

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Gary / Chicago International Airport Hosts U.S. Navy Blue Angels

Legendary Blue Angels Return to Airport for "Reimagined" Air and Water Show Demonstrations

(Gary, IN – August  $20^{th}$ , 2021) – This week, the Gary / Chicago International Airport (GCIA) hosted the United States Navy's historic "Blue Angels" flight demonstration squadron. The squadron will participate in an aerial demonstration for the 2021 "reimagined" Chicago Air and Water Show, which will be held along Chicago's lakefront on Saturday, August 21 and Sunday, August 22 from 12-1 pm. The Gary / Chicago International Airport is once again serving as the staging grounds for this legendary squadron, who have been a frequent guest of the airport during the annual air and water show.

"The Gary / Chicago International Airport proudly welcomes the Blue Angels to once again stage their impressive aerial operations from our airport," said GCIA Authority Chairman Timothy Fesko. "While the pandemic has limited this year's event, we are proud to once again host this historic squadron and play a role in such a special event for our region. I look forward to this weekend's tremendous and exhilarating display."

The Blue Angels flight demonstration squad was formed in 1946 by the United States Navy and is the oldest formal "aerobatic team" under the same name that operates in the United States. The Blue Angels' Boeing F/A-18 Super Hornets are numbered 1-6 and are currently flown by five Navy demonstration pilots and one Marine Corps demonstration pilot. For years, GCIA has hosted performers that participate in the annual event, and while the COVID-19 pandemic curtailed the 2020 event due to public health concerns, the airport worked closely with the City of Chicago to stage this year's reimagined event.

"The Air and Water Show has been a tradition in the region for more than 50 years and is a memorable and engaging event for spectators of all ages," **said GCIA Executive Director Duane Hayden**. "I applaud the City of Chicago for bringing this event back in a safe and modified capacity, and I could not be more honored to welcome the Blue Angels to our airport to kick off this year's reimagined event."

Details on the performance and viewing areas for this weekend's showcase can be found on the City of Chicago's <u>website</u>.

## **About Gary/Chicago International Airport**

Located minutes from the shores of Lake Michigan and just 25 miles from downtown Chicago, Gary/Chicago International Airport (GCIA) is a full-service airport and a premiere destination for corporate and weekend flyers in the Chicago metropolitan region and Northwest Indiana. In 2020, UPS began its Next Day Air Service operations at GCIA. To learn more, visit the airport's new website at FlyGYY.com.