



Media Advisory
For Immediate Release

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Symposium Highlights New Aircraft, Vietnam and the future of Aviation

May 6-8, 2009

Pensacola, Fla.—April 30, 2009—The Naval Aviation Museum Foundation’s 23rd Annual Naval Aviation Symposium brings together military elite Wednesday through Friday, May 6–8 at the National Naval Aviation Museum for three days of exciting events including a golf tournament, performances by the Navy Band New Orleans, panel discussions and a book signing with Commander Kenny W. Fields, USN (Ret), author of the exhilarating narrative “Rescue of Streetcar 304,” a 40-hour ordeal that became one of the largest and more harrowing air rescues of the Vietnam War.

Session I, entitled “Something New in the Air: A Look at the Latest in Naval Aviation,” will kick off the Symposium series at 9:45 a.m. on Thursday, May 7. Discussions will highlight three new aircraft that will join the Navy’s arsenal in the 21st century. The MV-22 *Osprey*, a tilt-rotor assault aircraft, brings a whole new dimension to air assault by combining the best features of rotary wing with the speed, range and carrying capacity of fixed wing. Support for strike forces will come from Boeing’s new E/A-18G *Growler*, an aircraft that is not only an EW platform, but adds a strike punch to its capabilities. It replaces the Grumman EA-6B aircraft. The latest in fighter aircraft, the F-35 *Lightning II* is a new generation of fighter/attack aircraft that will ensure American air superiority for decades to come. Both the Navy’s carrier version, the F-35C, and the Marine Corps’ STOVAL version, the F-35B, will be discussed.

The panel discussion will be moderated by Lieutenant General John Castellaw, USMC (Ret), a 1990 Cunningham Award recipient as the Marine Aviator of the Year. Joining him is Captain Bradley S. Russell, USN; Colonel Arthur Tomassetti, USMC; Major Steven R. Turner, USMC; and Lieutenant Commander Michael A. Wilson, USN.

Other symposium events include:

- **Golf Tournament.** Noon–4 p.m., Wednesday, May 6 at A.C. Read aboard NAS Pensacola.
- **Navy Band New Orleans Concert.** 7:45–8:30 a.m., Thursday, May 7 in the Blue Angels Atrium. The 18-member ensemble will fill the air with big band, jazz and patriotic music.
- **Panel Discussion Session I –“Something New in the Air: A Look at the Latest in Naval Aviation”** 9:45–11:45 a.m., Thursday, May 7 in the Blue Angels Atrium.
- **Luncheon on the Flightdeck.** Noon–1:15 p.m., Thursday, May 7. Guest speaker: Commander Kenny W. Fields, USN (Ret).
- **Panel Discussion Session II –“Valiant Rescue Attempt: North Vietnam”** 1:30–3:30 p.m., Thursday, May 7 in the Blue Angels Atrium. Moderated by Rear Admiral Frederick L. Lewis, USN (Ret). Panelists include Mr. Robert W. Burnand, Jr.; Mr. Douglas G. Heggie; Captain

Edward G. Marsyla, USNR (Ret); Lieutenant Commander Rawson B. Mordhorst, USN (Ret); and Commander R. Deane Woods, USN (Ret).

- **Opening Reception on the Flightdeck.** 6–7:15 p.m., Thursday, May 7.
- **Banquet in the Blue Angels Atrium.** 7:15–9 p.m., Thursday, May 7. Guest Speaker: Admiral Patrick M. Walsh, USN, Vice Chief of Naval Operations.
- **Navy Band New Orleans Concert.** 9–9:45 a.m., Friday, May 8 in the Blue Angels Atrium. Navy Band New Orleans returns for an encore performance of patriotic music.
- **Panel Discussion Session III –“Naval Aviation: Issues and Answers”** 9:45–11:45 a.m., Friday, May 9 in the Blue Angels Atrium. Active Navy & Marine Corps flag and general officers will discuss the state of Naval Aviation. Issues covered by 7 Naval Officers include combat experience, personnel, training, deployment schedules and more.

The Symposium sessions are FREE and open to active duty and retired military as well as the general public. For more information or to reserve your seat, call the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation at (800) 327-5002 or (850) 453-2389, or go online to download a registration form at NavalAviationMuseum.org.

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Media Note: For more information about the National Naval Aviation Museum, contact Shelley Ragsdale, Naval Aviation Museum Foundation, Inc. at (850) 453-2389 or sragdale@navalaviationmuseum.org.

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About the National Museum of Naval Aviation

The National Naval Aviation Museum features nearly 300,000 square feet of displays and is one of the world’s largest aviation museums. Located aboard Pensacola Naval Air Station, the facility boasts more than 150 beautifully restored aircraft representing Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard aviation and is Florida’s most-visited museum. Among the countless things to touch, see and experience is a thrilling Top Gun flight simulator, a variety of special exhibits as well as the drama and power of amazing IMAX® films. The Cubi Bar Café offers a unique dining experience, and the Flight Deck Store is the perfect place to find a memento of the spirit of Naval Aviation. Museum admission is FREE. The National Naval Aviation Museum is open everyday from 9 a.m.–5 p.m., except Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year’s Day. For more information, visit NavalAviationMuseum.org.

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