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○ MAY 2008

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THE FLYER

Newsletter of the Robins AFB Post: Society of American Military Engineers



Details on upcoming Miller Brewing Company Plant Tour. This month, schedule to attend the Miller Brewing Company, Albany, Georgia on May 21 from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Read this issue of The Flyer for history of the award-winning plant and tour requirements.

Miller Brewing Company Plant Tour

The Miller Brewing Company, located in Albany, Georgia has been in operation since 1978 at the former Turner Air Force Base Installation known as Turner Field.

Miller Brewery produces approximately 7 million barrels of beer annually at its Albany brewery. With over 550 employees and a payroll of more than \$30 million dollars, Miller Brewing is among the largest employers in the Albany area.

Miller Brewing purchases a wide array of goods and services from local and state-based companies. From bottle crowns to barley and corrugated cardboard to cans, the ingredients, supplies, equipment and services that Miller Brewing purchases generates additional local economic activity and provides a substantial economical impact to the community. In fact, Miller Brewing is one of the largest customers of many area vendors. Local purchases include containers, maintenance parts and a vast array of engineering and technical services.

Miller Brewing Company was presented the "1999 Manufacturer of the Year Award" by

then-Governor Roy Barnes on behalf of the Georgia Association of Manufacturers. Miller was commended for its outstanding manufacturing process and corporate citizenship. The Georgia Economic Development Association awarded Miller Brewing Company the "2000 Industry of the Year Award" in Region 10.

SAME Tour

The SAME Miller Brewing Co. Plant Tour has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 21 from 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm. A dedicated tour bus will be provided to shuttle attendees between Robins AFB and the Brewery, located in Albany, Georgia. Attendees must pre-register by contacting Mr. Bill Nagel, SAME Robins Post Secretary, at (478) 328-6181, ext. 21 or via email at bnagel@geosyntec.com. All registrants will be provided with a confirmation number which must be provided to access the tour bus and participate in the tour. Please do not delay and register today. Seating is limited! Please read tour requirements in the "What's Coming Up" section on page 2.



Georgia Engineers Summer Conference June 12th – 14th

The Georgia Engineers' Summer Conference will be held on June 12-14. For additional information please see:

<http://www.acecga.org/Events/2008/2008SummerConference/08SummerConferenc>

Earth Day on the Greens Golf Tournament



Golfers enjoy the day on the course at the Pine Oaks Golf Club at Robins AFB. Although no one sank the hole in one, everyone enjoyed the day.



The Robins AFB Earth Day on the Greens Golf Tournament was held on April 25th.

The tournament was presented by Environmental Management and the Society of American Military Engineers .

The Tournament featured an 18 hole course with putting and team chipping competitions.

SAME would like to thank all of sponsors and volunteers that made this event possible.

Many Thanks to Everyone that 'chipped in' (no pun intended!) from the SAME Robins Post

Spotlight on Sustaining Member Firms: All Sustaining Member Firms

This month, in lieu of the Spotlight on one firm, we are focusing on all the great work that our Sustaining Members have done for the Robins Post over the past year. The Sustaining Member firms are integral to the success of a Post's program, serving as Post officers, assisting in professional development, and providing the necessary support during fund raising events.

Five of the Post's officers are from Sustaining Member firms: Mike Coats with Earth Tech, Bill Nagel with Geosyntec Consultants, Paul Koch with Mactec, Steve Hvizdzak with Tapa and Ken Branton with URS Corporation.

A listing of the Sustaining Member Firms is presented on page 6 of the Flyer.

Each month, one sustaining member is given five minutes to give a "Spotlight" on their firm.

The Earth Day on the Greens Golf Tournament in April (please see article this page) was setup and coordinated by **Tapa, EC**, and sponsored by several sustaining member firms, including Cape, EarthTech, Geosyntec, Mactec, Tapa and

URS.

To cap off the year, the SAME Robins Post is currently an established, self-sustaining Post with Distinction.

The vision for the Robins Post is to continue to grow and continue to partner with the Base and the Community, as well as partner with our future engineers, including Mercer University staff and students.



WHAT'S COMING UP...

