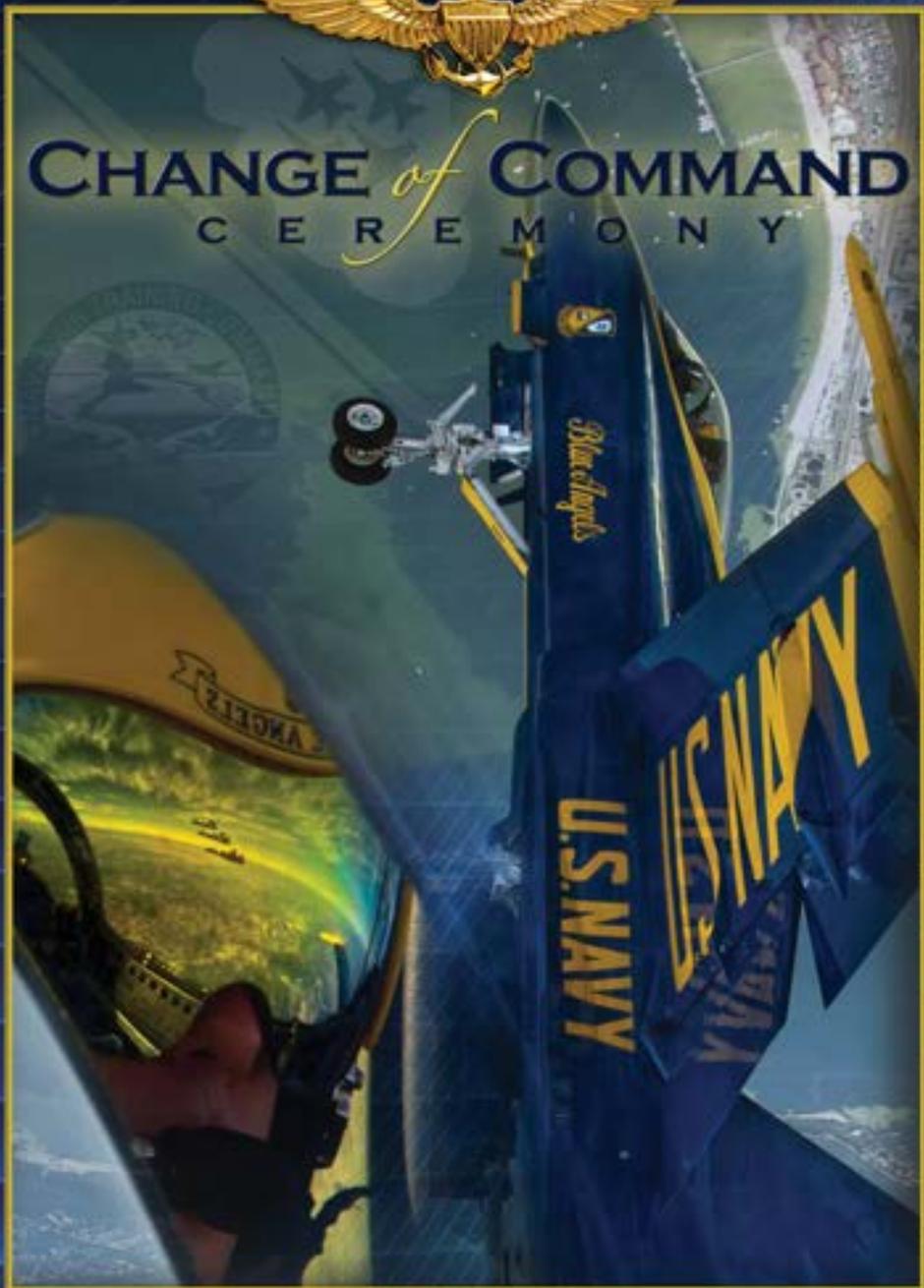


2012
Blue Angels



CHANGE *of* COMMAND
C E R E M O N Y



NOVEMBER 4, 2012

NATIONAL NAVAL AVIATION MUSEUM, NAS PENSACOLA

Schedule of Events

~SQUADRON FORMATION~

~ARRIVAL OF THE OFFICIAL PARTY~

~PARADE THE COLORS~

~INVOCATION~

Chaplain Zachary Speegle, LT, CHC, USN

~GUEST SPEAKER~

VADM David H. Buss, USN

~REMARKS AND READING OF ORDERS~

CAPT Gregory McWherter, USN

~READING OF ORDERS AND REMARKS~

CDR Thomas Frosch, USN

~RETIRE THE COLORS~

~BENEDICTION~

Chaplain Zachary Speegle, LT, CHC, USN

The Blue Angel Creed

*As a Blue Angel, I will dedicate all my efforts to pride,
professionalism and perfection.*

*The people in front of whom I stand are the same people
my attention to detail protects.*

*The faces of children thrilled today by blue and gold are
the same faces I wish to see take my place tomorrow.*

*I will strive to honor the crest I have earned and the flag
I wear, but I will never forget from where I came.*

*I will take pride in my representation of the crest, and I
will never forget I am a Blue Angel and what it means to
me and my fellow teammates.*

Once a Blue Angel, always a Blue Angel!





DAVID H. BUSS

*Vice Admiral, United States Navy
Commander, Naval Air Force, US Pacific Fleet*

Vice Adm. Buss is a native of Lancaster, Pa., and graduated with distinction from the United States Naval Academy in 1978. He was designated a naval flight officer and completed initial training in the venerable A-6 Intruder in 1979.

Buss' early flying assignments include aircraft carrier-based squadron tours aboard the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69), USS Nimitz (CVN 68) and USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) leading to command of Attack Squadron 34, the "Blue Blasters," deployed with the USS George Washington (CVN 73) in 1995-96. The "Blasters" were one of the Navy's last A-6 squadrons. Following squadron command, Buss completed Naval Nuclear Propulsion training and served as executive officer aboard the Nimitz.

