

MEDIA RELEASE

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RFD Announces AirFest Dates for 2010 and 2011 Thunderbirds and Blue Angels to Headline Next Two Years

Rockford, IL – Today in Las Vegas at the International Council of Air Shows (ICAS) Annual Conference, it was announced that Rockford AirFest 2010 and 2011 will be headlined by two of the world's elite demonstration teams. This is the first year that the jet teams announced a two-year schedule to assist in planning for the large community events across the United States.

AirFest 2010 will take place on Saturday, July 31 and Sunday, August 1 and will host the United States Air Force Thunderbird Demonstration Team. "We are incredibly gratified to have the Air Force Thunderbirds take part in AirFest 2010," said Bob O'Brien, RFD's Executive Director.

AirFest 2011 will feature the United States Navy Blue Angels. Show dates are tentatively set for Saturday, June 4 and Sunday, June 5, 2011. "Adding the Blue angels takes Rockford AirFest 2011 to the next level. AirFest 2011 will make six consecutive years of AirFest hosting a premier military jet team or demonstration team," O'Brien continued.

"This is truly an amazing opportunity that has been awarded to us. Having the ability to host some of the world's finest demonstration teams in the continuous fashion that we have, is a testament to the quality of show that we have produced year-in-and-year-out since 2005," said O'Brien. "I'm excited to have both six-ship teams return after an incredible AirFest 2009 featuring the F-22 Raptor Demonstration Team this past year."

"Very shortly we will be hosting an AirFest Celebration in the terminal putting tickets on sale and accepting applications for volunteers for AirFest 2010," said Geoff Oman, Special Events Manager for RFD. Each year Rockford AirFest relies on over 1,000 volunteers to make the annual event a huge community success. Volunteer applications will be available online at FlyRFD.com in late December.

O'Brien has said that he and his staff have learned a lot since 2005 about what it takes to put on a great air show here in Rockford and that culminated in the huge success that was AirFest 2009. Knowing their dates as far enough in advance as they do, especially for 2011, will allow ample planning to ensure that the next two shows build on the success of AirFest 2009 and make these future shows the best ones yet with top-quality performers and static displays.

For more information on AirFest 2010, please visit www.FlyRFD.com.

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