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## PRESS RELEASE

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## FAMED AEROBATIC PILOT KYLE FRANKLIN TO HEADLINE CAF AIRSHO 2014

*Midland, Texas* — Kyle Franklin, one of the airshow industry's most sought-after performers, returns to the CAF AIRSHO with his new act, "Dracula, the Rise of Vacul." CAF AIRSHO 2014, presented by Frost Bank, will be held at the Midland International Airport October 11-12.

"We are proud to welcome Kyle back to AIRSHO," said AIRSHO Chair Gena Linebarger. "This will be Kyle's first appearance in West Texas with his new act, Dracula. I know people will be amazed by his flying and new airplane."

Franklin grew up in the airshow business as his father, Jimmy, was a legendary performer. First inspired by his father's character "Zar" and the "Starship Pride," Kyle realized that an airshow act had to be unique. Zar mixed the space age themes that made "Star Wars" a hit with precision aerobatics and unique costumes. Later, Jimmy mounted a jet engine to his Waco *Mystery Ship* and Kyle learned how to wingwalk. They were the first and only jet wing walking act and the only father and son wingwalking act in the industry.

Continuing the family legacy, Kyle raised the bar for airshows. "Dracula" combines a custom-built biplane and a thrilling airshow act with the sounds of a 1930s-racing airplane and a custom paint scheme inspired by the opening scene of a horror movie.

The Franklin Demon-1 biplane, known as *Dracula*, blends lines of the iconic Waco *Mystery Ship* with modern aerodynamics and systems, resulting in a smaller, lighter, more maneuverable and powerful airplane.

"I'm extremely pleased with the features in *Dracula's* design," Franklin said. "The nearly full span ailerons give the aircraft a roll rate over 300 degrees per second and the two-color smoke system was custom made for the vampire theme of this act. Power is supplied by the first direct port fuel injected R-985 Pratt & Whitney engine. Built by Tulsa Aircraft Engines and Airflow Performance, *Dracula's* engine produces 500 horsepower. The lightweight MT propeller is one of two in the world flying and gives me maximum performance with a nearly 80 pound weight savings. I'm really looking forward to flying *Dracula* at AIRSHO."

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The CAF AIRSHO, known as “The Best Warbird Show in America”, will feature many rare and historic aircraft from the CAF flying fleet, including the World’s Only Flying B-29 *FIFI*, two B-17 Flying Fortresses, *Texas Raiders* and *Sentimental Journey*, the Red Tail P-51 Mustang *Tuskegee Airmen* and reenactment performer TORA! TORA! TORA!

Advanced tickets are \$20 for adults and \$5 for children ages 6-12. Tickets can be ordered online at [www.airsho.org](http://www.airsho.org) or by visiting any Frost Bank location, area 7-Eleven stores or Domino’s Pizza locations. Tickets purchased at the gate will be \$25 for adults and \$5 for children. Children age five and under are admitted free. Parking is an additional \$5, with partial proceeds benefiting the Boy Scouts of America. Gates open each day at 8:30 a.m.

Private chalets, sponsorship opportunities and exhibit space at the event’s TradeSho are also available. For more information, visit [www.airsho.org](http://www.airsho.org) or call (888) 945-3008.

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#### **About the Midland Convention and Visitors Bureau**

The mission of the Midland Convention & Visitors Bureau is to encourage economic growth by developing, promoting, enhancing and supporting Midland as a vibrant visitor destination. For more information on the Midland Convention & Visitors Bureau or to request a free Midland Experience Guide and Map, call (800) 624-6435 or visit [www.visitmidlandtexas.com/Guides-and-Brochures](http://www.visitmidlandtexas.com/Guides-and-Brochures).

The above information has been provided by the CAF Airpower Museum and distributed by the Midland Convention & Visitors Bureau. This event is projected to bring in \$737,500 in direct visitor spending to the Midland economy.