He commanded the USS Sacramento (AOE 1) during the opening stages of Operation Enduring Freedom following the terrorist attacks on 9/11. Buss then commanded the USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74), our nation's seventh Nimitz-class carrier, from 2003 through 2006.

As a flag officer, Buss has served twice on the Chief of Naval Operations' (CNO's) staff and served 14 months in Baghdad as director, Strategy/Plans/Assessments (J-5) for Gen. David Petraeus and Gen. Ray Odierno. He commanded Carrier Strike Group 12, USS Enterprise Carrier Strike Group and recently commanded Task Force 20 while also serving as deputy commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command in Norfolk, Va.

Buss has been privileged to serve with teams that excelled in combat operations and he wears the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit (five awards), Distinguished Flying Cross (with Combat V), Bronze Star Medal, and Air Medal (five individual, four Strike Flight awards) as representative of those teams.

Vice Admiral Buss became Naval Aviation's 6th "Air Boss" in October 2012.



WILLIAM G. SIZEMORE II

*Rear Admiral, United States Navy
Chief of Naval Air Training*

Rear Admiral William G. Sizemore II graduated from the United States Naval Academy in May 1980 and received his Wings of Gold in March 1982.

Sizemore's initial assignment was as an Advanced Strike Instructor at VT-4 in Pensacola, Fla. He then reported to the "Grim Reapers" of VF-101 at NAS Oceana, Virginia for replacement training in the F-14 "Tomcat." His initial fleet assignment was with the "Black Aces" of VF-41 with a follow on shore assignment to the "Challengers" of VF-43 at NAS Oceana, Va.

In January 1991, Sizemore reported back to VF-41 for his department head tour and participated in combat operations during Operations DESERT STORM and PROVIDE COMFORT. He then reported back to VF-101 where he served as Operations and Maintenance Officer. His next assignment was at the Bureau of Naval Personnel where he served as Deputy Assistant for Flag Officer Detailing. He attended the National War College in Washington, D.C., and then reported to the "Gladiators" of VFA-106 at NAS Cecil Field, Fla., for transition training in the FA-18 Hornet.

