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## IWC SCHAFFHAUSEN CELEBRATES THE 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE “BLUE ANGELS®”

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Schaffhausen, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021 – IWC Schaffhausen congratulates the “Blue Angels®” U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron on their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Since 1946, the “Blue Angels®” are showcasing the pride and professionalism of the United States Navy and Marine Corps by inspiring a culture of excellence and service to the country through flight demonstrations and community outreach. Since it became an official licensee in 2019, IWC has launched two special edition pilot’s watches.

In 1946, Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Chester W. Nimitz envisioned creating a flight demonstration squadron in the U.S. Navy. Today, the U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, commonly known as the Blue Angels®, comprises 140 Sailors and Marines. Each member brings experience and expertise from their service in the fleet and strives to ensure the flight demonstration exemplifies the teamwork, professionalism and precision found in every facet of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps. The “Blue Angels®” demonstrate their impressive skills in front of approximately 11 million spectators every year. A relentlessly positive attitude, strong work ethic, and dedication to the mission are all values that have stood the test of time on the “Blue Angels®”.

Throughout their history, the “Blue Angels®” have flown an immense variety of aircraft. They started with the F6 Hellcat, the F8 Bearcat, and the F9 Panther. During the 1950s, they refined their demonstrations in the F9 Cougar and F-11 Tiger and introduced the first six-plane delta formation, a spectacular aerobatic manoeuvre that they still fly today. By the end of the 1960s, the “Blue Angels®” were flying the F-4 Phantom before transitioning to the A-4 Skyhawk. In 1986, the year of their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, they transitioned to the F/A-18 Hornet. In 2021, the “Blue Angels®” transitioned to and now perform in the F/A-18 Super Hornet. Every one of their jets showcases blue and gold, the official colours of the U.S. Navy.

### **GLEN POWELL TAKES OFF WITH THE “BLUE ANGELS®”**

In this special year for the flight demonstration squadron, the “Blue Angels®” invited Glen Powell to spend a day at Naval Air Station Pensacola in Florida. The American actor and new member of the IWC family was given the rare opportunity to fly in the back seat of the Blue Angels #4 jet. On a demonstration ride, he experienced high-speed fly-bys and thrilling aerobatic manoeuvres. While on-site, Powell also visited the National Naval Aviation Museum, one of the world’s largest aviation museums. On display are more than 150 aircraft, including former Blue Angels A-4 Skyhawks. The videos can be watched via <https://watches.iwc.com/blue-angels-part1> and <https://watches.iwc.com/blue-angels-part2>

Born in 1988 in Austin, Texas, Glen Powell has been a big fan of aviation all his life. He recently obtained his private pilot’s licence, and his appreciation for aviation and the elaborate skills and utmost precision it takes to operate an aircraft grew even stronger afterwards. He has known the “Blue Angels®” since he was a kid and always admired their mentality, passion, and relentless pursuit of perfection. As an actor, he demonstrates a similar mindset when immersing himself in new roles. A continuous strive for excellence and the ambition to be among the best in his craft are other values he shares with IWC Schaffhausen.

**TWO SPECIAL EDITION  
PILOT'S CHRONOGRAPHS**

IWC became an official licensee of the Department of the Navy in 2019. Since then, the Swiss luxury watch manufacturer has collaborated with the Navy to design two special edition chronographs. The **Pilot's Watch Chronograph Edition "Blue Angels®"** (Ref. IW389008) in black zirconium oxide ceramic marked the beginning of the licence agreement. To celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the "Blue Angels®", IWC has just released the **Pilot's Watch Chronograph Edition "Blue Angels®"** (Ref. IW389109) with a case made of stunning blue ceramic.

The appearance of U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) visual information does not imply or constitute DoD endorsement.

## IWC SCHAFFHAUSEN

In 1868, the American watchmaker and entrepreneur Florentine Ariosto Jones travelled from Boston to Switzerland and founded the 'International Watch Company' in Schaffhausen. His visionary dream was to combine advanced American manufacturing methods with the craftsmanship of Swiss watchmakers to make the best pocket watches of his time. In doing so, he not only laid the foundation for IWC's unique engineering approach but also established the centralised production of mechanical watches in Switzerland.

Over its 150 year history, IWC Schaffhausen has developed a reputation for creating functional complications, especially chronographs and calendars, which are ingenious, robust, and easy for customers to use. A pioneer in the use of titanium and ceramics, IWC today specialises in highly engineered technical watch cases manufactured from advanced materials, such as titanium-aluminide and Ceratanium®. Preferring the principle of "form follows function" over decoration, the Swiss watch manufacturer's timeless creations embody their owners' dreams and ambitions as they journey through life.

IWC sources materials responsibly and takes action to minimise its impact on the environment, creating intrinsically sustainable timepieces that are built to last for generations. The company prides itself in training its own future watchmakers and engineers, as well as offering an excellent working environment for all employees. IWC also partners with organisations that work globally to support children and young people.

## DOWNLOADS

Images of Glen Powell's visit to Naval Air Station Pensacola can be downloaded for free at [press.iwc.com](http://press.iwc.com)

## FURTHER INFORMATION

IWC Schaffhausen

Public Relations department

Email [press-iwc@iwc.com](mailto:press-iwc@iwc.com)

Website [press.iwc.com](http://press.iwc.com)

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