F-22 Raptor to Grasp Battle Creek With Amazement During 2019 Battle Creek Field of Flight Air Show & Balloon Festival

Battle Creek, MI - The US Air Force F-22 Raptor will be flying into Battle Creek to take part in the 2019 Battle Creek Field of Flight Air Show & Balloon Festival, which will run July 3rd-July 7th at W.K. Kellogg Airport. The aircraft, aptly named after the bird of prey, is one of the most anticipated acts to perform at the air show and will surely amaze spectators with maneuvers that most military fighter jets cannot perform.

The F-22 coming to Battle Creek is a part of the Air Combat Command F-22 Raptor Demo Team stationed out of Langley Air Force Base, Virginia. The Raptor will be piloted by Demo Team Commander Major Paul Lopez II of Virginia Beach, Virginia; an experienced fighter pilot with over 1,400 hours flying the F-15 Eagle and F-22 Raptor. The demo team performs precision aerial maneuvers to demonstrate the unique capabilities of the fifth-generation fighter aircraft. The F-22 Raptor's combination of stealth, supercruise, maneuverability, and integrated avionics, coupled with improved supportability, represents an exponential leap in warfighting capabilities. “The F-22 Raptor Demo is one of my favorite demos” says Barb Haluszka, Executive Director of the Battle Creek Field of Flight. “We are so blessed to have them as part of our event”.

The F-22 Raptor won’t only be performing a demo, but it will also be teaming up with a P-51 Mustang flown by Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Charles “Tuna” Hainline for the US Air Force Heritage Flight, a unique & rare formation where you can see Air Force history with a World War II warbird flying off the wing of the sleek F-22 Raptor.

The F-22 Demo Team will be performing during the scheduled air shows on July 4th, 5th, 6th & 7th at the Field of Flight along with a cast of amazing aerial performers. However, festival attendees will get extra chances to see the aircraft in the air. “The F-22 will essentially be based in Battle Creek during the 4th of July weekend” says Bretten Bailey, Media Director for the Field of Flight. “They’ll also be participating in an air show in Indiana as well as doing a flyover on the 4th of July for a parade in Wisconsin. It’s rare for demo teams to do this and it is a testament to how much the Air Force loves it here in Battle Creek”. This means that patrons will be able to see special second appearances by the F-22 in the skies over W.K. Kellogg Airport on July 4th and July 6th.

The Battle Creek Field of Flight Air Show & Balloon Festival is the largest Air Show & Balloon Festival in North America. It is globally recognized as being one of the best aerial events in the world. The event is one of the longest running annual air shows & balloon festivals in the State of Michigan as well as being Battle Creek’s largest festival. The event is always held over the 4th of July holiday in Battle Creek, Michigan and has been innovating in the aerial events industry since 1980. The event is organized by the Battle Creek Hot-Air Balloon Championships, Inc. (501c4 Nonprofit) and the event helps benefit numerous area non-profit organizations all
while providing a significant economic boost to the region. For more information on the event, visit www.bcballoons.com or call 269-962-0592

For Media Inquiries, contact Bretten Bailey at bbairshows@gmail.com or 269-808-1362.

(Photo Courtesy of US Air Force. Photo taken by US Air Force Senior Airman Kaylee Dubois)
Major Paul “Loco” Lopez - F-22 Demo Pilot & Commander (Photo Courtesy of F-22 Raptor Demo Team/US Air Force)