

AIMEDIA RELEASE

From the Greater Rockford Airport Authority

For Immediate Release: December 18, 2009

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RFD Formally Announces AirFest Dates and Headline Performer for 2010 Advance Tickets on Sale at Limited-Time, Introductory Prices

Rockford, IL – The Chicago Rockford International Airport (RFD) formally announced today at a news conference that AirFest 2010 will take place on Saturday, July 31 and Sunday, August 1 and be headlined by the United States Air Force Thunderbirds Demonstration Team. The theme for this year's AirFest is "Let Your Dreams Take Flight."

"We all remember that feeling when we were first exposed to the joys of aviation. AirFest is an amazing event for the current generation of folks to pass on that feeling to the next generation," said Executive Director Bob O'Brien. "It is also an event where people become aware of how deeply invested the Rock River Region is in the aviation industry. We have many aerospace manufacturers that are in close proximity to the airport that get a chance to show off what they do here in Rockford to the many attendees that come to AirFest," he continued.

Airfest 2010 marks the fifth consecutive year that AirFest has been headlined by a world-class demonstration team. Also joining the Thunderbirds as military acts are the Army's Golden Knights Parachute Team and the Navy's Leap Frog Parachute Team. AirFest 2010 will be the first time that both of the militaries premier parachute teams will perform at Rockford Airfest. Many more military and civilian acts along with an outstanding line up of static displays will be announced as they are secured. "With what we have planned for a show this year, we will set the bar even higher for our future air shows. The regional community and attendees from out of the area will be thoroughly impressed to say the least," O'Brien said.

"AirFest has always been a way for families to spend a great time together and for us to thank the military for all that they do. I am amazed at the work that the AirFest staff does to continually set the bar higher for the air shows that we put on," said GRAA Chairman Mike Dunn. Over the next few months I look forward to the addition of our performer and static display roster and the continued growth of AirFest as a marketing tool for RFD and the Rock River Region," he continued.

AirFest officials also announced that the U.S. Navy Blue Angels will return to Rockford in 2011, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, June 4 and Sunday, June 5.

AirFest Tickets

Introductory AirFest 2010 tickets can be purchased for as low as \$4 for adults and \$3 for kids and will be available until Wednesday, December 23 at Midnight or the first 5,000 tickets are sold. Last year RFD sold 6,000 introductory tickets in less than week. Advance-sale tickets can be at the Main Terminal Building and Airport Administration Office or purchased online by visiting FlyRFD.com. Tickets purchased online include a convenience fee. "I encourage AirFest guests to purchase their tickets early because the prices, as high as 73% off the gate price, will not be this low for long," O'Brien stated. "Not only do we have our general admission tickets on sale but we have our group ticket packages such as the Family Flight Line Chalet and Family 4 Pack ticket deals which proved to be huge successes at AirFest 2009. These deals give families the greatest value for their dollar."

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As always, 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 Saturday, July 31. 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 before the show, they must be claimed on the day you attend the show.

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