

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **U.S. Navy Blue Angels Return to Southwest Florida for 2012 Air Show**

PUNTA GORDA, FLA. (DECEMBER 2, 2012) – The 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Florida International Air Show returns in 2012 with some very special guests. The Blue Angels will return to the Southwest Florida skies on March 24-25, 2012 at the Charlotte County Airport in Punta Gorda. Always a fan favorite, the Florida International Air Show is a great chance to catch the Blue Angels in action as they perform their high speed maneuvers and precision formations, some just under the speed of sound.

LT Commander Todd Royles and LT Mark Tedrow from the United States Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, the [Blue Angels](#), flew into the Charlotte County Airport tomorrow for a pre-season visit in preparation for the 2012 Florida International Air Show. After performing survey maneuvers, the F/A-18 Hornet touched down, marking the Blue Angels' first return to Southwest Florida since their 2009 Florida International Air Show appearance.

Additionally, this year will mark the first time that the Air Show will feature two jets teams: the Blue Angels and the Black Diamond Jet Team, which is America's premier civilian-owned demonstration team. The Black Diamond Jet team, formerly known as the Heavy Metal Jet Team, will return to the Florida International Air Show for their second year in March. Flying five L-39 aircraft and two MiG-17 fighters, this is the first seven-ship civilian jet team act in North America.

"We know our audience always enjoys a presentation by our high performance aircrafts," says Air Boss, Bob Hall. "We're excited to be able to offer two jet teams for our Air Show fans."

Hall recently announced a few of the performers confirmed for the 2012 Air Show. Joining the two jet teams will be Team RV, which is the world's largest air show team performing in North America. Team RV features a 10-12 ship aerobatic and large formation routine flown by experienced military fighter pilots and private general aviation pilots flying "home built" planes.

"The 2012 show is set to be one of our best air shows yet," says Hall. "We will feature two of the finest Jet Teams in the country, as well as the world's largest formation team with Team RV. It's truly going to be something special for our spectators."

Each year the International Air Show features the best and most dramatic aerial demonstrations. The performers range from extreme stunt pilots who enjoy pushing the envelope to graceful gliders who gently sail across the blue skies.

Additional pilots and performers are expected to be announced within the coming weeks. For the latest information on the Florida International Air Show, including ticket prices and performer bios, please visit [www.FloridaAirShow.com](http://www.FloridaAirShow.com).

About Florida International Air Show

*The mission of the FIAS is to present a yearly Air Show that is focused on wholesome family entertainment, educational to all attendees in the areas of aviation and space, present a forum for military and civilian flight demonstrations, create a friendly environment for military recruiting, involve community support to the*

*maximum and give favorable exposure to the Punta Gorda Airport as a major local economic driver and asset. The organization is a Florida "not for profit" corporation and no one is paid, so income from gate receipts, sponsors and other income producing events goes to putting on the yearly Air Show. Monies in excess of this requirement are distributed to local working charities, which directly support the Show, in a yearly event attended by the recipients. [www.FloridaAirShow.com](http://www.FloridaAirShow.com)*

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