



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 3, 2024

NAS Pensacola Blue Angels Homecoming Airshow Themed 55th Anniversary of Lunar Landing *‘Celebrating One Small Step’*

PENSACOLA, Fla. — The Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola 2024 Blue Angels Homecoming Airshow – featuring the U.S. Navy’s Flight Demonstration Squadron (NFDS) The Blue Angels and the U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron The Thunderbirds – will celebrate the 55th anniversary of one of the most significant events in aviation history, the July 20, 1969, Apollo 11 mission’s lunar landing.

“Twenty-five percent of all U.S. astronauts have served in either the U.S. Navy or Marine Corps, and as Navy or Marine Corps aviators, they started their training and careers right here in Pensacola,” said NAS Pensacola Commanding Officer Capt. Terry ‘Village’ Shashaty. “Given the enormity of what [National Aeronautics and Space Administration] NASA was able to accomplish more than a half century ago, celebrating this at the NAS Pensacola 2024 Blue Angels Homecoming Airshow will pay homage to not only a great aviation accomplishment, but will also celebrate the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps’ contribution to one of mankind’s greatest achievements.”

The Apollo 11 mission, during which former Navy pilot Lt.j.g. Neil Armstrong became the first individual to set foot on Earth's moon, became synonymous with Armstrong's first words on the moon's surface; 'That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.'

In a tribute to those famous words, the NAS Pensacola 2024 Blue Angels Homecoming Airshow will be *Celebrating One Small Step*, a tribute to the intrepid spirit of the men and women who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces' aviation communities as well as to NASA's commitment to making air and space available to everyone, for the benefit of all.

Additionally, the NAS Pensacola logo was redesigned for the Airshow. The logo features J. Gosling – the installation mascot – breaching the atmosphere with stars and the moon visible in the background.

Planning for the Nov. 1 and 2 Airshow at NAS Pensacola is ongoing with numerous static displays anticipated and reflecting this year's theme, according to 2024 NAS Pensacola Blue Angels Homecoming Airshow Director and installation Air Operations Officer Lt. Cmdr. David Padgett.

"We're putting together what will be an amazing airshow," he said. "We're going to have attractions both in the air and on the ground, and our staff is committed to ensuring this will be a family-friendly and memorable event."

The NAS Pensacola Blue Angels Homecoming Airshow has been a mainstay in the area, one of the largest events in Florida's Panhandle and drawing more than 250,000 spectators over two days. The Blue Angels' annual schedule culminates with the NAS Pensacola Homecoming Airshow, the last of the season for the squadron.

NAS Pensacola, referred to as the "Cradle of Naval Aviation," is designed to support operational and training missions of tenant commands, including the Naval Aviation Technical Training Center (NATTC); Naval Aviation Schools Command (NASC); the Center for Information Warfare Training (CIWT); Marine Aviation Training Support Groups (MATSG) 21 and 23 and serves as the headquarters for Naval Education and Training Command (NETC).

More information concerning the 2024 NAS Pensacola Blue Angels Homecoming Airshow will be published to the [NAS Pensacola Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#) social media pages as it becomes available.

---USN---