

NAVAL AIR STATION OCEANA EARNS AIR SHOW INDUSTRY'S TOP COMMUNITY RELATIONS AWARD

LAS VEGAS – Dec. 11, 2014: The International Council of Air Shows (ICAS) at its 47th annual convention awarded Naval Air Station (NAS) Oceana the air show industry's top award for community relations tonight in Las Vegas in front of nearly 1,000 air show industry professionals attending the event's Chairman's Banquet.



The military installation's 55th annual air show event earned the Dick Schram Memorial Community Relations Award by bringing together five Virginia Beach-based nonprofit organizations – The Navy Wounded Warrior Safe Harbor Program, Wounded Wear, Skydive Suffolk, The Noblemen, and the USO – along with the Navy and Marine Corp. Exceptional Family Member Program, to provide a significant number of deserving people and groups with a positive and inspiring weekend of family entertainment. The local and regional impact of the show, which attracts over 300,000 spectators, noticeably raises the public's awareness of charitable and service organizations that exist to support those in need.

Throughout the two-day event, kids with special needs interacted with Navy pilots, wounded warriors were treated to "Jumping for a Purpose" skydives into the air show itself, and wounded sailors and Coast Guardsmen embraced the chance to educate the public.

To complement NAS Oceana's outreach efforts with local charities and special needs programs, the air base leadership and show organizers built invaluable partnerships with the Virginia Beach city government, police, fire, and emergency medical services, each of which dedicated personnel to the show's planning and execution.

"That all of these diverse entities came together to produce this event is a testament to positive community relationships," said John Cudahy, ICAS president. "NAS Oceana and its surrounding community have forged an alliance keenly focused on meeting their core objectives of local interaction and participation and communicating the air station's mission."

The annual NAS Oceana Air Show represents the U.S. Navy's largest and most popular East Coast open house and community outreach event drawing visitors from 29 states and 13 countries. Since 1988, the International Council of Air Shows has presented the Dick Schram Memorial Community Relations Award to the military base that does the best job of putting the considerable power of its open house to work in improving its relations in the community where the base is located. A former Blue Angel, Dick Schram was an active and respected member of the air show community and was personally responsible for many improvements in the relationships between military and civilian air show personnel during his tenure as Department of Defense Aviation Support Liaison Officer.