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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **NICHOLAS SCHILLEN EARNS NAFI MASTER INSTRUCTOR ACCREDITATION**

**KALAMAZOO, MI — 2/14/2023** The National Association of Flight Instructors is proud to announce that NAFI member Nicholas Schillen has earned accreditation as a NAFI Master Flight Instructor.

Schillen currently lives in the state of Florida where he has resided after 24 years of military service in the U.S. Air force. During his time in the USAF Schillen served as a B-52 radar navigator



for four years and then subsequently earned his Air Force pilot wings after 52 weeks of the best flight training in the world. He soon graduated with the equivalent of a commercial pilot certificate with instrument and multiengine ratings along with formation and acrobatic endorsements.

Flight school was followed by the ubiquitous Vietnam tour as a special operations pilot. During which time, Schillen flew the military version of the venerable workhorse of aviation, none other than the DC-3, a.k.a. "Gooney Bird." After several years as a flight instructor, he was assigned as a military advisor and air attaché in Panama, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Salvador. After this assignment in Central America, he completed the balance of his military career working in Washington DC in various staff positions.

After retiring from the Air Force, Schillen went into commercial aviation and initially worked as a B-727 ground instructor at Eastern Airlines, until it went out of business in 1991. Shortly after, he was hired to start and operate an Air Force Junior ROTC program at a high school in South Florida.

After ten years with ROTC, Schillen moved on to open and operate his own flight school (NS Aviation). Since then, he has worked as the Chief Instructor at Atlantis Flight Academy located in North Perry Airport (KHWO) and SkyBlue Jet Aviation at Whitham Field (KSUA).

*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](http://www.NAFINet.org).*