

## **55 AAF FLYING TRAINING DETACHMENT (PRIMARY)**



### **MISSION**

### **LINEAGE**

55 AAF Flying Training Detachment (Primary)

### **STATIONS**

Bennettsville Municipal Airport, South Carolina

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

### **COMMANDERS**

Maj Frank X. Bradley

### **HONORS**

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

### **EMBLEM**

## **MOTTO**

## **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.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

Created: 19 Feb 2025

Updated:

### Sources

Unit yearbook. *55 AAF Flying Training Detachment, Bennettsville, SC*. Army and Navy Publishing Co, Inc. Baton Rouge, LA. 1943.