Sizemore joined the "Sidewinders" of VFA-86 in January 1997 as Executive Officer and assumed command of the squadron in May 1998. His next assignment was at the Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center in Fallon, Nevada where he served as the Training Officer and Navy Fighter Weapons School (TOP-GUN) Department Head. He then reported to Commander Second Fleet in Norfolk, Virginia where he served as Deputy Chief of Staff for Training and Exercises. Sizemore next served as Deputy Director of the Combined Air Operations Center in Al Udeid, Qatar in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM. He then reported to Carrier Air Wing EIGHT as Deputy Commander in March 2003 and assumed command of the air wing in August 2005. Sizemore then served as Chief of Staff of Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa and Chief of Staff of Commander Naval Air Forces. His current assignment is Chief of Naval Air Training.

Admiral Sizemore has a Master's Degree in Business Administration from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va., and a Master's Degree in National Security Studies from National Defense University in Washington, D.C.

He has accumulated more than 6,000 flight hours and more than 1,000 carrier-arrested landings. His individual military decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), Individual Air Medal with Combat V, Strike Flight Air Medal (six awards), Navy Commendation Medal (three awards) and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

HISTORY OF THE

Blue Angels

At the end of World War II, the Chief of Naval Operations, Chester W. Nimitz, ordered the formation of a flight demonstration team to keep the public interested in Naval Aviation. The Blue Angels performed their first flight demonstration less than a year later in June 1946 at their home base, Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville, Florida. LCDR Roy "Butch" Voris led the team, flying the Grumman F6F Hellcat.



Two months later, on August 25, 1946, the Blue Angels transitioned to the Grumman F8F Bearcat. The 1947 team, led by LCDR Robert Clarke, introduced the now-famous "Diamond Formation."

By the end of the 1940s, the Blue Angels were flying their first jet aircraft, the Grumman F9F-2 Panther. In response to the demands placed on Naval Aviation in the Korean Conflict, the team reported to the aircraft carrier USS Princeton as the nucleus of Fighter Squadron 191 (VF-191), "Satan's Kittens," in 1950.

The team reorganized the next year and reported to NAS Corpus Christi, Texas, where they began flying



the newer and faster version of the Panther, the F9F-5. The Blue Angels remained in Corpus Christi until the winter of 1954 when they relocated to their present home base at NAS Pensacola, Florida. Here they progressed to the swept wing Grumman F9F-8 Cougar.

The ensuing 20 years saw the Blue Angels transition to two more aircraft, the Grumman F11F-1 Tiger (1957) and the McDonnell Douglas F-4J Phantom II (1969).

In December 1974, the Navy Flight Demonstration Team began flying the McDonnell Douglas A-4F Skyhawk II and was reorganized into the Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron. This reorganization permitted the establishment of the first commanding officer (CDR Tony Less) instead of a flight leader, added support officers and further redefined the squadron's mission, to enhance the recruiting effort.

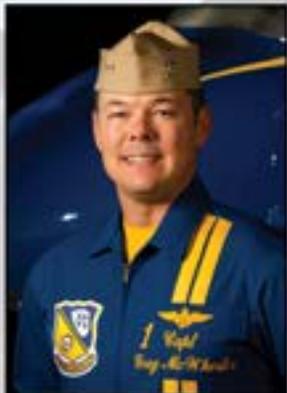


On November 8, 1986, the Blue Angels completed their 40th anniversary year when they unveiled their present aircraft, the McDonnell Douglas F/A-18 Hornet, the first dual-role fighter/attack aircraft, which is still serving on the nation's front lines of defense.

In 1992, more than one million people viewed Blue Angels' performances during a 30-day European deployment to Sweden, Finland, Russia, Romania, Bulgaria, Italy, the United Kingdom and Spain. This was the first European deployment in 19 years.



The 2011 show season brought out more than 11 million spectators. Since 1946, the Blue Angels have performed for more than 484 million fans.



