

CAF Red Tail Squadron
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For Immediate Release

**Traveling Exhibit Honoring Tuskegee Airmen To Host Free
Open Houses At International Women's Air and Space Museum**

The new CAF Red Tail Squadron RISE ABOVE Traveling Exhibit will be hosting two days of free open houses at the International Women's Air and Space Museum (www.iwasm.org) on Wednesday and Thursday, August 31 and September 1, from noon until 6 p.m. The IWASM is located at 1501 North Marginal Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44114 on the grounds of Burke Lakefront Airport.

The RISE ABOVE Traveling Exhibit is a customized 53' trailer with expandable sides that houses a 160-degree curved movie screen and seating for 30 in climate-controlled comfort. A 14-minute original movie called "RISE ABOVE" focuses on what the Tuskegee Airmen - America's first black military pilots and their support personnel - had to overcome to be allowed to fly and fight for their country during World War II. The movie was created by Emmy Award-winning Cleveland filmmaker Adam White, owner of Hemlock Films. Part of the movie was shot in Cleveland using local actors and crew personnel.

The free RISE ABOVE Traveling Exhibit is sponsored by the Texas Flying Legends Museum and was brought to Cleveland by a joint partnership of the Cleveland National Air Show, the North Coast Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., and the CAF Red Tail Squadron. After the two days of open houses, the Traveling Exhibit along with the CAF Red Tail Squadron's rare red-tailed P-51C Mustang - such as the Tuskegee Airmen flew - will be featured at the Cleveland Air Show which runs September 3-5 (www.clevelandairshow.com).

The CAF Red Tail Squadron, a volunteer-driven non-profit organization that is part of the Commemorative Air Force, uses the RISE ABOVE Traveling Exhibit and the Mustang - named Tuskegee Airmen - as tools to create interest in the inspiring story of how the young black men who would become known as the Tuskegee Airmen faced numerous obstacles as they worked toward their goal of becoming U.S. Army Air Corps pilots in the early 1940s. Their training in segregated Alabama and then their service in the segregated military meant that they ended up fighting two wars - against the Germans in the air and against harsh racism on the ground. Stationed in North Africa and then Italy, the Airmen consistently demonstrated their flying skill and courage - in fighters with tails they had painted red - and soon white bomber pilots who hesitated to return the salutes of their fellow black aviators began requesting the "red tail angels" as mission escorts to

protect them from the German Luftwaffe. From 1943 until 1945, the Tuskegee Airmen flew over 15,000 combat sorties and ended the war with one of the best escort records of any Fighter Group in the Air Corps.

The RISE ABOVE Traveling Exhibit reflects the CAF's educational mission of showing people - especially young people - how it is possible to set a goal and succeed even when the odds are against you. The CAF Red Tail Squadron has distilled the Airmen's experiences into six guiding RISE ABOVE principles to help with this mission:

Aim High Believe In Yourself Use Your Brain Never Quit
Be Ready To Go Expect To Win

About the CAF:

Collecting, restoring and flying vintage historical aircraft for more than half a century, the Commemorative Air Force (CAF) ranks as one of the largest private air forces in the world. The CAF is dedicated to Honoring American Military Aviation through flight, exhibition and remembrance. A non-profit educational association, the CAF has more than 8,000 members and a fleet of 156 airplanes distributed throughout the country to 74 units located in 27 states for care and operation. For more information, visit www.commemorativeairforce.org or call (432) 563-1000. For more information about the CAF Red Tail Squadron, visit www.redtail.org.

About the Texas Flying Legends Museum:

Based at Ellington Field in Houston, Texas, this privately owned war bird museum maintains and flies a wonderful range of World War II-era airplanes. The Museum uses its B-25J Mitchell bomber and FG-1D Corsair, Japanese Zero, and P-51D Mustang fighters to help educate Americans about the types of airplanes that played a huge role in the outcome of the last World War. History as taught in schools only spends a few days on World War II; these airplanes help to make history come alive by inspiring young people to learn more about their country and its past.

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