

# MEDIA RELEASE

**From the Greater Rockford Airport Authority**

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## **AirFest Releases Full Performer List Joe Marino named as AirFest 2009 Honorary Chair**

**Rockford, IL** – "Its official," said Airport Director Bob O'Brien, as he and Airport Authority Commission Chairman Mike Dunn formally announced this year's air show performers and the Honorary Chairman for AirFest 2009 which will be held on Saturday and Sunday, August 22 and 23 at Chicago Rockford International Airport (RFD) from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day.

"First it gives me great honor to announce that Joe Marino, Rockford's own "Mr. 4th of July" for nearly 50 years, has been selected as the Honorary Chairman for AirFest 2009. Joe, as many know, has given unselfishly to his hometown, Rockford, and our nation as well for most of his 82 years. He is a legend, and someone worthy of honor and emulation," said Chairman Dunn.

AirFest 2009 is going to be very unique in that RFD was selected as one of only six air show's in the world where the F-22 Demonstration team will perform as the featured act--an aircraft that is so highly classified that fewer than 100 people in the entire Midwest have likely ever seen one. "In addition to performing, another F-22 will be on static display, under armed guard, so people can have the opportunity to take pictures of this classified aircraft," O'Brien stated.

"We've been blessed by hosting the US Air Force Thunderbirds last year, and the US Navy Blue Angels in 2007; few communities can host the premier teams back to back. Now, Rockford will be able to host the F-22 team, something we held out for purposes of taking AirFest to yet another level," proclaimed Brian Boyer, Airport Commissioner and AirFest Board Liaison.

AirFest 2009 will also feature performances by (click on link for additional background on the performers and/or aircraft):

- F-22 Raptor Demonstration Team
- United States Navy "Leap Frog" Parachute Demonstration Team
- B-2 "Spirit" Bomber
- F-18 Navy "Hornet" Demonstration Team
- Aerostar's Flight Team
- The Firebird's "Delta" Team
- The vertical take-off AV-8 "Harrier"
- Sean D Tucker
- Bill Stein
- Dave Dacy "wing walkers"
- The "Collaborators"
- US Air Force "Heritage Flight"

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- US Navy "Legacy Flight"

In addition, we are anticipating the following static display aircraft types

B-52 H	A-10 Warthog
E-3C Sentry "AWACS"	E-6A Mercury
E-2C Hawkeye	C-130 Hercules
C-2 COD	CH-124 (Canadian Forces)
KC-135R Stratotanker	CH-146 (Canadian Forces)
KC-10 Tanker	E-4 Doomsday Plane
C-5 Galaxy	BAC 167Strikemaster
E/A-6B Prowler	DC-3
U-2 Spy Plane	T- 33 Shooting Star
CV-22 Osprey	T-28 Trojan
UH-60 Blackhawk Helicopter	L-39 Albatros
CH-47 Chinook Helicopter	UH-1 Medevac Helicopter
B-1B Lancer Bomber	Airbus A-300
T-38 Talon	OH-V1 Mohawk
T-33 Shooting Star	L.E.A.C. Helicopter
T-45 Goshawk	American Eagle ERJ-145
P-3 Orion Sub Hunter	L-3 Grasshopper
F-18 Hornet	L-4 Grasshopper
F-15 Eagle	American Airlines Boeing 737-800
F-16 Fighting Falcon	

Of course, one of the most talked about performances is "Rich's Incredible Pyro", which will leave everyone in awe and speechless. "If you've ever seen this performance, you truly know that the price of admission is covered by this act alone," O'Brien, who has attended over 20 annual air shows, said.

Tickets are \$15 for Adults, and \$5 for Kids (ages 6-12) at the gate on the day of the performances; kids 5 and under are FREE. The next 5,000 tickets to be sold will be discounted to \$7.00 per adult and \$2 per kids--representing at least 50% off the gate admission fee. These tickets can be obtained at the Airport Terminal Building and/or Administration Building from 8:00 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, until Friday July 24, or while supplies last, whichever happens first. The first 500 people to purchase tickets at the Terminal or Administration office can buy "An Official AirFest 2009 Souvenir T-shirt" for \$7.00.

Tickets can also be purchased and downloaded on-line at [www.flyrfd.com/airfest\\_tickets.html](http://www.flyrfd.com/airfest_tickets.html) for a \$2.00 "convenience fee" per ticket.

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