



NEBRASKA NATIONAL GUARD

NEWS RELEASE

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**NAVY'S BLUE ANGELS TO HEADLINE
SEPT 10-11, 2011 AIR SHOW HOSTED
BY NEBRASKA AIR NATIONAL GUARD**

**RELEASED BY
LTC BOB VRANA**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LINCOLN, Neb. – The U.S. Navy's "Blue Angels" are heading back to Lincoln, Neb., in 2011 to help the Nebraska National Guard mark an anniversary that has immense significance for the state's military men and women, and their families.

The Navy's premier jet demonstration team will be the headline act of a Sept. 10-11, 2011, air show hosted by the Nebraska Air National Guard's 155th Air Refueling Wing, exactly 10 years after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. The Air Guard's 155th ARW was called into action on 9/11, flying aerial refueling missions in support of combat air patrols over the nation following the attacks.

According to Brig. Gen. Judd Lyons, adjutant general for Nebraska, "the historic anniversary will make this one of the nation's premier commemoration events on that day."

"We're proud the Blue Angels chose to be in Nebraska on that date," he added.

This will mark the first time the Blue Angels have appeared in Lincoln since September 2006 when they were the headline act of a similar air show hosted by the Nebraska Air National Guard in cooperation with the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce. That year, nearly 300,000 spectators saw the Blue Angels perform breathtaking aerobatics over the Lincoln Airport.

The 2006 air show was also a boon to the area economy, with contracts and sales generating over \$14,000 in sales tax revenue alone. The Lincoln Food Bank also benefitted by donations of over 15,000 pounds of food and \$5,000 in cash. More than 650 special needs kids and their families were also able to enjoy a special show by the Blue Angels.

Along with marking the 10th anniversary of 9/11 attacks, 2011 is also the 100th birthday of naval aviation and the 65th birthday of the Nebraska Air National Guard, the 2nd oldest Air National Guard organization in the country.

"We are absolutely thrilled to be hosting the Blue Angels in 2011," said Col. Rick Evans, 155th ARW commander. "The Blue Angels decision to come to Lincoln is a testament to the warm reception and great crowds that the Blue Angels drew in 2006. We are honored to host another air show for the community."

According to Col. Evans, the Blue Angels recently changed the way they schedule their air show performances. "The new two-year scheduling process gives us almost two years to plan a truly memorable event," said Evans.

The 155th ARW has appointed Lt. Col. Bob Stevenson as the project officer for the air show and coordination has begun with the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, Lincoln Airport Authority and other sponsors and organizations that will play key roles in putting on a world class event in 2011.

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Media Note: For more information, contact Maj. Kevin Hynes, Nebraska National Guard at (402) 309-7302 or Jeff Maul, Lincoln Convention and Visitors Bureau at (402) 434-5343.