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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ROBERT MITCHELL EARNS NAFI MASTER INSTRUCTOR ACCREDITATION

KALAMAZOO, MI — 8/17/2023 The National Association of Flight Instructors is proud to announce that NAFI member Robert Mitchell has earned accreditation as a NAFI Master Flight Instructor. This is Mitchell's second NAFI Master Accreditation.

Mitchell has dedicated most of his adult life to military and civilian flight instruction. He has been an active FAA certificated flight instructor for 34 consecutive years and has flown more than 8,000 flight hours, including 500 combat flight hours. He currently works for CAE, a Canadian manufacturer of simulation technologies and training services to airlines as an advanced instructor pilot, specializing in upset prevention and recovery training in support of the U.S. Army Fixed-Wing Flight Training program in Dothan, Alabama. He owns and operates Strikehawk Aviation, a full-time flight training school in Enterprise, Alabama. Mitchell volunteers much of his time to organizations such as the EAA Young Eagles program and the Troy University Air Force ROTC You Can Fly Scholarship program.



Mitchell recently retired after serving 30 years in the United States Army. As a career aeromedical evacuation officer, he served in numerous command and staff positions, including two combat tours. In 2004-2005, he served as a Medevac battalion commander in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He retired in 2014 with the rank of colonel. He is a graduate of the University of Toledo, where he was a starting wide receiver for the Rocket football team. He holds master's degrees from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and the U.S. Army War College. He is a member of the Distinguished Alumni and Athletic Hall of Fame at his high school, as well as a member of the DUSTOFF Association Hall of Fame.

The NAFI Master Flight Instructor Accreditation is earned by aviation educators based upon a system of advanced professional standards and peer review. The accreditation identifies and publicly recognizes those teachers of flight who demonstrate an ongoing commitment to excellence, professional growth, and service to the aviation community. The NAFI Master Instructor

accreditation is for two years and may be used to renew an FAA flight instructor certificate. Applicants must have been a CFI for two years and have given 1,000 hours of flight instruction. In addition, candidates must meet and document activity in four NAFI Master Instructor categories (Instructor, Educator, Service to the Aviation Community, and Professional Activity).

*Members of the **National Association of Flight Instructors** work as independent instructors, at flight schools, universities, FBOs, corporate flight departments and in the military. Since 1967, NAFI and its members, who teach in thirty countries, are dedicated to increasing and maintaining the professionalism of flight instruction. NAFI members influence active pilots daily: students working to become pilots, current pilots training to advance their skills with new ratings or certificates and pilots who seek to improve their skills with recurrent training. NAFI also serves as an advocate with industry and government as a voice for flight instruction. NAFI helps shape the current and future direction of flight training. For more information about NAFI or the NAFI Master Instructor program call **866-806-6156** or visit www.NAFINet.org.*