GREGORY A. MCWHERTER

*Captain, United States Navy
Commanding Officer/Flight Leader*

Captain Greg McWherter is a native of Atlanta, Ga., and graduated from Avondale High School in 1986 where he lettered in football and soccer. He attended The Citadel, where he played NCAA Division I soccer for the Bulldogs and graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering in 1990. Upon graduation, Greg received his commission through the NROTC program, entered aviation training at Naval Air Station (NAS)

Pensacola in June 1990 and earned his wings of gold at NAS Meridian in September 1992.

Greg then received orders to Strike Fighter Squadron 106 (VFA-106), the "Gladiators," at NAS Cecil Field, Fla., for initial training in the F/A-18 Hornet. In October 1993, he reported to Strike Fighter Squadron 131 (VFA-131), the "Wildcats," where he deployed with the USS George Washington (CVN 73) to the Mediterranean Sea and Arabian Gulf. He graduated from the United States Navy Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN) in May 1995 and was selected as VFA-131's Pilot of the Year in 1996.

In March 1997, Greg reported to NAS Fallon, Nev., as a TOPGUN Instructor. Greg returned to the fleet in March 2000 as Tactics Officer and Department Head for Strike Fighter Squadron 34 (VFA-34), the "Blue Blasters," at NAS Oceana, Va. While assigned to VFA-34, Greg completed two more Mediterranean Sea and Arabian Gulf deployments aboard USS George Washington (CVN 73) and was selected by his peers to receive the 2003 Commander, Naval Air Forces Leadership Award.

In August 2003, Greg reported to the United States Joint Forces Command in Norfolk, Va. During his joint tour, Greg served as the Branch Chief for Joint Close Air Support and completed his Joint Professional Military Education (JPME) Phase I.

In March 2006, Greg reported as Executive Officer of Strike Fighter Squadron 192 (VFA-192), the "World Famous Golden Dragons," stationed at Naval Air Facility (NAF) Atsugi, Japan. He commanded the "World Famous Golden Dragons" through three major deployments with the USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) from June 2007 until July 2008.

Greg commanded the Blue Angels from November 2008 to November 2010 and, after a brief tour overseeing Navy Reserve Officer's Training Corps (NROTC) as the Deputy Director for Officer Development at Naval Services Training Command (NSTC), returned to lead the team again in May 2011. He has more than 5,500 flight hours and 950 carrier arrested landings. His decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, two Meritorious Service Medals, two Air Medals (Strike Flight), two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, as well as various campaign and unit awards.



THOMAS FROSCH

*Commander, United States Navy
Commanding Officer/Flight Leader*

Commander Thomas Frosch is a native of Clinton Township, Mich., and graduated from Fraser High School in 1988 where he lettered in football. He attended the U.S. Naval Academy where he also lettered in football, graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering in 1992 and was commissioned an Ensign in the U.S. Navy.

Tom reported to Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, Fla., for aviation indoctrination in March 1993. He completed primary flight training in the T-34C Mentor at NAS Corpus Christi, Texas, and completed advanced flight training in the T-45 Goshawk at NAS Kingsville, Texas. He earned his wings of gold in March 1995.

Tom then reported to Strike Fighter Squadron 106 (VFA-106), the "Gladiators," at NAS Cecil Field, Fla., for initial training in the F/A-18 Hornet where he earned the Rear Adm. James Morin Award as the Replacement Pilot of the Year. In June 1996, Tom reported to Strike Fighter Squadron 87 (VFA-87), the "Golden Warriors," also at NAS Cecil Field. While serving with the Golden Warriors, he was named the 1999 Strike Fighter Wing Atlantic Pilot of the Year.

In July 1999, Tom was selected to attend the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School at NAS Patuxent River, Md. He returned to the fleet in January 2003 as a Department Head for Strike Fighter Squadron 192 (VFA-192), the "World Famous Golden Dragons," stationed at NAS Atsugi, Japan. Tom deployed with the USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) and flew in support of Operations Southern Watch and Iraqi Freedom.

