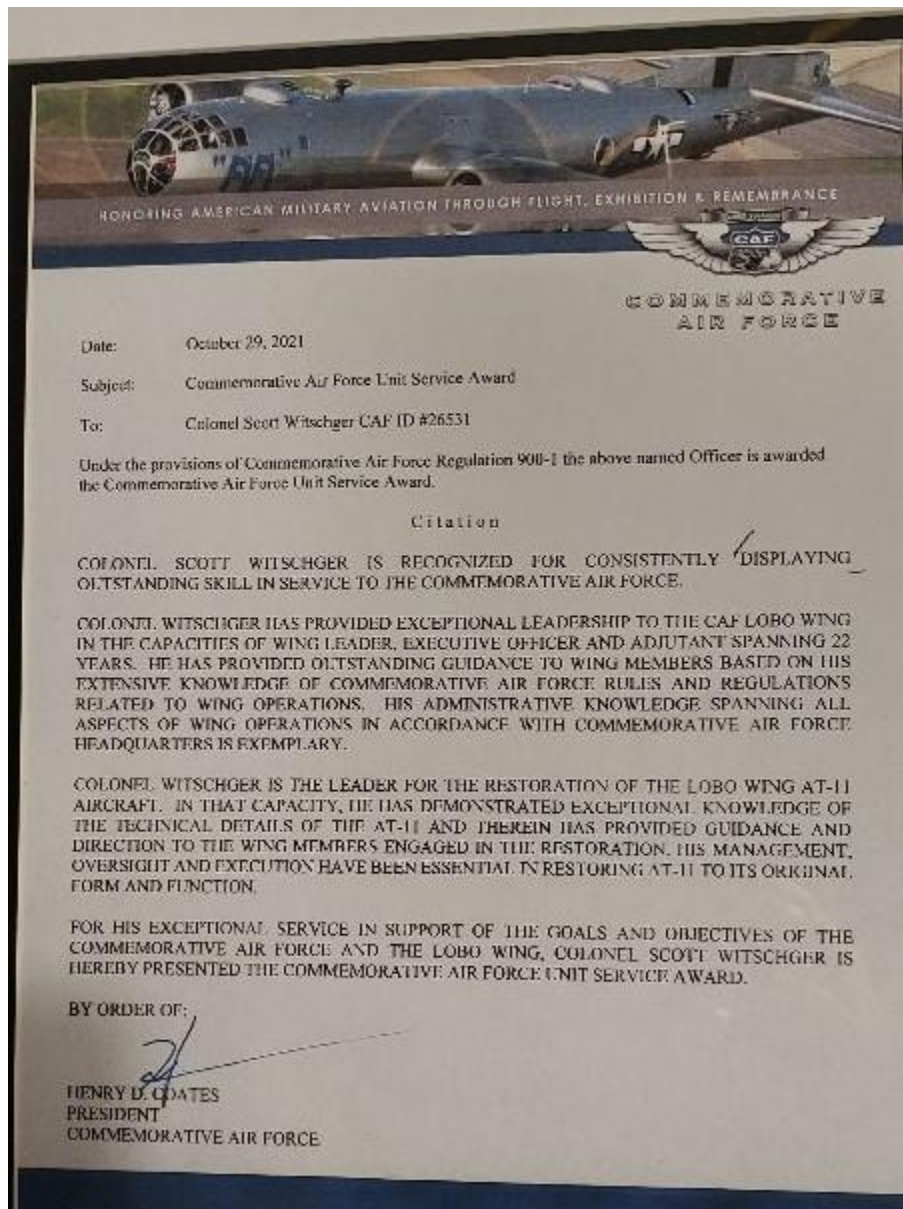
It's always difficult when we lose members of the Lobo Wing. This one was even more difficult because Scott was so involved with so many things in the hangar. After he joined the Lobo Wing we discovered he was a man of many talents, especially anything mechanical. On any given day he could be found working on more than one project, whether it be the Jeep, the Tug or his favorite, the AT-11. It could be engines, flight controls, sheet metal, fuel systems, etc. If it was something he hadn't done before he would do research, figure it out and get it done. As the Assistant AT-11 Project Officer he was intimately familiar with the aircraft, spending countless hours on the computer doing research to "get it right".



