



British Embassy  
Washington

*Wednesday, 30 November 2011*

### **The American Air Museum in Britain Launches New Campaign to Commemorate Anglo-American Special Relationship**

Washington DC—The American Air Museum in Britain is commemorating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United States entering the Second World War with the launch of a new initiative, *Honor and Educate*. The museum is enhancing its physical space at IWM Duxford and creating a learning programme and virtual ‘*Museum without walls*’ to educate U.S. schools and students about the critical role of American airmen during the Second World War and other major conflicts of this century and the last.

In support of the *Honor and Educate Campaign*, the British Government in the United States is hosting two special events: an evening reception at the British Ambassador’s Residence in Washington DC on 30 November and a luncheon at the British Consul General’s Residence in Los Angeles on 2 December. His Royal Highness (HRH) The Duke of Kent, who has been the Museum’s Royal Patron for the past two decades, will attend both events. While in Washington, HRH will also lay a wreath at Arlington National Cemetery and visit injured Afghanistan war veterans at Walter Reed Memorial Hospital.

“It is an honour to host the American Air Museum in Britain, which commemorates the shared sacrifice of US and UK airmen who served together in both World Wars, Korea, Iraq, Libya, and in Afghanistan today to protect our national interests,” said the British Ambassador to the US, Sir Nigel Sheinwald. “The commitment and enthusiasm for the American Air Museum in Britain here in the United States is a tribute to the continuing strength of the relationship between our two nations.”

The American Air Museum in Britain’s President, Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Squire said, "I am delighted to be in America to communicate the work of the Museum today and its plans for the future. It is vitally important that the role of US airpower in the defence of Europe, together with the stories of personal sacrifice and endeavour, are known to future generations."

#### **Notes to editors**

**About the American Air Museum in Britain:** The American Air Museum in Britain is

dedicated to America's airmen – past, present, and future. It is the only aviation museum outside the United States that commemorates and highlights the special security relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom. The Museum stands as a memorial to almost 30,000 Americans who died fighting for world freedom, flying from British bases during the Second World War.

The Museum is based at IWM Duxford. It was from this Royal Air Force (RAF) fighter base that the first American airmen flew in 1918. Between 1942 and 1945 Duxford was home to the 78<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, which played a major role in the aerial offensive against Germany, at the cost of 113 men. Half a million US airmen passed through British RAF bases during the Second World War.

The Museum is dedicated to informing current and future generations about the sacrifices of their predecessors and telling the personal stories of the men and women who continue to fight for their country today.

Over five million visitors have experienced the American Air Museum to date.

Refreshing the Museum will enable more personal stories to be told in an interactive and engaging manner.

For more information visit [www.americanairmuseum.com](http://www.americanairmuseum.com).

**About the Museum without Walls:** The *Museum without Walls* will allow virtual visitors to enjoy the American Air Museum from afar, connecting with Museum exhibits and people's stories through a dynamic new website. There will also be an innovative new learning programme for American students, providing teaching aids and online resources to ensure that the story of America's airmen is passed on to future generations. For more information visit <http://projects.americanairmuseum.com/>.

**For more information contact: Priya Doshi at the British Embassy's**

**Communication Office at 202-588-6594 or [Priya.doshi@fco.gov.uk](mailto:Priya.doshi@fco.gov.uk) or**

**Esther Blaine at the American Air Museum in Britain at [eblaine@iwm.org.uk](mailto:eblaine@iwm.org.uk)**