

Date with an Angel

Written by Margaret Evans
Tuesday, 26 April 2011 11:07



Editor Margaret Evans gets up close and personal – over the phone – with **Lt. Cmdr. Jim Tomaszewski,** one
of America's famed flying daredevils known as the Blue Angels.

The Call

I'm sitting in my home office (i.e. breakfast nook), watching the clock, waiting for a phone call from Lieutenant Commander Jim Tomaszeski of the United States Navy. I've got my voice recorder all set, my list of incisive questions before me, and my cat in my lap. I am well prepared. And I am nervous. Lt. Cmdr. Tomaszeski isn't just any old naval officer, you see. He's a Blue Angel – a member of that super-elite squadron of Navy and Marine Corps flyboys who travel the country dazzling large audiences with their breathtaking audacity and spectacular skill. As far as I'm concerned, they're the sharpest, bravest, coolest dudes this side of a movie screen. And I am a small town journalist, sitting in a breakfast nook, wearing pajamas and holding a cat. Thank goodness for phone interviews. Ours is scheduled for 2 pm.

The phone rings at 1:58. Naturally. These guys don't miss a trick.

Margaret Evans: Tell me a little about yourself, Lt. Cmdr. Tomaszeski. Where did you grow up, go to school, etc?

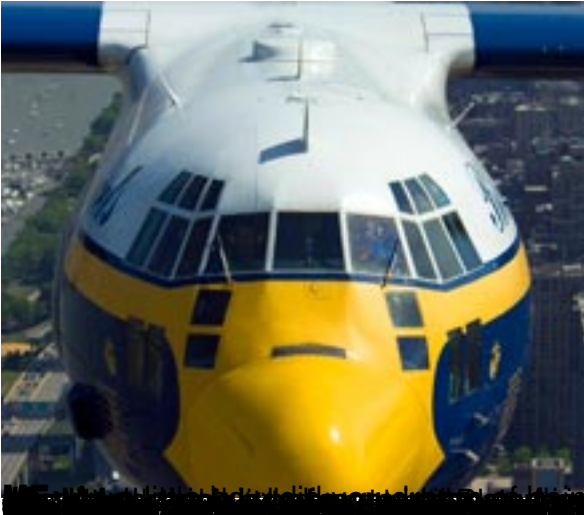
Jim Tomaszeski: I grew up in Orange Park, FL, and graduated from Florida State University, where I was an English Major.

(This surprising detail is not lost on your humble interviewer, who was also an English Major. A bonding opportunity, perhaps?)

I've been in the Navy for 11 years, and have been flying airplanes for 10 and 1/2 of those years.

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