

Contact: Rear Adm. Bill Sizemore, USN
(ret.)
For Immediate Release
Phone (202) -777-3119
bsizemore@scottishrite.org

For Immediate Release

Press Release

Flyover of Arlington National Cemetery to Honor Recently Recovered Remains of Air Force Airmen Shot-Down during Vietnam Conflict in 1969 to be Performed by Private Group After Air Force Declines.

Sequester forces private, non-profit group to fill-in for the Air Force at their own expense to honor recently recovered remains of distinguished veterans killed in action.

Washington, DC August 14, 2013: A flyover of military aircraft flown by private citizens will occur over Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, VA on September 23, 2013 at approximately 12:00pm in honor of the interment of the recently recovered remains of USAF Majors James Elmo Sizemore and Howard Andre who were both killed in action in Laos, Southeast Asia in 1969.

Warrior Flight Team along with their affiliate Warrior Aviation, a non-profit organization that provides scholarships in aviation related fields to wounded serviceman from Iraq and Afghanistan wars, has committed to perform the flyover at their own expense after the proper waivers, flight plans, and clearances have been obtained from the Department of Homeland Security, Secret Service and Federal Aviation Administration. The USAF declined to support the flyover mission due to funding shortfalls as a result of the sequestration.

The flyover itself will consist of four tactical jet aircraft and four historical war bird aircraft including the type Majors Sizemore and Andre were shot down in. All participating aircraft and their respective pilots (all veterans themselves) have been donated by their owners.

Majors Sizemore and Andre's aircraft was shot down by enemy fire on 8 July 1969. They were initially listed as Missing- in- Action and later reclassified as Killed-in-Action. Their crash site was located and excavated in 2012 and their remains were recovered and positively identified in 2013.

For Release [Time, AM/PM Time Zone, Date]