



Spooky & The CAF Ghost Squadron

Photo Credit: Commemorative Air Force



The Commemorative Air Force (CAF) owns and operates a fleet of historic military aircraft known as the Ghost Squadron™. More than just a collection of airworthy warbirds from the past, these aircraft recreate, remind, and reinforce the lessons learned from the defining moments in American military aviation history.

CAF's SPOOKY New Addition

The newest addition to the fleet is an AC-47 gunship named Spooky, which arrived at the CAF National Airbase in July 2024. AC-47s were made from converted C-47 Skytrains, a cargo aircraft commonly used during World War II. By adding armament, the aircraft could act as a fire-support aircraft, providing cover for ground troops during the Vietnam War. See the article attached to the newsletter to learn more about AC-47 Spooky.

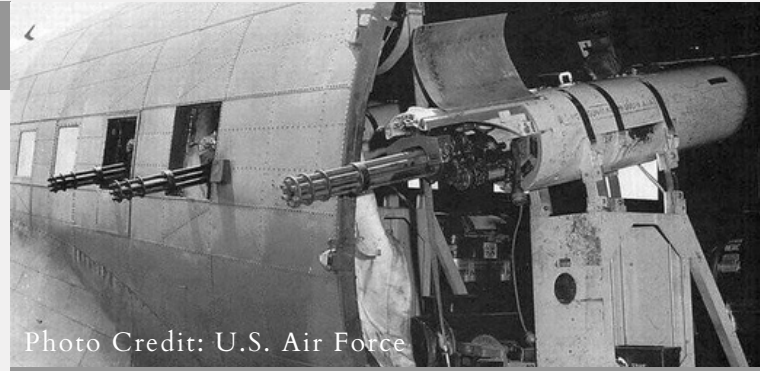


Photo Credit: U.S. Air Force

Ghostly Nose Art



Photo Credit: U.S. Air Force

AC-47s were the first of a series of fixed-wing gunships that entered service with the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War. These gunships were equipped with three miniguns along the pilot side of the aircraft that could shoot down from the sky at a rate of 6,000 rounds per minute each. When appearing at night, out of the darkness, and lighting up the sky and the ground below, the AC-47s were an ominous sight. The attack aircraft were soon nicknamed Spooky. Later, ghostly nose art would be donned on the airplanes, and the lightning bolt held in the phantom's hand represented the aircraft's raw firepower.

Artistic Legacy

The tradition of applying nose art to aircraft dates back to the dawn of aviation. In World War I, the fabric-covered biplanes were often adorned with shark teeth. By World War II, nose art became a widespread phenomenon in the American military and included pin-up girls, cartoons, and more. The aircraft's nose art would become a symbol of the aircrew. You can see one of the largest World War II Nose Art collections at the Henry B. Tippie National Aviation Education Center in Dallas.



Photo Credit: NAEC

LEARN MORE ABOUT WWII NOSE ART

CAF Warbird Tube: Nose Art:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JAEysnVBAXg>

CAF Warbird Tube: Aviation Art:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EclT4u3_DsY&t=1829s

Match Up Halloween Creature Wings

Engineers have studied various animals, especially birds, to design more efficient aircraft. Let's explore how the wings of an owl, vulture, raven, and bat may have inspired modern flight. Read the clues below and match them to the correct animal.

Uncover how the designs found in nature, particularly those of birds and bats, have influenced human technology. Biomimicry teaches us that we can develop improved solutions for our challenges by observing the natural world.



One aerial creature employs its adaptable, webbed wings to execute distinct flight patterns. Technology innovators are drawing inspiration from this creature's wings to design drones.



Engineers create stealth aircraft to operate quietly. Similarly, this creature moves through the night without producing a sound, smoothly gliding through the air as it hunts.

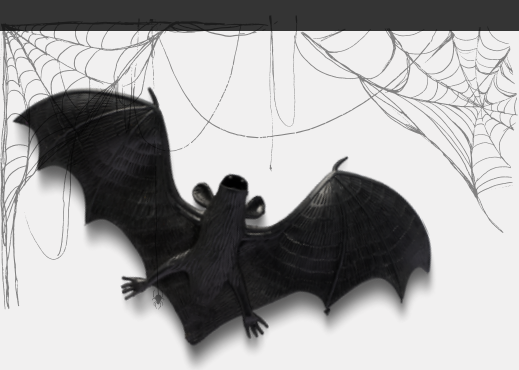


Airplanes that need to perform maneuvers, like rapid turns during flight, often take inspiration from birds known for their acrobatics in the sky. One such bird is highly intelligent and can effortlessly perform aerial feats.



Some airplanes are designed to glide through the air with minimal energy, much like birds that soar for hours without flapping their wings. These creatures ride thermal currents to stay in the sky.





Bat Paper Airplane Tutorial

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