



## 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Symposium Takes to the Sky with Aviation Discussions

*Featuring panel series with military experts May 7-8 at the National Naval Aviation Museum*

**Pensacola, Fla.**—April 15, 2009—The National Naval Aviation Museum opens its doors for another exciting glimpse into the history and future of Naval Aviation at the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation’s 23d Annual Symposium, Thursday and Friday, May 7–8. The two-day event will feature performances by the NAS New Orleans Navy Band, followed by panel sessions highlighting: the newest in aircraft for Naval Aviation; an exciting rescue attempt of a downed Navy pilot during the Vietnam War as told by the helicopter crews; a distinguished panel of senior Naval Aviators who will discuss Naval Aviation’s posture, future challenges, and current programs.

Beginning in 1987, the Symposium series aims to preserve the rich history and proud heritage of Naval Aviation by highlighting historical events in which U.S. Naval Aviation has played a major role. Each May, the Foundation’s annual symposia attract an average of 1,500-2,000 attendees, among who are active and retired military, defense industry representatives, and the general public, and is covered extensively by the media.

The 2009 Symposium schedule of events includes:

### Thursday, May 7

- **Navy Band New Orleans Concert.** 9 a.m.–9:45 a.m. in the Blue Angels Atrium.
- **Panel Discussion Session I—“Something New in the Air: An Exciting Look at Things to Come in Naval Aviation”** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. in the Blue Angels Atrium.
- **Luncheon on the Flightdeck.** Noon–1:15 p.m.
- **Panel Discussion Session II –“Valiant Rescue Attempt: North Vietnam.”** 1:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m. in the Blue Angels Atrium.
- **Reception on the Flightdeck.** 6 p.m.–7:15 p.m.
- **Banquet in the Blue Angels Atrium.** 7:15 p.m.–9 p.m.

### Friday, May 8

- **Navy Band New Orleans Concert.** 9 a.m.–9:45 a.m. in the Blue Angels Atrium.
- **Panel Discussion Session III –“Naval Aviation: Issues and Answers”** 9:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m. in the Blue Angels Atrium.

Previous symposia subjects have included the Battles of Midway, space missions and programs, the Black Sheep Squadron, the Vietnam Wars and Operation *Iraqi Freedom* with such distinguished guest speakers as former President Bush, Governor Jeb Bush and Senator John McCain.

The Symposium sessions are FREE and open to active duty and retired military as well as the general public. Reservations for the Thursday, 7 May Luncheon (\$14/person) and Thursday evening Reception and Banquet (\$40/person) may be obtained by calling the Foundation at (850) 453-2389 or toll-free (800) 327-5002 or online at [www.NavalAviationMuseum.org](http://www.NavalAviationMuseum.org).

For more information or to reserve your seat, call the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation at (800) 327-5002 or (850) 453-2389, or register online at [www.NavalAviationMuseum.org](http://www.NavalAviationMuseum.org).

**Media Note: For more information about the Naval Aviation Symposium, contact Col Deej Kiely, Naval Aviation Museum Foundation, Inc. at (850) 453-2389 or [dkiely@navalaviationmuseum.org](mailto:dkiely@navalaviationmuseum.org).**

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**About the National Naval Aviation Museum**

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 are thrilling Top Gun Air Combat flight simulators, 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 daily 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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