



**Media Advisory**  
**For Immediate Release**

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## **Symposium Events Showcase Space Travel, POWs and the future of Aviation**

*May 7-9, 2008*

**Pensacola, Fla.**—April 22, 2008—The Naval Aviation Museum Foundation’s 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Naval Aviation Symposium brings together military elite May 7–9 at the National Naval Aviation Museum for three days of exciting events including a golf tournament, performances by the Navy Band New Orleans and panel discussions featuring Astronauts, POWs and Naval Officers.

Throughout the symposium, attendees will have an opportunity to meet POW panelist Mike McGrath, who will be signing his book, “**Prisoner of War: Six Years in Hanoi**” before and after panel discussions in the Flight Deck Store. McGrath spent five years and nine months as a prisoner of war in Vietnam after a failed reconnaissance mission sent his aircraft to the ground. His captors transported him to the Hanoi Hilton where he endured a life of isolation, torture and misery. The images etched in Mike McGrath’s memory from his time spent in Hanoi were put to paper and published in the book, and sketches from his book are on display in the POW exhibit in the Museum.

The U.S. Navy will also induct five current and former members of the Navy and Marine Corps into the Museum’s prestigious “Hall of Honor” at the **Hall of Honor Enshrinement Ceremony** on Thursday, May 8 at 8:30 a.m. in the Blue Angels Atrium. Distinguished enshrinees include retired Navy Adm. Stanley Arthur, Marine Corps Lt. Col. Harold Bauer (deceased), Navy Rear Adm. Clarence McClusky, Jr. (deceased), retired Navy Rear Adm. J.D. Ramage and retired Navy Capt. Robert Rassmussen.

Other symposium events include:

- **Golf Tournament.** Noon–4 p.m., Wednesday, May 7 at A.C. Read aboard NAS Pensacola.
- **Navy Band New Orleans Concert.** 7:45 a.m.–8:30 a.m., Thursday, May 8 in the Blue Angels Atrium. The 18-member ensemble will fill the air with big band, jazz and patriotic music.
- **Panel Discussion Session I –“Space Shuttle: Naval Aviation’s Leadership”** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m., Thursday, May 8 in the Blue Angels Atrium. This discussion features former and current shuttle astronauts who flew into space in the early years to the present day, including retired Navy Vice Adm. Richard Truly, retired Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Charles Bolden Jr., retired Navy Capt. Robert Crippen, retired Navy Capt. Robert Gibson, retired Navy Capt. William Readdy and Navy Cmdr. Sunita Williams.
- **Luncheon on the Flightdeck.** Noon–1:15 p.m., Thursday, May 8. Guest speaker retired Navy Rear Adm. Jimmie Taylor will discuss his experience introducing the F-14 *Tomcat* to foreign countries and will describe the happenings one fateful day in 1973 at the Paris Airshow.

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**Panel Discussion Session II –“Naval Aviator POWs: Return With Honor”** 1:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m., Thursday, May 8 in the Blue Angels Atrium. Heroic tales from four flyers who were shot down over North Vietnam and spent many long months in POW camps. Panelists include retired Navy Capt. John Enschede, retired Navy Capt. J. Michael McGrath, retired Navy Capt. Theodore Triebel and retired Navy Capt. Irving Williams, Jr. Moderator is retired Navy Rear Adm. Fred Lewis.

- **Opening Reception on the Quarterdeck.** 7 p.m.–9 p.m., Thursday, May 8. Guests are invited to reunite, meet renowned Naval Officers and enjoy the musical stylings of the Navy Band New Orleans while savoring a delicious reception catered by the Mustin Beach Officers’ Club.
- **Navy Band New Orleans Concert.** 9 a.m.–9:45 a.m., Friday, May 9 in the Blue Angels Atrium. Navy Band New Orleans returns for an encore performance featuring big band, jazz, and patriotic music.
- **Panel Discussion Session III –“Naval Aviation: Issues and Answers”** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m., Friday, May 9 in the Blue Angels Atrium. Active Navy & Marine Corps flag and general officers will discuss the state of Naval Aviation. Issues covered by 13 Naval Officers include combat experience, personnel, training, deployment schedules and more.
- **Closing Banquet in the Atrium.** 7 p.m.–9 p.m., Friday, May 9. Guests are invited to the closing banquet featuring a dinner catered by the Mustin Beach Officers’ Club and a special performance by the Pensacola Children’s Chorus.

The Symposium sessions are FREE and open to active duty and retired military as well as the general public. For more information or to reserve your seat, call the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation at (800) 327-5002 or (850) 453-2389, or go online to download a registration form at [NavalAviationMuseum.org](http://NavalAviationMuseum.org).

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**Media Note: For more information about the National Naval Aviation Museum, contact Shelley Ragsdale, Naval Aviation Museum Foundation, Inc. at (850) 453-2389 or [sragdale@navalaviationmuseum.org](mailto:sragdale@navalaviationmuseum.org).**

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### **About the National Museum of Naval Aviation**

The National Naval Aviation Museum features nearly 300,000 square feet of displays and is one of the world’s largest aviation museums. Located aboard Pensacola Naval Air Station, the facility boasts more than 150 beautifully restored aircraft representing Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard aviation and is Florida’s most-visited museum. Among the countless things to touch, see and experience is a thrilling Top Gun flight simulator, a variety of special exhibits as well as the drama and power of amazing IMAX® films. The Cubi Bar Café offers a unique dining experience, and the Flight Deck Store is the perfect place to find a memento of the spirit of Naval aviation. Museum admission is free. The National Naval Aviation Museum is open everyday from 9 a.m.–5 p.m., except Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year’s Day. For more information, visit [NavalAviationMuseum.org](http://NavalAviationMuseum.org).

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