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FOR RELEASE: *Immediately through July 1, 2014*

Air Force's Premier Jazz Ensemble on National Tour

WHO/WHAT: The Airmen of Note, the premier jazz ensemble of the United States Air Force, will perform a free concert at the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts on Tuesday, July 1 at 7:30 p.m., as part of its "Celebrating Independence" tour. This 16-day tour will take the band through Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, and Illinois.

Stationed at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling in Washington, D.C., the Airmen of Note is one of six performing groups that comprise The U.S. Air Force Band. Created in 1950 to continue the tradition of Major Glenn Miller's Army Air Corps dance band, the group consists of 18 active duty Airmen musicians including one vocalist.

Technical Sgt. David McDonald, drummer for the Airmen of Note, is a native of nearby Decatur, Ill. Before beginning his career in the Air Force in 2006, McDonald received his Bachelor of Music degree in percussion performance from DePaul University in Chicago in 2005.

WHEN: July 1, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts, Bloomington, Ill.

INTERVIEW OPTIONS: Tech. Sgt. McDonald, along with members of the Airmen of Note are available for in-studio or phone-in interviews; live performances on local morning shows including bumpers and teasers; and coverage before, during and after concerts. They can perform acoustically or with sound reinforcement utilizing their professional sound engineer. To set up interviews and/or request more information, contact Master Sgt. Matthew Irish (listed above).

BACKGROUND ON THE AIRMEN OF NOTE: Through the years, the Airmen of Note has presented its own brand of big band jazz as well as more contemporary forms of jazz to audiences via annual tours across the United States, deployments around the world and local performances throughout metropolitan Washington, D.C. Each year, the Jazz Heritage Series is broadcast to millions over National Public Radio, independent jazz radio stations, satellite radio services and the Internet. In addition, the "Note" produces and delivers recorded music to millions of fans worldwide each year through hundreds of media outlets. One of the group's recent holiday recordings, "Cool Yule," reached #2 on the JazzWeek jazz chart. For more information about the Airmen of Note, including photos, bios and musical excerpts, please visit: <http://bit.ly/usafairmenofnote>.

As part of The U.S. Air Force Band, these Airmen musicians honor those who have served, inspire American citizens to heightened patriotism and service, and positively impact the global community on behalf of the U.S. Air Force and the United States of America. The excellence demonstrated by these Airmen musicians is a reflection of the excellence carried out by Airmen stationed around the globe. For more information about the U.S. Air Force Band, please visit: <http://usafband.af.mil>.

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