

Commemorative Air Force
Training Squadron One

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Dear Traron Members,

There has been a lot happening since my last letter at the first of the year. To begin with, I am happy to report that Traron has been recognized by the organization for the good work that we have done over the years. I recently attended the Winter Staff Conference along with quite a few of our members to plead our case for improvements to the trainer ramp; which I will address in a later paragraph. During the awards dinner, Traron was awarded a Unit Citation Award for our outstanding service and safety record. I will enclose a copy of the citation for you all to read. I was very proud of this award since it was presented to Traron for our accomplishments and not because we applied for it. It was because all of you have worked so diligently to learn new skills, train others in those skills and always keep safety at the forefront of your thoughts and efforts. Congratulations to all of you for a job very well done. I am humbled to know that I have been allowed to be the leader of this group for the last 4 years.

Now for some words concerning the trainer ramp at Midland. As always, money is the big issue. It is clear that the ramp won't be fixed to our satisfaction in the near future. We did however, get the point across to the general staff that the situation on the ramp was untenable and something would have to be done to change the parking situation or very few of our members, especially those flying their own aircraft, would be willing to attend future air shows at Midland. I will be working with Eric Van Hof and Bill Coombs well in advance of this years event to find a workable solution to the problem. We may even elect to stage our flight out of Schleemeyer. For this years show, this might be an advantage to us since the powers that be want to have 60 airplanes in the air at one time to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the end of the war. If we stage out of Schleemeyer, we would have the time to set up our flights to fly over the airport in one of the large formations that we use at Oshkosh and have been unable to use at Midland because of time constraints. I think this would be very impressive for the spectators since many of them have not gone to Oshkosh and have not seen these large and historic flights. Make plans to attend this year's show so we can field at least 24 to 28 aircraft.

This year's training season has already begun. The Inland Empire Wing in Riverside, Ca. held their annual formation clinic at the end of January and it was a great success. The turnout was smaller than usual but those that attended had a great time and we got a lot of training done. We also had the opportunity to field a couple flights with our more advanced formation pilots to work on a few more difficult maneuvers that we don't often have time to work on when we have a large number of new trainees. Besides being great training missions, they were also a hell of a

lot of fun. With these advanced formations, we also had the opportunity to put some of our new guys in the back seats of the airplanes so they could see just how to do some of the things that we had been telling them about in our ground school and briefings. . Observing first hand can be a very powerful training aid at times. The folks at the Inland Empire Wing did their usual bang up job of making everyone feel welcome and sending us all home a couple pounds heavier from all the great food.

The next clinic will be sponsored by the Dixie Wing in Peach Tree City, Ga. This clinic will be held over the weekend of April 29-30 and May 1. If you are interested in attending this event, contact Skipper Hyle at skipperh@earthlink.net or call him at 678-283-0083. E-mail is probably the quickest way to reach Skipper if you have access to a computer. This promises to be a really good event but notice the change in venue from Bessemer, Al. to Peach Tree City, Ga.

Later in May, the Golden Gate Wing in the Bay Area will hold their annual West Coast Formation Clinic. The dates for this event will be May 20-21-22. This is always a great event due to good weather, good facility, good attendance, and a fun program. Contact for this event is Jim Booth at 707-280-8259 or Stacy Roads at 5101-783-1455 or WCFC05@aol.com.

The last planned event for the year will be our CAF home event to be held at Odessa in conjunction with Airsho 05 in the fall. I will have more info for you on this clinic later in the summer so stay tuned.

The Arizona Wing had talked about holding a clinic in Phoenix this spring but I don't know where that stands at the moment so if any of you Phoenix guys have any further info please let me know.

Well, that's about all the news I have for you right now. I look forward to seeing all of you at one of the upcoming events. Remember, formation flying is a skill that deteriorates with time. Get all the practice that you can to remain as safe and effective as possible.

Keep em' Flying

Rick

P.S. Remember that you can access you member and activity information along with other pertinent info about Traron at mydocsonline.com. The login is traron and the password is formation.