

MEDIA RELEASE

From the Greater Rockford Airport Authority

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Rockford AirFest Recruits Local Military Pilots

Rockford, IL - In addition to the performers themselves, one of the biggest attractions of the Rockford AirFest each year is the military aircraft that are on static display. These aircraft most likely would never be seen up-close by attendees at such air shows like the Chicago Air and Water Show. Over the past four years, AirFest has attracted such aircraft as the B-52 Bomber - a massive eight-engine, high-altitude bomber, the CV-22 Osprey - an aircraft that can fly both as a fixed wing aircraft and a helicopter, the E-6 Mercury - an airborne command and communications aircraft, and the formidable B-1 Lancer Bomber - a supersonic, swept-wing, low-level bomber, among others.

Several of these military aircraft have been flown in by local residents and natives of the area. From last year's show, area natives included Capt. Chris Jones, a Freeport native flew in one of the two F-16 fighters from Luke Air Force Base in Arizona, and Guilford High School graduates Lt. Col. Thom Pemberton and Lt. Col. Eric Thorell, who flew in a KC-135 Stratotanker from Grissom AFB in Indiana.

For AirFest 2010, which will be held July 31 – August 1, 2010, the Chicago Rockford International Airport (RFD) would like to expand the number of local military pilots and crew members participating in AirFest. As a result, **AirFest staff is requesting from area residents the contact information of a spouse, family member, friend or neighbor that either flies in the military or is part of a flight crew so they can be invited to participate in AirFest 2010** in a special section of the static displays that will be known as "Home Town Heroes".

"This is an opportunity to have a reunion with a local family member, friend or neighbor at AirFest and an opportunity for them to showcase the aircraft they operate. We want to honor as many military aviation pilots and crew members as possible and thank them for their service to our Country," commented AirFest Static Display Coordinator Dave Lindberg.

Please send an e-mail to AirFest Static Display Coordinator Dave Lindberg at dlinberg@flyrfd.com. Please include the name of the individual, which branch of the military they are in, where they are stationed and their e-mail address and/or phone number. All submissions will be invited to participate in AirFest 2010.

AirFest Tickets

AirFest officials want to remind AirFest guests that advance sale tickets up to 60% OFF the gate admission price are available until March 31, 2010. Starting April 1, advance sale tickets will only be up to 50% OFF. Those individuals that would like to save on this amazing family-oriented event should act now. Tickets can be purchased by stopping by the Passenger Services Counter in the Main Terminal Building between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday or online at www.FlyRFD.com. Tickets purchased online tickets will incur a convenience fee.

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