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FIGHTER PILOT

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE (May 5, 2005) – You’re at the controls of an F-15 jet fighter, swooping, diving, trying to avoid an “enemy” plane in hot pursuit. You roll and nail the throttle, fighting G-forces as you careen in a tight loop, maneuvering your plane until you’re on his tail ready to pounce. Your thumb touches the button as he fights to get off your radar....

Feel the adrenaline as you fly with a young F-15 Air Force pilot in ***Fighter Pilot: Operation Red Flag***, opening June 25 in the Union Planters IMAX[®] Theater at the Pink Palace Museum. Red Flag is the final training phase before pilots are sent into actual combat, and this giant screen film is the closest you’ll ever get to a ride in the world’s greatest fighter jet. ***Fighter Pilot*** provides a rare insider’s view into exhilarating aerial combat training, illustrating the teamwork and dangers inherent in military flight training.

Capt. John Stratton is a young American fighter pilot, determined to follow in the footsteps of his grandfather, a decorated World War II flying ace. He joins the world’s best pilots at Red Flag – the most challenging training exercise for the air forces of the U.S. and its allies conducted at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada. The film follows Capt. Stratton in his F-15 Eagle as he undertakes Red Flag’s treacherous and immensely complicated training. His childhood vision of heroism widens as he witnesses the teamwork of his ground crew and other pilots, ensuring a successful mission and his safe return home.

“This is THE movie of the Air Force for the next 30-40 years, as seen through the prism of a Red Flag exercise and Capt. Stratton’s personal journey,” stated Major Sam Morgan, fighter pilot and the film’s Air Force Technical Advisor.

“So many films on fighter aircraft essentially fake the interaction between the planes using a lot of quick cutting, simulated cockpit photography and special effects,” said director/producer Stephen Low (*Titanica*, *Super Speedway*). “Working with the Air Force made it possible for us to shoot actual dog-fighting for the first time between a dozen aircraft at once. Altogether we were working with more than one hundred aircraft of all types. This is the closest an audience will ever get to flying in the middle of a massive air combat operation.”

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The film features 20 American F-15E Strike Eagles, perhaps the greatest jet fighter ever built, representing four American squadrons. The Germans brought six European-built Tornados, known for their sophisticated electronics. The Israelis arrived with six F-16s, the Canadians brought F-18 Hornets from Alberta and Quebec, and the British Royal Navy flew their famous Harrier jump jets. Additional American-supplied aircraft for the film include B-1, B-2, F-117, F-15C, F-15E, F-16 and A-10 bomber, fighter and attack aircraft; HH-60 search and rescue aircraft; U-2 reconnaissance aircraft, KC-10 aerial refueling aircraft; C-130 and C-17 airlift support; Blackhawk helicopters; and E-3 airborne warning and control system AWACS. You'll see a host of combat and military support aircraft and their crews in action. For more aircraft information, please visit www.af.mil/factsheets.

Clay Lacy (*Top Gun*, *Armageddon*, *Cliffhanger*), among the world's top aerial cinematographers, stated, "*Fighter Pilot* was a highly-unique shoot because it involved the largest number and variety of aircraft I have ever worked with at one time."

Fighter Pilot is directed by Stephen Low (*Volcanoes of the Deep Sea*, *Super Speedway*), produced by The Stephen Low Company, and is a presentation of K2 Communications (*Adventures in Wild California*). Major funding was provided by The Boeing Company. The film is sponsored locally by Crew Training International, the provider of high performance team training to all Air Force combat pilots, and by the Kemmons Wilson Family Foundation and Wilson Air Center.

Climb into the cockpit of an F-15 in *Fighter Pilot*, the feature film in the Union Planters IMAX[®] Theater at the Memphis Pink Palace Museum June 25 through November 11, 2005, with limited showings through March 3, 2006. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$7.25 for seniors and \$6.25 for children. Group rates are available. For general IMAX information and show times, call (901) 763-IMAX or visit the Pink Palace Family of Museums web site at www.memphismuseums.org. For more information and reservations, call (901) 320-6362.

For more information on *Fighter Pilot: Operation Red Flag*, please visit www.fighterpilotfilm.com.

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About Red Flag:

Established in 1975, Red Flag is a two-week realistic combat training exercise involving the elite aerial forces from all four branches of the U.S. military, plus their Guard/Reserve components. It is commonly described as being more challenging than actual combat. Since its inception, NATO and the air forces of 27 other countries have joined the U.S. in these intensive exercises, as well as individual members of other countries (such as India) who have participated as observers. Red Flag is conducted on the vast bombing and gunnery ranges at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, as one of a series of advanced training programs administered by the Air Warfare Center and Nellis through the 414th Combat Training Squadron. Red Flag exercises have provided training for over 400,000 elite military personnel, including more than 132,000 aircrew members flying over 350,000 sorties and logging over 600,000 hours flying time. For more information on Red Flag, please visit www.nellis.af.mil.