

MEDIA RELEASE

From the Greater Rockford Airport Authority

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AirFest Adds Four Additional Performers to Show Lineup B-1B Bomber and Navy's "Looking Glass" Added to Static Display Lineup

Rockford, IL – AirFest 2009, to be held at the Chicago Rockford International Airport (RFD) August 22-23, 2009, has added four additional military performers and two of the most sought after military aircraft in the world for public display.

AirFest attendees will be able to get a close up view of the USAF long range, swept wing, supersonic bomber the B-1B Lancer as well as see it perform in the air. Guests will also get to see performances by a UH-64 Apache Helicopter, a KC-135 Stratotanker, and a C-130 Hercules. Also on display will be the US Navy airborne command post E-6 Mercury, code name "Looking Glass" which has been portrayed in many movies including "Air Force One."

"When we released our show lineup back in July with 14 performers including the F-22 Raptor, the F-18 Hornet, the Aerostars, the Navy Leap Frogs, Sean D Tucker, Bill Stein, the B-2 Spirit, Art Nalls and the Sea Harrier to name a few, we all said that it was going to be a great show for the crowd. With the addition of these four new military acts and two sought after static aircraft, I think we have taken our show to an all new level," said RFD Executive Director Bob O'Brien. "The B1-B and the E-6 will be on display during the entire AirFest weekend along with 35-plus other military, commercial, civilian and war bird aircraft. This is your chance to see 50-plus acres of some of the most impressive aircraft in the world up close, with many being open for free of charge tours," he continued.

The USAF B-1B Lancer Bomber is the Air Force's supersonic component of its long range bomber force that includes the B-52 H (featured at AirFest 2007 and 2008) and the B-2 Stealth Bomber, which will fly over this year's AirFest during Saturday's show. With the retirement of the EF-111 and the famous F-14 Tomcat, the B-1B is the only active swept wing aircraft in the US arsenal. Capable of speeds of Mach 1.25 at altitude, the B-1B has an impressive array of modern technology. Nicknamed "The Bone", the B-1B is a much sought after but seldom seen aircraft at air shows.

The USN E-6 Mercury, code name "Looking Glass", is the Navy's Airborne Command Post designed to be the United States' communication link if NORAD's famous Cheyenne Mountain Operation's Center were made inoperable. It also is sometimes referred to as TACOMO (Take Charge and Move Out) as it was also designed to coordinate the Navy's ballistic missile submarines. During the Cold War era a "Looking Glass" aircraft was airborne 24/7, 365 days a year with one taking off and becoming airborne before the other landed. The E-6 is based at Tinker AFB in Oklahoma which will also be sending an E-3 Sentry AWACS aircraft with its 38' diameter rotating radar dome mounted 14 feet above the fuselage.

-MORE-

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For more info on the new performers please click on the links below:

[UH-64 Apache Helicopter](#)
[KC-135 Stratotanker](#)
[C-130 Hercules](#)

Military Tickets

As a special tribute to all the men and women who have served or continue to serve in our Armed Forces, RFD will offer current members of the military and veterans free admittance into AirFest on any date. Armed Forces members can receive their free admission ticket by coming to the box office on the day of the show. Active, National Guard, reserves along with dependants, and retired military will be required to present a copy of their military ID or their DD214 discharge orders and a photo ID prior to receiving their free ticket. These complimentary tickets are not available online, they must be claimed on the day you attend the show.

T-Shirts and General Admission Tickets

AirFest guests are encouraged to purchase the "Official AirFest 2009" T-Shirt which is on sale now, at reduced prices, but are in limited supply. During AirFest these shirts will sell for \$25. T-shirts can be purchased Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Passenger Services Counter in the Airport's Main Terminal Building or at the Administration Building.

Advance sale general admission tickets are also still on sale through the start of AirFest. Adult tickets currently 33% off the gate admission price while kids (6-12) tickets are 40% off the gate admission price. Advance sale tickets can either be purchased online or at the Passenger Services Counter in the Airport's Main Terminal Building or at the Administration Building Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

For more information regarding tickets, T-shirts, up-to-date performer and static display aircraft please visit www.flyrfd.com/airfest.html.

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