SAME Tour; No General Meeting will be conducted this month

Upcoming Dates in 2008

Miller Brewing Company Plant Tour—
May 21

* Please see pages 1, 3, 4 & 5

June:

June SAME Meeting—June 18

Georgia Engineers' Summer
Conference—June 12 - 14

** Please see page 1 for additional
information

July:

July SAME Meeting—July 16

"Environmental Issues are Changing our
Future Sources of Energy and Costs"

Mr. Jimmy Autry, Sr. VP of
Community and Member Relations;
Flint Energies

** Miller Brewing Company Albany, GA Plant Tour

The tour is scheduled for **May 21 from 1:30pm - 3:30pm**. An advance list of personnel attending is needed, and each person must meet the following requirements:

- everyone must wear closed-toe shoes (no exceptions)
- everyone must wear shirts/blouses with at least 3-inch sleeves (no exceptions)

The tour group will be required to arrive at the Officer's Club/Horizons parking lot no later than 10:45 am, and the bus will depart promptly at 11:00 am. After the tour, the tour bus will return and drop off attendees at the O-Club at approximately 5:15 pm. Please see Page 1 for additional information and tour sign-up reservation procedures.

Historic Tale from Air Base to Brewery – Turner AFB (Turner Field) to Miller Brewing Company

SAME Mission

“To promote and facilitate engineering support for national security by developing and enhancing relationships and competencies among uniformed services, public and private sector engineers, and related professionals.”

SAME Vision

“To be a premier global engineering organization leading the professional and personal growth of all members in support of military readiness and development of solutions to national security challenges.”

TURNER FIELD History (1941 - 1998)

The Beginning - World War II - This excerpt 'tells the story' of the beginning of Turner Field - and starts World War II history in Albany, Georgia.

THE BUILDING OF TURNER FIELD - A GIFT FROM ALBANY, GA TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT

*(Adapted from an article in **The Albany Herald**, Sunday, April 26, 1992 and written by Janet Bean, then curator of Thronateeska Heritage Foundation of Albany, Georgia Our thanks to **The Albany Herald**.)*

In the summer of 1940, Major Peacock of the United States Army Air Corps approached the Albany Chamber of Commerce about the possibility of locating a new Army Air Corps training facility in Albany. Albany's terrain, sparseness of population and weather made it ideal for the training of pilots. The Chamber investigated several sites, looking for proximity to rivers, railroads and utilities.

The Army initially liked a site in Lee County and the city of Albany took out options to buy the land. Further investigation and deliberation by the Army, however, resulted in the choice of a site east of the Flint River in Dougherty County, four miles from Albany.

The city canceled its options on the Lee County land and purchased options on the new site. The Industrial Committee of the Chamber consisting of John Davis, E.H. Kalmon, C.M. Herrick, J.T. Phillips, W.B. Haley, A.C. Gortatowsky, C.Q. Wright and A.E. Runnels, began a drive to raise the money necessary to purchase the land for the base.

The committee raised \$50,000 by subscription - A mean sum for an area hard hit by the Depression and still reeling from the tornado that had devastated downtown Albany in February of that year. The city added a further \$30,000.



The land was purchased from the R.L. Jones estate and presented to the city by the Chamber and an additional 200 acres were bought by the city for \$15,000. Further purchases of land were made in Lee County for four auxiliary fields. A total of 4,753,817.5 acres were purchased for the main base and other fields.

The city leased the property to the United States government for \$1 per year on lease with a 99 year option, renewable each year. The city also leased an office at 113 1/2 Pine Street from the Smith Lumber Company as a WAC enrollment center. Housing for WAC recruits was acquired at the Henry Binns Hotel at \$1.50 per person per day.

Hygiene stations for soldiers were leased in town at 226 Highland Avenue for black troops and at 242 1/2 Broad Avenue for white troops. Each station cost the government \$25 per month.

The Army contracted with the Holloway Construction for the building of the base. Civilian workers came from all over the South to work on the construction job. Local contractors were hired to fill smaller jobs such as erecting steel fences around the bases and building the base chapel. Construction under the supervision of the Army Engineers began on March 25, 1941.

