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## **U.S. Navy Blue Angels Coming to Columbus** *Navy's Flight Demonstration Team to Make First Appearance in More Than a Quarter Century*

**LAS VEGAS, NV** (December 7, 2021) – The Columbus Air Show announced today that the U.S. Navy Blue Angels have selected Columbus as one of the team's 2023 demonstration sites. The Blue Angels will headline the air show scheduled to take place June 17-18, 2023 at Rickenbacker International Airport (LCK). The announcement was made today at the International Council of Air Shows (ICAS) convention in Las Vegas.

The Blue Angels last performed in Columbus in 1995 and the last air show held in Columbus was 2007's Gathering of Mustangs and Legends that attracted more than 150,000 guests to Rickenbacker.

"We are excited beyond belief to host the U.S. Navy Blue Angels at our first air show back in Columbus," said Herb Gillen, President of Herb Gillen Air Shows, the producers of the event. "The Blues are known the world over for their high energy and precision flying."

The Blue Angels demonstration consists of six F/A-18 Super Hornets in the iconic blue and yellow Navy colors. The aircraft will fly at speeds approaching the speed of sound and will perform maneuvers with wing tips as close as 18" of separation.



The demonstration will also include the Blue Angels' support aircraft, the U.S. Marine Corps C-130 Hercules "Fat Albert".

The show also announced additional performers for their initial lineup and stated that more performers and displays will be added over the next year. Additional performers announced today include the KC-135 Stratotanker from the hometown Ohio Air National Guard's 121<sup>st</sup> Air Refueling Wing, WWII-era aircraft including the B-17 Flying Fortress "Yankee Lady", B-25 Mitchell "Rosie's Reply" and the C-47 Skytrain "Hairless Joe". Also joining the lineup is five-time World Freestyle Aerobatic and ten-time consecutive U.S. National Aerobatic Champion Rob Holland. The show also added the fire-breathing, smoke-belching 350 mph Smoke-n-Thunder Jet Car to the lineup.

"With the Blue Angels as our headliner, some very special vintage aircraft, the most decorated active civilian aerobatic pilot in the U.S., and one of the top jet vehicle acts in the world, we are starting to build what will be one of the top shows in the country, and we're just getting started," said Gillen.

The show will provide world-class aviation demonstrations, ground displays, premium hospitality and corporate opportunities.

Those interested in the show are encouraged to register for free as an "Air Show Insights" member on the show's Web site. In addition to early ticket access in advance of the general public, Air Show Insights members will receive periodic news updates about the air show.



There are corporate partnership opportunities available for companies and organizations seeking upscale hospitality options, branding opportunities, and on-site exposure. Email [info@ColumbusAirShow.com](mailto:info@ColumbusAirShow.com) for additional information.

Additional show information is available by visiting [www.ColumbusAirShow.com](http://www.ColumbusAirShow.com) and the show's social media channels.

**Attachment:** The U.S. Navy Blue Angels

**Cutline:** The U.S. Navy Blue Angels will perform in Columbus for the first time in more than a quarter century June 17-18, 2023 when the Columbus Air Show takes to the skies at Rickenbacker International Airport.

Note: Hi-resolution images and b-roll is available by contacting Stacey Stathulis at 614.296.6351 or [Stacey@herbgillen.com](mailto:Stacey@herbgillen.com)

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### ***About the Columbus Air Show***

*The Columbus Air Show is a newly formed show that will be held June 17-18, 2023 at Rickenbacker International Airport with the U.S. Navy Blue Angels as the headline performers. The event is expected to attract more than 100,000 guests and will be marketed regionally to a marketing area including up to 10 million people. The air show will provide top shelf hospitality experiences, excellent exhibitor and on-site partnership opportunities, and chances for brands to connect in a very unique way with a high value demo through a cherished community event. Additional information is available at [www.ColumbusAirShow.com](http://www.ColumbusAirShow.com) and follow the show on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).*

### ***About Columbus Regional Airport Authority***



*The Columbus Regional Airport Authority connects Ohio with the world by managing and operating passenger-focused John Glenn Columbus International Airport (CMH), cargo-focused Rickenbacker International Airport (LCK), and general aviation airport Bolton Field (TZR). To discover how CRAA is helping travelers safely return to flying amid the COVID-19 pandemic, visit [FlyColumbus.com/beyondready](https://www.flycolumbus.com/beyondready). Follow CRAA on Facebook (CMH), Instagram (CMH), Twitter (CMH), Twitter (LCK), LinkedIn (CRAA) and LinkedIn (LCK).*

### ***About Herb Gillen Airshows***

*Headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, Herb Gillen Airshows produces, markets, and provides consulting for air shows across the U.S. They are a member of the International Council of Air Shows (ICAS) and are the recipients of more than 30 ICAS marketing awards. The company's affiliated Herb Gillen Advertising has provided businesses and organizations advertising, marketing, and PR services since 2005. Follow them on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.*