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**CAPTAIN LAURA B. EASTON, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE,
TO RECEIVE 2012 KATHARINE WRIGHT TROPHY**

Washington, DC, July 16, 2012 – The National Aeronautic Association (NAA) announced that Captain Laura B. Easton, USAF, will receive the prestigious Katharine Wright Trophy for her remarkable career as an Air Force Officer, pilot, leader, and role model for women in aviation.

This award is presented annually to a woman who has contributed to the success of others, or made a personal contribution to the advancement of the art, sport and science of aviation and space flight over an extended period of time. The award was named in honor of Orville and Wilbur Wright's sister, Katharine, who was a crucial supporter of her brothers' timeless work in the development of the first airplane. The Trophy is administered by NAA in partnership with The Ninety-Nines, the International Organization of Women Pilots.

"The Katharine Wright Trophy is a very important acknowledgement of the role that women have assumed in the aviation and aerospace industry in America as well as the security of our nation -- and Captain Easton is a very deserving recipient of this great honor," said NAA President and CEO Jonathan Gaffney.

"As the President of The Ninety-Nines, I am proud of the historic role that women have assumed in the aerospace and aviation history of our nation," noted Susan Larson. "Captain Easton is a wonderful example of that role."

In addition to Gaffney and Larson, members of the Selection Committee included The Ninety-Nines Past President (and NAA Board Member) Pat Prentiss, President-Elect Martha Phillips, and Member (and former NAA Board Member) Susan Sheets.

The award will be presented at the NAA Fall Awards Banquet on Tuesday, November 13, 2012, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Virginia.

The National Aeronautic Association is a non-profit, membership organization devoted to fostering America's aerospace leadership and promoting public understanding of the importance of aviation and space flight to the United States.

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