All water for the base was purchased from the Albany Water, Gas and Light Commission. Georgia Northern was engaged to build a railway spur to Turner Field at a cost of \$20,475.



Did you ever hear of Captain Eddie Rickenbacker? That's Cap'n Eddie, third from the left. The World War I flying ace (26 kills) was an inspirational leader in World War II, and at one time was lost at sea for 24 days following an airplane crash. He was later president of Eastern Airlines. This picture shows him at Turner Field during the war, with Base Commander Colonel John B. Patrick, (left) and two other unidentified leaders. (Photo courtesy of the Army Air Corps).



THE MILITARY AT TURNER FIELD - A SUMMARY 1941-1976

(Adapted in part from the [31st Wing Air Force Year Book](#) - Turner Air Base, Albany, GA 1957 and in part from *The Albany Herald*, April 26, 1992).

1946-1947 THE MILITARY LEFT - BUT RETURNED:

After the end of hostilities, Turner Air Base was deactivated from 15 August 1946 until 1 September 1947. The 2621st AAF Base Unit arrived from Barksdale Field, Louisiana and acted as caretakers. During these months of inactive status, Turner was a part of the Air Training Command.

1947-1965 THE KOREAN WAR ERA, OPERATION FOX PETER ONE, VIETNAM WAR ERA:

1958 - WELCOME TO THE B-52 BOMBERS & THE RETURN OF TURNER FIELD to STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND:

With reactivation, Turner Air Base was transferred to the Tactical Air Command's Ninth Air Force. On 20 November 1947, the [31st Fighter Group](#), a veteran unit that had served in Europe and the Mediterranean theaters in World War II and had only recently returned from a tour of duty in Germany, was stationed at Turner and became its principal operational component. Through the following years, this unit remained in assignment at Turner.

During this time, both Turner and the 31st wing were placed under different major air commands. In December 1948, they became associated with Continental Air Command and Fourteenth Air Force, remaining under this jurisdiction until July 1950. They then became under the Strategic Air Command's Second Air Force. On 1 April 1957, Turner and the [31st Wing](#) were reunited with the Tactical Air Command's Ninth Air Force.

Almost simultaneously the Wing's tactical vehicle, the Republic F-84F "Thunderstreak" was changed to the North American F-100 "Super Sabre". Aerial refueling capability for the Wing was increased as the KB-50 refueling aircraft replaced the KB-29. Prior to April 1, the Wing was rated as the foremost Strategic Fighter Wing in the SAC. The adoption of the new tactical and refueling aircraft immediately caused the wing to become non-combat ready. It began a long struggle to regain and maintain its high degree of readiness in the new and complex equipment.



Many other Air Force units were from time to time assigned to Turner, some temporarily and others for their life span. Foremost of these units was SAC's 40th Air Force Division which was activated in March 1951 and inactivated on 1 April 1957. The 508th Strategic Fighter Wing lived its life span at Turner from July 1952 until May 1956. The 408th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, formed of personnel of the 508th and the 4025th Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron, which moved to Turner from a base in Ohio in May 1956 stayed until 1 April 1957. Upon the transfer of the 31st to the Ninth Air Force on that date, the 408th was transferred to Laughlin Air Force Base, Del Rio Texas.

From its reactivation in 1947, the principal mission of Turner Air Force Base was operation of tactical air wings for Combat Readiness. Air base groups were used in support of this mission. In 1947, the 357th AAF unit was followed by the 31st Air Base Group in March 1951 and the 811th Air Base Group in July 1951. (The latter was transferred to the 31st Air Base Group on 25th September 1957 and contributed immensely to its accomplishments.)

The base became the installation of the strategic Air Command, with the 484th Bombardment Wing and the 1370th [Photo Mapping Wing](#) assigned as tenant commands.



1967 - WELCOME TO THE NAVY:

On July 1, 1967, the Base was commissioned by the Navy as the Naval Air Station, Albany. (see [Naval Air Station](#)).

July, 1974 - TURNER AIR.....

Auf Wiedersehen, Au Revoir, 'Til we meet again.

