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FOR RELEASE: *Immediately through July 3, 2014*

Air Force's Premier Jazz Band on National Tour

The premier Jazz ensemble of the U.S. Air Force, the Airmen of Note, will perform 4 free concerts at the Navy Pier's Beer Garden in Chicago, Ill. on both Thursday, July 3 and Friday, July 4 at 5:30 & 7 p.m. as part of its "Celebrating Independence" tour.

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.

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, local performances throughout metropolitan Washington, D.C., and deployments around the world. In fact, Illinois-native and drummer, Technical Sgt. Dave McDonald, and vocalist, Technical Sgt. Paige Martin, recently deployed in support of diplomatic and troop morale initiatives as a part of Operation Enduring Freedom. Four other Note members will deploy early next year, and trumpeter, Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Burns, will lead that group.

Each year, the Note's 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>.

The Airmen of Note's 16-day tour will take these Airmen musicians through Michigan, Indiana, Ohio and Illinois. The concerts on July 3 & 4 at Chicago's Navy Pier are free and open to the public. This is a non-ticketed event.

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