

Taking Your Legacy to the PEOPLE

By Sean M. Brady

From the first canvas-covered liaison planes of World War II to the high-tech, rotary-wing gunships of the present, Army aviation's contributions to our nation and its armed forces have been enormous. Yet few citizens recognize the important role that Army aviation has played in shaping our nation's history. The Army Aviation Heritage Foundation (AAHF) is working to change this historical lack of public knowledge and understanding by bringing the story of Army aviation to the American people.

In the March/April 1998 issue of *Army Aviation*, founding AAHF member MG Morris J. Brady (Ret.) discussed the mission and potential of the AAHF. At the time, the initial AAHF organizational and acquisition efforts were underway, and membership and community involvement were just getting started. Now — three years, 622 members and 22 flyable Army aircraft later — the AAHF would like to report back to the members of the Army Aviation Association of America on the success of AAHF's mission and its multiple outreach programs.

Mission and People

AAHF's primary mission is the education and inspiration of the American public through the sharing of

AAHF's primary mission is the education and inspiration of the American public through the sharing of the heritage of Army aviation.

the heritage of Army aviation. The driving force behind the foundation is its diverse and talented organization of volunteers, currently numbering over 600 and located across the United States. The vast majority of the foundation is composed of current or former military personnel, many from Army aviation. Yet military service is not a requirement for participation -

all that is necessary is a desire to help share the story of Army aviation.

AAHF is an all-volunteer organization and all vital functions — from maintenance to marketing to air assaults to air show narration — are performed by volunteers.

Air Shows and Aircraft

The AAHF team leads an extensive air show outreach program throughout the eastern United States and organizes a variety of educational opportunities with schools, civic organizations and Boy Scout troops. Each educational outreach effort gives the public an authentic demonstration of the soldiers, equipment and role of Army aviation in American military history, delivered with a meaningful and patriotic presentation to instill public pride and enthusiasm for the accomplishments of Army aviation and America.

The AAHF outreach program emphasizes the air show as its most effective method of educating the American public. By taking the story of Army aviation to the people via air shows, the AAHF offers an exciting and effective new method of sharing the story of Army aviation with the public.

The AAHF's current air show program is composed of three modules that represent the three main eras of modern Army aviation — World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

The World War II module includes an authentic L-4B "Grasshopper" aircraft and authentic WW II ground vehicles to relive the story of the birth of modern Army aviation.

The association's Vietnam-era AH-1 Cobra gunship flies over the Mall and Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. Restored and maintained by the AAHF, the Cobra helps tell the Army aviation story at airshows across the country.

