

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Las Vegas, NV

The 2005 Communicator Awards Video Competition has announced the results of this year's video entries, and once again, Aviation Nation takes home top honors on two productions.

Thank You & Welcome Home, a succinct history of the Vietnam War, received the Crystal Award of Excellence, the highest Communicator award given. The program premiered at the Thunderbird Hangar Party during Aviation Nation 2005, the Nellis Air Force Base – Las Vegas Air Show. *Operation Welcome Home*, the theme of the 2005 show, was the thank you and welcome home our Vietnam veterans have never received. Thousands of Vietnam veterans attended multiple *Operation Welcome Home* activities during Veterans Day weekend in Las Vegas.

Among 750 distinguished guests attending the 2005 Thunderbird Hangar Party were twelve Vietnam Purple Heart recipients sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). VFW National Headquarters will distribute the *Thank You & Welcome Home* video to schools across America.

D-Day: A Crowning Glory also received the Crystal Award of Excellence. The video honoring our D-Day veterans on the 60th anniversary of the invasion told the story of how *Operation Overlord* came together and how Allied forces overcame great odds to begin the push across Europe in World War II.

The D-Day tribute premiered at the 2004 Thunderbird Hangar Party during Aviation Nation. Distinguished guests present at the gala event that night included over twenty-five D-Day veterans. One honored guest, Colonel (retired) Dick Case, who jumped in to France on June 5th 1944 with the 101st Airborne Division commented, "This was the most sensitive treatment of such a horrific event, that I've ever seen."

Both programs were written by Tara Dixon-Engel, and directed and edited by Jeff Lee of Lee Production Services/Austin. Jeff is the Director of Media Productions for the Aviation Nation Foundation. "Tara wrote two incredible scripts", said Lee. "In addition, footage for the D-Day production was provided by the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions and still images of Normandy Beach and of D-Day veterans were provided by award winning photographer Dan Patterson. It takes a great team to put something like this together. We had everything come together on this one, and it shows".

The Crystal Communicator is the second international media award for *D-Day: A Crowning Glory*. Since the first Aviation Nation air show in 2002, the event has won twenty-one national and international marketing and media awards.

Over 3,000 entries were received from 50 states and six countries for each of these Communicator awards. Only about fifteen percent of entrants are recognized with the Crystal Award of Excellence.

About Aviation Nation

Aviation Nation, the Nellis Air Force Base – Las Vegas Air Show is the homecoming show of the Air Force Thunderbirds, the Air Force's premier public aviation event and one of the largest and most successful air shows in North America. Aviation Nation 2006, *A Salute to American Air Power – Past, Present and Future*, will occur November 9-12.

About the Aviation Nation Foundation

This news is released by the Aviation Nation Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, organization with the mission of promoting American Airpower through annual air shows at Nellis Air Force Base.

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