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March 20, 2008

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***Starfighters Jet Team ★ First Female Navy Demo Pilot
Added to 2008 Vectren Dayton Air Show Lineup***

Dayton, Ohio – “Dayton Means Air Show!” is a phrase often used to describe one of America’s largest air shows and Dayton’s premier summer event, and one that certainly will apply to the 2008 show. Show officials announced today two major additions to an already impressive lineup that includes the extraordinary US Air Force F-22 Raptor and 2008 National Aviation Hall of Fame inductee Sean D. Tucker. The 34th annual Vectren Dayton Air Show presented by Kroger will be held this year on July 19th and 20th at Dayton International Airport.

Topping the announcement is the Starfighters Jet Demonstration Team. The team will fly a three-ship performance of the legendary Lockheed F-104 Starfighter, an attraction never before seen in Dayton. The F-104 is powered by a GE turbojet engine equipped with an afterburner and was the first production fighter to fly at twice the speed of sound. Because of its sleek physical appearance, supersonic speed and distinctive whistling sound, the F-104 was nicknamed “Missile with a Man in it.” The aircraft’s small wing added to the “missile mystique,” and commanded a high landing speed, complete with drag chute and a long runway to stop. About 300 Starfighters were procured by the USAF and used from 1957 to 1967. Until 1994, NASA also flew a small fleet of F-104 types in support of the space program.

The Starfighters add a unique and popular jet team to the lineup that will be enjoyed by the tens of thousands of spectators that attend the show each year. The F-104’s were a Cold War aircraft designed to intercept enemy aircraft at high altitudes. They will fly a much different show than the traditional jet teams showing off their incredible climb and speed capabilities. In addition to being the first aircraft to fly Mach II, the F-104 also held the rate of climb and altitude records for many years. Noteworthy for 2008 is the Starfighter, a vintage Lockheed supersonic fighter, will appear at Dayton at the same time the show debuts the 21st century Lockheed F-22 Raptor. What a historic treat for the Birthplace of Aviation community and show fans.

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Another major addition and another “first” for the 2008 show lineup is the US Navy F-18 Super Hornet Demonstration, flown by West Chester, OH native, Lt. Page “Pie” Felini. Lt. Felini will be the first female Navy pilot to fly a single-ship demonstration in Dayton, as

well as being the first female pilot on the East Coast Super Hornet Team. A 1995 graduate of Lakota High School and a 1999 graduate of the University of Virginia, "Pie" will put her Super Hornet through its paces and then participate in an historic Legacy Flight. Hosted by GE Aviation, the U.S. Navy East Coast F-18 Super Hornet Team will come to Dayton from Strike Fighter Squadron 106, "The Gladiators," based at Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia. Lt. James "Flag" Guimond will also appear in Dayton as a second demo pilot. The carrier-based Hornet will showcase for air show fans its exceptional maneuverability with superior turning characteristics along with the power to maintain evasive action against any adversary.

At the conclusion of the F-18 demonstration, spectators will witness history in the air as the Hornet will fly in formation with the classic WWII fighter, the FG-1D Corsair. The Corsair was the fighter of the famed Pacific Black Sheep squadron. A distinctive "gull wing" and huge propeller with a 2,100 horsepower Pratt-Whitney radial engine behind it makes the Corsair a favorite among aviators. Always a thrilling sight, the rare U.S. Navy Legacy Flight permits the audience to see the tremendous advances made in naval aviation.

"I can't tell you how pleased we are to announce these incredible additions to the 2008 show lineup, stated Michael Emoff, Chairman of the USATS Board of Trustees, producers of the event. "The Raptor, with its revolutionary performance, along with the vintage F-104 jet team, and Lt. Felini are "firsts" for Dayton that will truly thrill our fans. We can't wait for summer to get here so we can present these awesome aviation marvels to our community."

There's more! Air show officials hinted there would be an additional major announcement on the show lineup next month. Event organizers promise a first-class event, living up to Dayton's rich aviation heritage.

Air show officials also announced the popular SOAR (Students Open to Aviation Research) will again be held on Friday prior to the show weekend. The SOAR program is a unique opportunity for the show to introduce Dayton's inner-city youth to aviation and get them thinking about the possibility of an aerospace career. The Aerospace Adventures (A2) program is being phased out this year in preparation for the Aviation Trade Show planned to get underway in 2009.

As previously announced ticket prices for the Vectren Dayton Air Show presented by Kroger will remain the same in 2008. The value-priced Family 4 Pack providing a 40% savings will again be offered. The Pack, along with General Admission tickets and the popular Pavilion and Blue Sky premium seating are now all available on the show's website at www.daytonairshow.com . Also on sale now are chalet and Chairman's Club premium seating packages. Beginning June 9th, discount tickets will be conveniently available exclusively at Kroger stores in the Dayton-Cincinnati region.

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Founded in 1975, the Vectren Dayton Air Show presented by Kroger is one of the country's premier air shows. The event showcases military jet demonstrations, world-class aerobatic champions and entertainment for the whole family celebrating Dayton's rich aviation heritage as home of the Wright Brothers and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

Note to Editors: For images and more information visit www.DaytonAirShow.com under Feature Performers and Media Gallery

America's Greatest Air Show...Dayton's Premier Summer Event