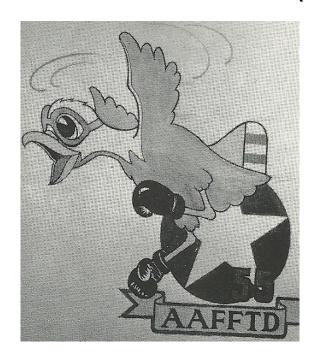
55th AAF FLYING TRAINING DETACHMENT (PRIMARY)



MISSION

LINEAGE

55th AAF Flying Training Detachment (Primary)

STATIONS

Bennettsville Municipal Airport, SC

ASSIGNMENTS

WEAPON SYSTEMS

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT SERIAL NUMBERS

BT-13A

PT-13B

PT-13D

PT-17

PT-19B

PT-22

PT-23

PT-27

COMMANDERS

Maj Frank X. Bradley

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The Georgia Air Service and the Army Air Forces Training Detachment, Bennettsville, South Carolina, gained its origin through the efforts of Cody Laird and Ralph Lockwood of Atlanta, Georgia. Application was made for contract to operate a primary school on April 6, 1941, and authority received on June 23, 1941. Laird and Lockwood had been busy prior to this date in the investigation of proposed sites and after studying several locations decided upon land near the city of Bennettsville in South Carolina. This area is well adapted for flying because of its terrain and climatic conditions. The region being quite level, well wooded with many large open areas devoted to agriculture and a minimum of atmospheric conditions to prevent flying. The construction contract was given to the Wessel Construction Company of Memphis, Tennessee, and work began on July 15, 1941, and reached completion during late September, 1941. Additions were made during the spring of 1942 so that the establishment now consists of two large hangars and a flight building in the flying department; an administration building, 13 barracks, a mess hall, an academic building and a hospital as the administrative faction.

The United States Army supervisory personnel began to arrive during August 1941, and the school began flying operations during this month by the selection and flying instruction to pilots who were to as civilian flying instructors. The original Army personnel consisted of Captain Robert A. Breitweiser as Commanding Officer.

Air Force Order of Battle Created: 14 Aug 2012 Updated:

Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL. Unit yearbook. 55 AAF Flying Training Detachment, Bennettsville, SC. Army and Navy Publishing Co, Inc. Baton Rouge, LA. 1943.