After he passed, his kids came in to town to take care of his affairs. The one thing that they kept repeating was how happy he was to be fulfilling one of his dreams to work on a WWII airplane. We were very lucky to help him fulfill this dream

Wing Leader Scott Witschger Awarded Unit Service Award by CAF Headquarters

As most of you know Scott Witschger is our Wing Leader and the Project Officer for the AT-11 project. Recently he was recognized by Headquarters in Dallas for the contributions he has made to the wing and the AT-11 project.





LARRY DALTON (L) AWARDING SCOTT WITSCHGER

Congratulations to Scott. Well done and Well deserved!

AT-11 Update

As previously mentioned above, our AT-11 project experienced a big setback with the passing of Scott Ruyle. However, we will soldier on as we must. Shortly after his passing we had a meeting to determine what Scott was working on (almost too many to count) and where he was with the progress of each item. After a few hours of meeting with most members who are working on the AT-11 and surveying the work areas around the AT-11 we were able to ascertain the status of most jobs. As always in situations like this there will be the inevitable question of “what was he thinking about this and what was he going to do with it?”. We have some pretty talented folks who will be scratching their heads for awhile but we’ll figure it out.

With any luck by the time this gets published we will have had a visit from the Cimarron Wing in Oklahoma with their C-45. One of their members, Greg Downing, is a pilot, A&P/IA and former operator of a fleet of C-45s and has offered to fly down and let us look at their plane and also look over our plane. We are at the point where we need some experienced advice on a few items and Greg’s will be very welcome.

PT-26 Update



If you have visited the Lobo Wing hangar recently you've probably noticed the PT-26 tail sitting on a milk crate (steel not plastic) waiting for the tailwheel to be rebuilt. As has been previously mentioned in the newsletter the PT has a history of tailwheel shimmy and it was getting worse. So we pulled the whole assembly off and gave it to our ace machinist, William (Billy) Lothrop for a complete overhaul. Billy replaced every bushing and machined the fitting between the strut and tailwheel fork so it is very tight. After a reinstallation and signoff by our maintenance officer, Chuck Swanberg, a taxi test was completed on 20 January and lo and behold no shimmy! And on 22 January the PT had a test flight and everything went well.

Billy spent most of his Navy career working on much bigger machinery (destroyers and such) so this aviation stuff is a new experience for him. He does superb work!



BILLY LOTHROP AT WORK

New PT-26 Pilot Trainee Mitch Wainwright



MITCH ON HIS FIRST TRAINING FLIGHT

It's been a long time since we've had a "new" pilot for the PT-26. After getting approval from HQ to start training and getting his tailwheel endorsement (most of his time is as a "nosedragger" pilot) Mitch finally got his first flight on 22 January with instructor Andy Wells. According to both pilots everything went well and after a few more hours and landings Mitch will be added to our PT-26 pilot roster. Then maybe we can fly the PT more often.

CAF Conference

Every year CAF Headquarters has a conference in Dallas which everyone in the CAF is invited to attend. This years conference will be 17-20 February and it will be held at the CAF National Airbase which is located in the brand new Henry B. Tippie National Aviation Education Center at Executive Airport in Dallas. Many topics of interest such as Fundraising, Education, Finance, Operations, Safety, Social Media, Public Information Officer, PX and Maintenance are covered in numerous breakout sessions throughout the 3 day event. This is a great opportunity for everyone to learn more about the CAF. All sessions are usually followed with a question and answer opportunity. If you're interested go to the members section of the Commemorative Air Force website.

Questions or comments about Lobo Chatter should be directed to:

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