

# Air Show 2003



Randolph shows off America's military might



The U.S. Navy Blue Angels aerial demonstration team blazes across show center during the 2003 Randolph Air Force Base Air Show Saturday. (Photo by Master Sgt. Lee Roberts)



(Above) Michael Rodriguez, 7, son of Jose and Addie Rodriguez of Marion, Texas, peers out the nose of a vintage B-25 aircraft during the airshow Saturday. (Right) Mason Wold, 3, son of Jarrod and Tresa Wold of San Antonio, Texas, hops around in "Charlie the Inflatable Choo Choo" at the Children's activities area Sunday. (Photo by Master Sgt. Lee Roberts)



(Above) A young girl climbs upward while participating in a rock climbing recreation activity as the Blue Angels pass by overhead during the air show Sunday. (Above Inset photo) Seaman Grant Deal, a U.S. Coast Guard airman, hoists his son Ryan, 1, onto his shoulders Sunday to see and feel a propeller on one of the many vintage military aircraft on static display. Seaman Deal, his wife Mindy and son Ryan came all the way from Corpus Christi, Texas, for the air show. (Photo by Master Sgt. Lee Roberts)



Spectators get a close-up view at some of America's vintage military aircraft Saturday. More than 100,000 people flocked each day to Randolph Air Force Base's 2003 Air show. (Photo by Master Sgt. Lee Roberts)

**By Master Sgt. Lee Roberts**  
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It wasn't a war zone, but recruiters could have formed up a civil defense force as thrill seekers and military enthusiasts swarmed onto the Randolph Air Force Base flightline Saturday and Sunday as the base showed off America's most advanced aircraft, hardware and weaponry.

Thousands flocked to the base each day to experience aircraft simulators, view ground exhibits and static displays, and to see the various aerial demonstrations highlighted by the U.S. Navy Blue Angels, U.S. Army Golden Knights parachute jump team, and Air Education and Training Command's West Coast T-6A Texan II demonstration team.

Spectators from the community seemed impressed by the show of force and many commented positively on how the event was organized and how professionally military members conducted themselves.

"I would like to express my appreciation on the airshow in general and specifically the logistics of moving the many visitors to and from the airshow grounds to the parking areas," noted retired Air Force Reserve Lt. Col. Charles Capron. "The young airmen and soldiers were pleasant, efficient, and effective. Their attitude added to the experience for myself and my grandchildren."

Welton and Lorraine House from Taylor, Texas also had great things to say about the organization and excellence of the show.

"The Blue Angels were stellar in their demonstration," Mr. House said. "The public address announcer was very informative during each part of the program. The grounds were very clean. Parking was set up with easy access and the bus scheduling was excellent. The aircraft displays and booths in the hangers would have taken a whole day to visit. One interesting highlight was the personnel wearing World War II uniforms."

Allen Morris of San Antonio also expressed his gratitude. He took his sons to the airshow and all he could say at first was "wow."

"You really put on an exceptional show," Mr. Morris said. "Not only were the flying maneuvers performed by everyone spectacular, but the management of the event was terrific. It was very easy to get in and out and the soldiers coordinating the people movement were exceptionally nice."

During the air show more than 40 modern and vintage aircraft were displayed along with a variety of military-related exhibits. A vintage uniform display also featured more than 40 uniforms from the 1940s to present.

Families at the air show also took advantage of the many activities for children. The kid's area included interactive activities such as a 35-foot bungee run, a 40-foot giant slide and inflatable obstacle course, a moon bounce and play unit. "Stepping Stones to Aviation," a miniature airport complete with pedal-powered planes, gave children the opportunity to simulate flying. Organizers awarded children a certificate for their first successful flight.

The show included something for everyone. Kids played, while people of all ages touched, looked and crawled around aircraft. Vendors provided refreshments and the Blue Angels the thrills.

No bombs were dropped or weapons dispersed. However, with a few clever pyrotechnics and well-timed flyovers, the show at least tried to give the public a glimpse of military life without having to be in a war zone.



Japanese Zeros and an American P-51 fly over Randolph's west runway during the airshow Saturday as pyrotechnic explosions add to the reenactment of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941. The Tora Tora Tora program featured vintage aircraft dog fighting over the base's skies. (Left inset photo) Junior ROTC 1st Lt. Jacob Rodriguez, 17, a senior at Madison High School, falls from the sky while bungee jumping in the children's activity area. (Photo by Master Sgt. Lee Roberts)



Sean Tucker flies the Oracle Challenger Saturday close enough to the runway for the aircraft wing to cut through a piece of ribbon stretched across the path of the aircraft. The acrobat flew through three consecutive points along the runway during the stunt. (Photo by Master Sgt. Lee Roberts)