



NEWS RELEASE

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PERFORMANCE DEMONSTRATES SNJ CAPABILITIES DURING FINA-CAF AIRSHO® 2007

Clyde Zellars will perform a series of aerobatic maneuvers choreographed to patriotic music in his 64-year-old SNJ-Texan during FINA-CAF AIRSO 2007 adjacent to the Midland (MAF) airport Sept. 29 and 30, 2007.

“The aerobatic maneuvers I perform are the same ones that Navy, Army Air Corps and Air Force pilots used for advanced training during World War II and The Korean War,” said Zellars. The aerobatic demonstration includes precise vertical and horizontal maneuvers such as loops, rolls and combinations of the two.

His first maneuver will begin at about 1,500 feet before diving into the demonstration area to about 100 feet above the ground. He has a surface waiver that allows him to fly as close to the ground as he wishes. Zellars spends about a fourth of his performance upside down or sideways, including the period at the end when the landing gear is extended.

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“Aerobatic maneuvers are designed to familiarize the pilot with what he can actually do with this airplane before he was to fly and fight in combat with a fighter type aircraft,” Zellers said.

“The demonstration is so that people can appreciate what the airplane looked like and sounded like, up close and personal in the air.

“Air shows are the only place maneuvers such as these can be seen because the military no longer flies this type of aircraft”, he said. Zellar said that he enjoys airshows because he can demonstrate airplane maneuvers that help spectators remember the men and women of our armed forces and because they allow him to raise enthusiasm about flying and aviation.

“I want the young people out in the crowd to see what aviation is all about because that’s our future,” Zellers said. “We are just the temporary ‘keeper of the keys’ to these aircraft and someday will pass them on to another individual to keep our history alive.”

The soundtrack for Zellers’ performance is a combination of official songs from the Armed Forces and other patriotic anthems, with a finale flown to “Amazing Grace.”

“My hope is that there is not a dry eye in the crowd while I fly to this music, as people reflect on the sacrifices that have been made to keep our country free,” said Zellers.