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PRESS RELEASE

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CAF AIRSHO 2011 KEEPS SAFETY TOP PRIORITY

Midland, Texas (Oct. 3, 2011) — The 2011 Commemorative Air Force (CAF) AIRSHO[®] presented by Western National Bank is just a few short days away and this year the safety of the spectators and participants continues to be the top priority for AIRSHO staff.

“Only a few weeks ago, the National Championship Air Races were faced with a terrible tragedy that has brought the safety of spectators to the forefront of aviation events,” said Stephan Brown, CAF President/CEO. “First and foremost, our thoughts and prayers continue to stay with the air racing community, the spectators and their families who are faced with the aftermath of the accident. It is important for our Permian Basin Community to understand what happened at the air races, cannot happen at CAF AIRSHO. As an air show, we follow a very different set of rules that are put into place for the safety of our spectators. Because of these rules, there has not been a spectator death at an air show in North America in 59 years.”

Throughout an aviation event like the CAF AIRSHO, aircraft in flight do not direct any aerobatic energy at the crowd. The flying is done within “boxes” that are set parallel to the crowd line and require that aircraft remain 500, 1,000 or 1,500 feet away from the crowd. The distance required is dependent on the type of aircraft performing. During AIRSHO, the pilots guide their airplanes in a carefully choreographed performance that has been practiced many times and each airplane is flown at a specific speed following a detailed plan.

“The safety of our spectators, pilots and crews has always been top priority for AIRSHO staff,” said Brown. “We want to put our community members’ minds at ease and invite them to join us this year for a safe, family-friendly event. We will continue to offer the Permian Basin a unique and positive experience at AIRSHO with great entertainment and fun!”

CAF AIRSHO 2011 will feature an array of World War II bombers and special appearances by the B-1B Lancer and the B-2 (best known as the Stealth Bomber)! In addition to the bombers of yesterday and today, AIRSHO will highlight World

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War II training, observation, transport and fighter aircraft. The exciting aerobatic displays of Corkey Forno and Jan Collmer will thrill audiences as they spiral through the sky and the A-10 West Demo Team will demonstrate the capabilities of the A-10 Thunderbolt II in an exciting performance! For a complete list of aircraft please visit www.airsho.org.*

The 2011 AIRSHO will also feature a patriotic performance of the CAF's Red, White & Loud Tour starring Aaron Tippin and the B-29 *FIFI*. Country music star and patriot, Aaron Tippin, will perform his chart-topping songs *Where the Stars and Stripes and the Eagle Fly*, *Kiss This* and many more from a stage built into the wing of the historic B-29! This is a great Saturday-only performance that is not to be missed! The concert is included in AIRSHO admission and does not require an additional ticket.

Also making its debut appearance at this year's AIRSHO is the CAF Red Tail Squadron RISE ABOVE Traveling Exhibit. The RISE ABOVE exhibit brings public awareness of the Tuskegee Airmen by taking their story to young people and exposing them to an immersive educational experience. The exhibit, which houses a 30-seat movie theater with a 180-degree screen, travels to air shows, schools, youth gatherings and malls where visitors can sit in climate-controlled comfort to enjoy an experience documentary about the Tuskegee Airmen created by Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Adam White. The experience is free to AIRSHO audiences!

AIRSHO is also excited to continue in its recent tradition of working to support the local economy. AIRSHO ticket prices will remain at the same low price as the last two years and we have once again invited local food vendors to participate in this year's show! Ticket prices for the 2011 AIRSHO are just \$15 for adults and \$5 for children ages 6 to 12, Kids 5 and under are Free. Adult tickets will be \$20 if purchased at the gate, but tickets for children ages 6 to 12 will remain only \$5! Discount tickets are on sale now at area Western National Bank branches, FINA 7-Eleven and Domino's Pizza. Tickets are also available at www.airsho.org and at the Commemorative Air Force Headquarters at Midland International Airport.

On Saturday, Oct. 8 and Sunday, Oct. 9, the CAF AIRSHO gates will open to the public at 8:30 a.m. to give attendees plenty of time to view the static aircraft before the flying begins. CAF AIRSHO takes great pride in bringing the historic warbirds of the CAF fleet along with modern military aircraft to the public.

Collecting, restoring and flying vintage historical aircraft for more than half a century, the Commemorative Air Force (CAF) ranks as one of the largest private air forces in the world. The CAF is dedicated to Honoring American Military Aviation through flight, exhibition and remembrance. A non-profit educational association, the CAF has more than 8,000 members and a fleet of 156 airplanes distributed throughout the country to 74 units located in 27 states for care and operation.

For more information, visit www.airsho.org or www.commemorativeairforce.org or call (432) 563-1000.

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**Aircraft participation subject to change without notice due to weather/maintenance requirements.*

***High Resolution images available by e-mailing ahicks@cafhq.org.*

The above information has been provided by the CAF Airpower Museum and distributed by the Midland Convention & 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.

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