In August 2005, Tom attended the Naval War College in Newport, R.I., then reported to NATO at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) in Casteau, Belgium. He deployed as an Individual Augmentee with the NATO International Security Assistance Force to Kabul, Afghanistan.

In May 2009, Tom reported as Executive Officer of Strike Fighter Squadron 146 (VFA-146), the "Blue Diamonds," stationed at NAS Lemoore, Calif. He commanded the "Blue Diamonds" through a Western Pacific/Arabian Gulf deployment with the USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76). He was also selected for the 2010 Navy and Marine Corps Association Leadership Award.

Tom joins the Blue Angels as Commanding Officer in November 2012. He has more than 3,000 flight hours and 830 carrier arrested landings. His decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, two Meritorious Service Medals, two Individual Air Medals with Combat "V" (Six Strike Flight), three Navy Commendation Medals, one with Combat "V," and numerous unit, campaign and service awards.

The Navy Flyer's Creed

I am a United States Navy flyer.

My countrymen built the best airplane in the world and entrusted it to me. They trained me to fly it. I will use it to the absolute limit of my power.

With my fellow pilots, air crews, and deck crews, my plane and I will do anything necessary to carry out our tremendous responsibilities. I will always remember we are part of an unbeatable combat team - the United States Navy.

When the going is fast and rough, I will not falter. I will be uncompromising in every blow I strike. I will be humble in victory.

I am a United States Navy flyer. I have dedicated myself to my country, with its many millions of all races, colors, and creeds. They and their way of life are worthy of my greatest protective effort.

I ask the help of God in making that effort great enough.

My Name is Old Glory

by Howard Schnauber

I am the flag of the United States of America. My name is Old Glory.

I fly atop the world's tallest buildings. I stand watch in America's halls of justice. I fly majestically over great institutions of learning. I stand guard with the greatest military power in the world.

Look up! And see me!

I stand for peace, honor, truth and justice. I stand for freedom. I am confident. I am arrogant. I am proud.

When I am flown with my fellow banners, my head is a little higher, my colors a little truer. I bow to no one.

I am recognized all over the world. I am worshipped. I am saluted. I am respected. I am revered. I am loved, and I am feared.

I have fought every battle of every war for more than 200 years... Gettysburg, Shiloh, Appomattox, San Juan Hill, the trenches of France, the Argonne Forest, Anzio, Rome, the beaches of Normandy, the deserts of Africa, the cane fields of the Philippines, the rice paddies and jungles of Guam, Okinawa, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, Guadalcanal, New Britain, Peleliu and many more islands, and scores of places long forgotten by all except by those who were there with me.

I was there.

I led my soldiers. I followed them. I watched over them. They loved me. I was on a small hill on Iwo Jima. I was dirty, battle-worn and tired, but my soldiers cheered me, and I was proud.

I have been soiled, burned, torn and trampled on in the streets of countries that I have helped set free. It does not hurt, for I am invincible.

I have been soiled, burned, torn and trampled on in the streets of my own country, and when it is those with whom I have served in battle - it hurts. But I shall overcome - for I am strong.

I have slipped the bonds of Earth and stand watch over the uncharted new frontiers of space from my vantage point on the moon. I have been silent witness to all of America's finest hours.

But my finest hour comes when I am torn into strips to be used as bandages for my wounded comrades on the field of battle, when I fly at half mast to honor my soldiers, and when I lie in the trembling arms of a grieving mother at the graveside of her fallen son.

I am proud.

My name is Old Glory.

Long may I wave!

Dear God, long may I wave!

Acknowledgements

SIDEBOYS

ADCS(AW) Todd Matson
ADCS(AW/SW) Jason Money
LSC(AW) Rodney Hatch
AZC(AW/SW) Bruce Kunkel
YNC(NAO) Jennifer Jones
AZC(AW) Steven Mallard
AMC(AW) Damien Hurier
AMC(AW) Chris Simon

HONOR BOATSWAIN

MAI Adam Turner

BELL RINGER

GySgt Todd Tubach

COLOR GUARD

Naval Air Technical Training Center Performing Unit

BAND

United States Navy Band New Orleans