The base, then known as the Naval Air Station in Albany, closed for good in 1974. For Albany, it meant a loss of at least 3,000 jobs and sent the unemployment rate of the city soaring to 11 percent according to Lamar Clifton, then Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce.

1974-1979 DIFFICULT YEARS AT TURNER:

Community leaders accepted the major challenge for redevelopment of Turner Field, and by 1976, the first new industry (Kroger/Tara Foods) was acquired for one of the buildings, with major reconstruction and 80+ new jobs. This was very important, as Albany went to school on how to deal with "Uncle Sam" in such a major redevelopment effort. This was critical to further dealings concerning Miller Brewing and eight or ten other transactions that led to a textbook redevelopment effort, referred to by officials of the General Services Administration as a classic. Many former military installations, once closed by the Federal government have been fallow for years, and in some cases decades. But for Albany, Miller was a major segment of the three year period 1978-1980 that saw a virtual \$3/4 billion capital expenditure for Albany, including Miller, Delco-Remy, Procter & Gamble expansion and several service and complimentary industries. ([Lamar Clifton, A First State Legacy, page 17.](#))



An artist's rendering of Miller Brewing Company's 10 million barrel brewery located in Albany, Georgia. Ground breaking for the brewery was initiated in 1978. The facility occupies 1.2 million square feet and cost \$247 million to build. The site was the former Turner Air Force Base, located in the northeast quadrant of Albany.

1979 - ALBANY WELCOMES MILLER TO TURNER FIELD:

Please plan to join us on this process engineering tour. Seating is limited, so please do not delay! Sign up today...



2008 - SAME ROBINS POSTTOUR WELCOMED BY MILLER BREWING CO. TO TURNER FIELD:

Please plan to join us...

For additional information: go to <http://www.turnerfield-miller.com/miller.htm>

They're jealous of Albany's Miller Brewery

They say there are 65,000 job applications on file at the Miller Brewing Co., Albany brewery.

The \$320 million facility is reportedly the world's largest brewery on one site. Selection of Albany from among 248 other cities has delighted him even from Albany's sister cities in nearby Florida. Tallahassee and Panama City officials are still squaring over being runner-up to Albany, Georgia in the acquisition of the world's most coveted plant.

The brewery will reach a capacity of \$10 million barrels of beer annually when it swings into full operation. Miller occupies 1.2 million square feet or 53 acres under one roof. The facility is located on a 1,707 acre site on what used to be Turner Air Force Base.

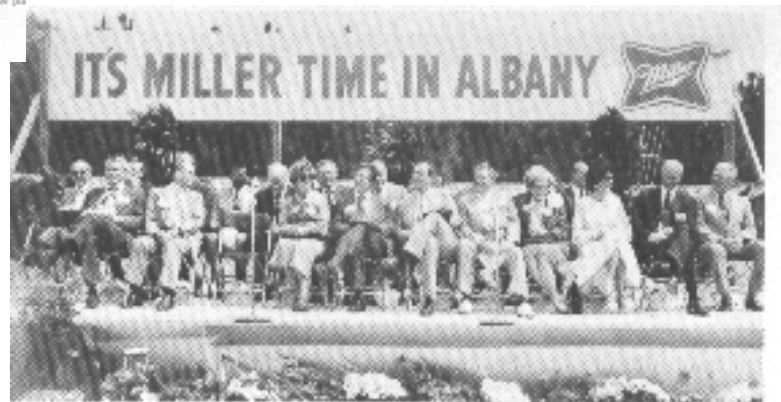
When at last the Miller plant here reaches the 10 million barrel capacity, 1,000 persons will be employed at unheard of hourly rates for Albany, Georgia.

The annual economic impact on the state of Georgia in terms of salaries, wages, production costs, material purchases, is expected to exceed to nearly \$180 million annually.

As an auxiliary to the brewery, Miller's \$22 million waste water treatment plant, capacity to treat 6.1 million gallons per day, is the third largest waste water plant state of Georgia.

Todd Clay (right) keeps the public informed of Miller's growth here. The brewery expects to maintain a force of 1,000 employees

when the plant reaches a 10 million barrel a year:



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