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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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First Responders Appreciation Day at Gastonia Municipal Airport

Academy of Aviation is hosting our inaugural First Responders Appreciation Day to be held on Saturday, May 4, 2019 at Gastonia Municipal Airport, 11 AM to 4 PM.

(Charlotte/Gastonia, NC) - The Academy of Aviation, managers of the **Gastonia Municipal Airport**, is hosting this event on **May 4, 2019** (rain date May 11, 2019) to honor those brave individuals that run toward emergency situations, providing help and relief to fellow citizens. The event will focus on the responders and how they manage their complex duties, utilizing each department's specialized equipment and services. The day will celebrate the conduct of these responders and provide an educational opportunity to citizens by allowing them hands-on demonstrations and seminars. During the event, funds will be raised for charities in support of police, fire and emergency management departments. The Event will be opened with an American Flag Color Guard marching into position followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and national anthem.

Academy of Aviation's First Responders Appreciation Day will feature a full day of events, displays, seminars and activities, including tours of official land vehicles, aircraft, heavy machinery, military weaponry and rescue equipment. Members of police, fire, rescue, national guard and Academy of Aviation flight instructor teams will be providing insight and be available to answer questions, create dialog and exchange ideas with the public; and presentations will include live fire exercises, crash and fire rescue, first aid, search and seizure and jaws of life demonstrations. Attendees will have the opportunity to hoist a working fire hose to see what it really feels like to be a first responder. Food trucks and pet adoption areas will be a highlight for kids and adults alike, and police, fire, EMS and military recruiting tables will be on hand for anyone interested in learning about these amazing career choices.

Academy of Aviation's First Responders Appreciation Day will also include fund raising opportunities with raffles and merchandise benefiting local charities, and invitees to the event are comprised of prominent members of the City of Gastonia's local government, the mayor's office, council members and clergy--coming together with the purpose of making sure all first responders know that their contributions to our city has not and will not go unnoticed.

Academy of Aviation is proud to take our place as an active part of the community of **Gastonia**, and we have a feeling that everyone who comes to our inaugural **First Responders Appreciation Day** will look forward to the next one. We hope that we can educate, entertain and inform **North Carolina** and more as we grow with you.

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