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FAA ISSUES SPECIAL AIRWORTHINESS CERTIFICATE FOR EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION'S 1903 WRIGHT FLYER REPRODUCTION

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Flyer to Recreate History Near Kitty Hawk, N.C. on 100th Anniversary of Flight

OSHKOSH, Wis. – (Aug. 1, 2003) – FAA Administrator Marion Blakey today formally presented the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) with a special airworthiness certificate (FAA Form 8130-7) for its 1903 Wright flyer reproduction. The flyer will attempt to re-create history on Dec. 17, 2003, the 100th anniversary of flight as part of EAA's Countdown to Kitty Hawk presented by Ford Motor Company.

"This special airworthiness certificate will allow EAA to fly its Wright flyer near the dunes of Kitty Hawk, N.C.," said FAA Administrator Marion Blakey. "An FAA aviation safety inspector has reviewed the flyer and determined that it is prepared to fly."

Blakey presented **Tom Poberezny**, EAA president and fellow U.S. Centennial of Flight commissioner, with the certificate during a brief ceremony at **EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2003**. The flyer is on public display this week as the centerpiece of the 20,000-square-foot Countdown to Kitty Hawk pavilion, which celebrates the Wrights' first powered flight with interactive and informational exhibits

Ken Hyde, president of **The Wright Experience**, the organization that built the 1903 Wright flyer reproduction for EAA, also took part in the ceremony. Under Hyde's leadership, a team of craftsmen in Warrenton, Va., built the flyer over the past decade with a strict adherence to preserving the legacy and design of the Wrights making it the world's most accurate 1903 Wright flyer reproduction.

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Under the 21-point operating limitations document that accompanies the certificate, the FAA detailed specific criteria that EAA and its pilots must adhere to when operating the 605-pound flyer. These criteria include:

- The special airworthiness certificate and 21-point operating limitations document must be visible to the pilot and located on the aircraft during flight during all times.
- The flyer may only operate within the designated areas.
- The aircraft may NOT be operated over densely populated areas or in congested airways.
- No person may operate this aircraft for carrying persons or property for compensation or hire.
- Aerobatic maneuvers are NOT allowed.

“The FAA certification is an important benchmark for EAA and Countdown to Kitty Hawk as we prepare to recreate that first historic flight,” said Poberezny. “I believe it is the only part of preparing their 1903 flyer for flight that the Wright brothers didn’t do.”

On Tuesday, Countdown to Kitty Hawk officials announced that **Terry Queijo** and **Dr. Kevin Kochersberger** will take to the skies near Kitty Hawk, N.C., as Orville and Wilbur Wright on the centennial of flight this December.

About EAA’s Countdown to Kitty Hawk Presented by Ford Motor Company

EAA’s Countdown to Kitty Hawk is a centennial celebration of the Wright brothers’ first powered flight — an innovation that forever changed our world. Led by EAA, presented by Ford Motor Company and supported by Microsoft Flight Simulator, Eclipse Aviation, The Wright Experience and Northrop Grumman Corp. This yearlong series of inspirational events honors the innovation and determination it takes to make world-changing dreams a reality. Countdown to Kitty Hawk features an interactive touring pavilion and the world’s most-accurate 1903 Wright flyer reproduction that will exclusively re-enact the Wright brothers’ first flight at Kitty Hawk, N.C., on Dec. 17, 2003 — exactly 100 years later.

www.countdowntokittyhawk.org

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