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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARTIN FASS EARNS NAFI MASTER INSTRUCTOR ACCREDITATION

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The National Association of Flight Instructors is proud to announce that NAFI member Martin Fass has earned accreditation as a NAFI Master Flight Instructor. This is Fass' second NAFI Master Instructor Accreditation.

Fass is an ATP-rated flight instructor in the San Antonio/Austin, Texas area. Originally from Chevy Chase, Maryland, he traveled a lengthy and unusual path to becoming a CFI. By the time he flew his first solo at Birchwood, Alaska, he already had several thousand hours flying and teaching as a U.S. Air Force C-130 and T-43 navigator. Ten years after the solo, he found time to earn his instrument rating through Civil Air Patrol in the Washington D.C. area. His "day job" involved flying as Deputy Mission Commander on international aerial observation flights supporting the Treaty on Open Skies.

While living in the Washington area, he participated in NASA's Synthetic Vision test program, putting his fingerprints on early versions of the systems that are proliferating in GA aircraft.

In 2004, he earned his Commercial ASEL at Wright Flyers in San Antonio, then moved to Northern California, where he earned his civilian CFI and CFI-I ratings and became Chief Instructor Pilot for the RQ-4A Global Hawk.



Fass retired from the Air Force in 2007 and has been instructing in the San Antonio area, both freelancing and contracting. He earned his MEI and ATP, served as Chief Pilot in a Cessna 340, a First Officer in the Swearingen Merlin, and trained Afghan military pilots and their U.S. instructors in Piper Senecas. He “paid it forward” to Civil Air Patrol by serving as Check Pilot Evaluator and presenting G1000 seminars.

In 2012, Fass was one of the original instructors at Redbird Skyport in San Marcos Texas, training pilots in Redbird FTDs and G1000 Cessna 172s, and serving as the Assistant Chief Instructor. During his tenure the school won the AOPA President’s Award. In 2014, he developed and taught an accelerated course to help military pilots leaving the service earn their ATP ratings, and found time to add a seaplane rating as well.

Fass has nearly 3900 hours as a fixed wing pilot, with over 2600 hours dual instruction given. He now runs Black Hound Aviation, a small Part 61 school in San Marcos training pilots from private through MEI and ATP. He flies several types, including the Columbia 400, Piper Lance and Seminole, Mooney and the G36 Bonanza, and his own steam gauge/Aspen Cessna 172SP. He has recently begun flying pet rescue missions for Pilots and Paws, and enjoys presenting at the San Marcos chapter of the IMC club. He lives in Garden Ridge Texas, and when he’s not at the airport, he enjoys spending pool time with his wife Randi, their dogs Maggie and Finn, and their local kids and grandkids.

*The **NAFI Master Flight Instructor program** is the longest running and most prestigious FAA accredited master flight instructor program in the industry. The NAFI Master 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 30 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.*