



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
CHIEF OF NAVAL AIR TRAINING
250 LEXINGTON BLVD SUITE 102
CORPUS CHRISTI TX 78419-5041

CNATRAINST 3121.1D
00P
29 Nov 12

CNATRA INSTRUCTION 3121.1D

Subj: SCHEDULING PROCESS FOR NAVY FLIGHT DEMONSTRATION SQUADRON
(BLUE ANGELS)

Ref: (a) CNO ltr 3121 Ser N88/7U181892 of 7 Aug 07 (NOTAL)

1. Purpose. To formally define the schedule development process for the Blue Angels.
2. Cancellation. CNATRAINST 3121.1C
3. Background. The development of the Blue Angels' schedule is complex, with a number of key stakeholders including the Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV), Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC), Commander, Naval Air Forces (CNAF), Commander, Navy Recruiting Command (CNRC), and the Navy Chief of Information (CHINFO). This schedule, in combination with those of the Thunderbirds and the Canadian Snowbirds, forms the foundation of the North American Air Show Industry schedule. For this reason, errors generate immediate congressional interest.

a. Per reference (a), the mission of the Blue Angels is the enhancement of: U.S. Navy (USN) and U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) recruiting; USN, USMC and Department of Defense (DoD) community relations; morale and retention in our forces; and international goodwill.

b. The foundation of the Blue Angels schedule is the integrated priority list developed jointly by CHINFO (OI6) and CNRC following receipt of the Blue Angels schedule requests. The Blue Angels Commanding Officer (CO) shall ensure the proposed schedule can be safely executed and is in compliance with existing CNATRA, USN, and DoD directives. The milestones recommended below are designed to provide sufficient opportunity for review and still produce an approved schedule in time for public release at the annual International Council of Air Shows (ICAS) December convention.

4. Concept of Operations. The Blue Angels CO is the focal point for development of the Blue Angels' schedule. The CO will host a scheduling meeting of USN representatives (CNO, CNAF, CNATRA, CNRC, CNIC, CHINFO, and OLA) in September at NAS Pensacola. This meeting will occur following submission of the integrated priority list and the joint USN/U.S. Air Force (USAF) conference, which deconflicts the proposed schedules of the Blue Angels and the Thunderbirds. The output is the final proposed schedule, which is then routed through the chain of command to SECNAV for approval. Representatives should have the authority to engage in discussions and make decisions on behalf of their principal. The proposal for the Blue Angels' schedule will be submitted in Action Memo format by the Blue Angels CO to SECNAV via CNATRA, CNAF, PACFLT and the CNO. Until final approval by SECNAV, all information regarding potential show sites and dates must be considered privileged and not disseminated outside official channels.

5. Considerations. The show season normally consists of 35 to 40 events with approximately 68 to 75 individual performances. The Blue Angels will conduct public performances only at events on the approved schedule. At least 30 percent of the total events scheduled should be civilian sponsored events and 30 percent military sponsored events. Events that are free to the public shall be given priority in cities where competing events occur. The standard is a maximum of three official show days. However, if the Blue Angels and CHINFO determine the potential for extraordinary recognition exists in a specific event, it may be approved by SECNAV during the scheduling process. In addition:

a. No more than 15 percent of the weekend events will be repeated from the previous year. Requests for exemptions shall be approved by SECNAV. Additionally, three show sites are integral to the functionality of the Blue Angels. These sites are exempt from the 15 percent calculation. They shall be noted in the final approval package as follows:

(1) NAF El Centro, CA - Blue Angels winter training base, final rehearsal

(2) Pensacola Beach, FL

(a) Blue Angels hometown appreciation event

(b) Interview week for prospective Blue Angels

(3) NAS Pensacola, FL - Blue Angels home base, end of season show

b. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) safety regulations shall be observed at all times. Safety is the paramount consideration and the team will perform only those maneuvers prescribed by the command maneuvers package/support manual. The following requirements will be observed:

(1) All show sites require a pre-season visit to ensure safety and support requirements can be met.

