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#WOHAirshow

Cmdr. Eric Doyle of League City to Lead U.S. Navy Blue Angels in 34th Annual CAF Wings Over Houston Airshow Oct. 20-21 at Ellington Airport

HOUSTON (Oct. 8, 2018) – When the U.S. Navy **Blue Angels** return to Houston for the [34th Annual Commemorative Air Force \(CAF\) Wings Over Houston Airshow](http://www.wingsoverhouston.com), **League City native Cmdr. Eric C. Doyle** will command the 130-person squadron as well as pilot the demonstration team’s No. 1 jet. Also returning home is **Cmdr. Matt Kaslik from The Woodlands**, who serves as team’s executive officer. The CAF Wings Over Houston Airshow will be held Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 20-21, at Ellington Airport. Tickets are available at www.wingsoverhouston.com or by calling 888-4-FLYSHOW.

Cmdr. Doyle joined the Blue Angels in September 2017, taking command of the team’s 72nd air show season, and returns to Houston and Ellington Airport where his passion for flying started. Growing up much of his childhood in Houston, Doyle said his motivation to become a pilot came from watching the Blue Angels perform in Houston.

“A considerable number of young boys and girls attending CAF Wings Over Houston Airshow over the years have returned to us as men and women who are now military or private pilots or have pursued aviation-related careers,” said **Airshow Director Bill Roach**. “This is one of the reasons why our non-profit show and organization provide scholarships to young students who are studying to become pilots, aviation or aerospace engineers, aviation mechanics or other aviation-related careers.”

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Doyle's call sign, "Popeye," is named after Gene Hackman's detective character in the film, "The French Connection." His late father, who also flew by the same call sign, was an Air Force fighter pilot in Vietnam, then later served in the Air National Guard. When Doyle was 8 years old, the family moved to Houston where he often visited Ellington Field to watch his father fly. Doyle attended Texas A&M University where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and competed on the school's swim team. He then was commissioned in the Navy after completing Officer Candidate School. In other previous assignments, Doyle has held numerous assignments including deployments in support of operations Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and others. He is a graduate and former instructor at the Navy Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN) and has served as an operational test pilot. Doyle has accumulated more than 3,000 flight hours and has 600 carrier-arrested landings. His decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, seven Strike/Flight Air Medal, five Navy Commendation Medal, a Navy Achievement Medal and various personal, unit and service awards.

Also returning to Houston, Cmdr. Kaslik is a native of The Woodlands, Texas, and graduated from McCullough High School in 1991, where he was captain of the varsity football team. He attended the U.S. Naval Academy where he lettered three years in varsity football, graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Oceanography in 1995, and was commissioned an Ensign in the U.S. Navy. Kaslik joined the Blue Angels in September 2016 after numerous assignments including multiple deployments. He has accumulated more than 2,260 flight hours and 530 carrier-arrested landings. His decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, two Meritorious Service Medals, five Strike Flight Air Medals, four Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, one with Combat "V," three Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, and numerous unit, campaign, and service awards.

Produced by the Commemorative Air Force, the non-profit airshow will also feature special performances and static displays of vintage, modern military and aerobatic aircraft.

To purchase tickets for the 2018 CAF Wings Over Houston Airshow, please visit the airshow's website, <https://wingsoverhouston.com/>, or call 888-4-FLYSHOW. On airshow performance days, general admission tickets will be sold at the gate. Once inside the gates, fans are welcome to visit reserved areas and purchase upgraded seating, if any are available.

About Commemorative Air Force (CAF) Wings Over Houston Airshow

The [Commemorative Air Force \(CAF\) Wings Over Houston Airshow](#) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) community event produced by a volunteer effort of the Gulf Coast Wing, Houston Wing, and Tora! Tora! Tora! of the Commemorative Air Force, with support from the Lone Star Flight Museum in Galveston, Texas Legends Flying Museum, Vietnam War Flight Museum, Lewis Air Legends and Collings Foundation West. The Airshow is dedicated to showcasing vintage World War II aircraft, along with the thrills of modern aviation. One of the top air shows in the United States in its category, the CAF Wings Over Houston Airshow attracts more than 90,000 festival goers throughout Houston as well as from around the globe. The 2018 Airshow benefits the CAF Wings Over Houston Airshow Scholarship Program, Exchange Club of Sugar Land, military recruiting efforts, and the Commemorative Air Force aircraft restoration and flying historical programs, in addition to numerous other nonprofit participating organizations.

About the Commemorative Air Force

The Commemorative Air Force is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in Dallas, and the recognized leader of the Warbird Movement—the effort to preserve and honor American military aviation history. Since it was founded in 1957, the CAF has accrued 170 historic aircraft—the largest collection of vintage military aircraft in the world. Educational outreach programs impact an estimated 20 million Americans each year thanks to over 12,000 volunteers who support the CAF nationally and overseas. The Commemorative Air Force honors the men and women who built, maintained, and flew in American airplanes during World War II. The organization believes that is best accomplished by maintaining the airplanes in flying condition; taking the airplanes to the people, allowing them to experience the sight and sound of the aircraft in flight. For more information, visit www.commemorativeairforce.org.