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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NAOYA “TAMA” TAMANAHA EARNS NAFI MASTER INSTRUCTOR ACCREDITATION

KALAMAZOO, MI — 9/22/2023 The National Association of Flight Instructors is proud to announce that NAFI member Naoya “Tama” Tamanaha has earned accreditation as a NAFI Master Flight Instructor. This is Tamanaha’s third NAFI Master Accreditation.

Tamanaha has been an active CFI for more than 31 years, including 19 years at the USAF Flight Training Center in Japan. He has mentored more than 1,000 pilots, from teenagers to retirees, with aviation goals varying from private, professional, to military-aspiring pilots. He was an FAA designated pilot examiner from 2000 to 2013 and has issued more than 200 FAA pilot certificates and ratings.



He has been a FAASTeam representative for more than 23 years, serving local communities including high schools, colleges, aviation organizations, and Coast Guard, on and off bases in Japan, Taiwan, and the United States. He has a weekly radio show in Japan, which promotes aviation to the non-aviation community.

Tamanaha’s passion and skills in aviation earned him a U.S. immigration visa. His next mission is to increase the number of Master CFIs who can contribute to the aviation community.

Tamanaha currently works for AirSmart Aviation Academy as a chief flight instructor specializing in the Pathway Program to AirSmart first officer position. He also flies as a PC-12 captain for AirSmart.

*The **NAFI Master Flight 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 thirty 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.*