(2) Circling and arrival maneuvers are required at a show site prior to a demonstration or practice. These maneuvers are usually accomplished on the Thursday prior to weekend demonstrations.

(3) Arresting gear must be located at the show site or within 60 nautical miles (NM). Remote show sites must have arresting gear located within 40 NM from the staging base.

(4) Minimum hard surface runway length is 6,000 feet.

(5) Show sites that present difficult terrain and/or obstructions, in the opinion of the Blue Angels CO, will not be scheduled before mid-May.

(6) Dual site weekends are not desirable. However, should a dual site weekend be scheduled, the following safety considerations apply:

(a) Only a one leg, unrefueled flight between sites is allowed.

(b) Each site must, in the opinion of the Blue Angels CO constitute an "easy" show (familiar site, flat terrain, prominent checkpoints, clearly visible show/crowd lines, etc.).

(7) Midweek shows are not normally scheduled. When a midweek show is considered in the best interest of DoD and the Navy, the following additional considerations apply:

(a) They will be flown only when they coincide with the normal proficiency practice schedule as would be conducted in the absence of that midweek show.

(b) At no time will a midweek show jeopardize the execution of a subsequent planned weekend show.

(8) The distance from the staging base to remote shows must be no further than 30 NM due to fuel considerations.

c. The Blue Angels will schedule two weekend breaks during each season, normally in conjunction with the Easter Holiday and the summer months (July-August).

d. Precise planning and coordination between the Blue Angels, the FAA, and the air show sponsors is critical to the safety and thus the success of every event. If any part of the planning process is not deemed executable, is changed after the fact or compromises the safety of the team or the public, to include circling and arrival maneuvers, the Blue Angels CO will cancel the team's participation.

6. Milestones. The following milestones are recommended to provide sufficient time to review the schedule and approve it in time for the ICAS Convention. The schedule development process is divided into three phases (all dates are not later than and for the year two years before the show season, for example the 2014 show schedule is scheduled to be released December 2012):

a. Phase I - Preparation/Validation

<u>Date</u>	<u>Milestone</u>
1 July	Proposals for extended overseas deployments submitted to SECNAV via CHINFO.
1 August	Deadline for submission of DD Form 2535 (Request for Military Demonstration Team) to CHINFO by air show sponsors.

- 7 August Consolidated list of Blue Angels show requests forwarded to CNRC and CNATRA.
- 15 August CHINFO and CNRC integrated priority list forwarded to the Blue Angels CO.

b. Phase II - Schedule Development

- 1 August CNRC provides recruiting priorities for Blue Angels performances to the Blue Angels CO and the CHINFO Aviation Support Office.
- 10 September Blue Angels/Thunderbirds joint scheduling conference.
- 14 September USN scheduling conference at NAS Pensacola.

c. Phase III - Schedule Approval

- 19 September Blue Angels CO submits schedule to CNATRA for approval.
- 26 September CNATRA forwards schedule to CNAF for approval.
- 3 October CNAF forwards schedule to PACFLT for approval.
- 10 October PACFLT forwards schedule to DNS for approval.
- 17 October DNS forwards schedule to CNO for approval.
- 31 October CNO forwards schedule to SECNAV for approval.
- 14 November Blue Angels schedule approved.
- 1 December Blue Angels schedule released to the public at the International Council of Air Shows Convention.

Notes :

- (1) Milestone dates will be updated each year via the Blue Angels CO schedule submission.

(2) Each endorsing authority will forward an info copy of endorsement to CNO, CHINFO and CNRC.

C. HOLLINGSWORTH
Chief of Staff

Distribution:

SECNAV

CNO

PACFLT

CNAF

CNIC

COMNAVCRUITCOM

OLA

CHINFO (Code OI-6)

NAVFLIGHTDEMRON