



# News Release

## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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### **CHARLESTON AIR FORCE BASE SETS STAGE FOR AIR EXPO 2001**

**CHARLESTON AIR FORCE BASE, S.C.** – The Navy’s Blue Angels will perform an exciting aerial ballet of high-speed maneuvers and turns as they take over the skies of Charleston AFB during Air Expo 2001, Saturday, May 19.

Air Expo 2001 will showcase the only military aerial demonstration team in South Carolina this year.

The Blue Angels, separated only by inches, have flown in front of 337 million people in aerial demonstrations throughout the 50 states, and around the world since their first demonstration in June 1946.

The Blue Angels’ aerial demonstration team is a mix of formation flying and solo routines in the FA-18 Hornet jet. The six pilots perform approximately 30 maneuvers in the demonstration. The entire Blue Angel show runs about one hour and 15 minutes.

Air Expo 2001 will also have some of the Air Force’s most popular aircraft performing to include the F-16 Fighting Falcon fighter, B-1B Lancer bomber, F-117 Stealth fighter and the C-17 Globemaster III.

Some of the static aircraft to be displayed are the first Royal Air Force C-17 Globemaster, the F-15 Eagle fighter, the B-52 Stratofortress Bomber and the AH-64 Apache Attack Helicopter.

Other acts scheduled to appear will be the Army "Golden Nights" parachute jump team and a dogfight between the WWII era P-51 Mustang and the Japanese zero.

There will be many things for children to include Sparky the Firedog and McGruff the Crime dog and the Stepping Stones to Aviation, a realistic pedal-driven introduction to aircraft.

The base will open its gates at 9 a.m., and the show will start at 10 a.m. As always, admission and parking are free. The best parking will be through the Dorchester Road gate. The Aviation Road gate will be closed from 2-4 p.m. while the Blue Angels fly, and no traffic will be allowed in or out.

Food and beverages will be available for purchase. No bicycles, pets, smoking, glass containers, or roller-blading will be allowed on the flight line. For the latest information on Air Expo 2001, the public may call 963-EXPO, or check out Charleston AFB's web site at <http://www.charleston.af.mil>.

Aircraft and flying schedule are subject to change.

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*Print media interested in obtaining photographs to accompany this release may contact Master Sgt. Dan Murphy at (843) 963-5582 or Staff Sgt. Pamela Smith at (843) 963-5589.*