

MEDIA RELEASE

From the Greater Rockford Airport Authority

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AirFest 2009 Set to Take-Off On August 22nd & 23rd AirFest Lands F-22 Raptor Demonstration Team to Headline

Rockford, IL – At a press conference today the Chicago Rockford International Airport (RFD) announced that AirFest 2009 will take place on August 22nd and 23rd with the United States Air Force F-22A Raptor Demonstration Team as the headlining act.

"We are extremely excited to showcase the Air Force's pre-eminent strike fighter. This will be sort of a homecoming for the Raptor as some of its components are built here in Rockford at Hamilton Sundstrand and Woodward Governor," said Executive Director Bob O'Brien. "We are expecting that this one-of-a-kind aircraft will attract thousands of aviation enthusiasts to the Rock River Region to not only showcase RFD but to put the spotlight on our community," he continued.

Rockford has the distinction of being the only air show in the Midwest to host the Raptor in 2009. Along with Rockford, Paris, France and Toronto, Canada make up three of the six locations where the Raptor will perform at during the second half of the air show season. "To have the Rockford AirFest among the names of two of the most famous international air shows is truly amazing," said Greater Rockford Airport Authority Chairman Mike Dunn. "Being able to attract world-class, headlining jet/demonstration teams for the fifth consecutive year shows the type of world-class event that our airport can host," he continued.

In addition to the Raptor, AirFest 2009 will also feature a wide variety of civilian and military acts, static displays, food and souvenir vendors, educational displays, and an array of kids' activities. AirFest Manager Geoff Oman said that this year's show will not only include a superb lineup of military and civilian performers but he also said that AirFest organizers are working hard to build on AirFest 2008's outstanding "ground show."

"AirFest strives to be a safe and entertaining family-oriented event. Both the air and ground portions of our show are geared so that attendees of any age are never without something to do. We pride ourselves on the fact that our event can encompass such a broad age-range of individuals," said Oman.

Tickets for AirFest 2009 are on sale now online and additional AirFest information will be posted regularly on the airport's web site at **FlyRFD.com**.

For more information, contact Bob O'Brien at 815-969-4444.

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