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NMMC Hosts Panel Discussion with Marine Astronauts and NASA Personnel

Triangle, VA – The National Museum of the Marine Corps (NMMC) will host “Journey to Space: Stories of Marines,” a panel discussion tracing the journey from the Marine Corps to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). The discussion will be held in the Medal of Honor Theater on Saturday, August 13 at 10:30 a.m.

The panel consists of Marine astronauts MajGen Charles F. Bolden (ret), Col Robert D. Cabana (ret) and former Sgt Joseph M. Acaba, as well as NASA Enterprise Management Office Deputy Chief MSgt Randolph Harris (ret), and NASA Chief of Protocol former Sgt Katie Maynard. Each will speak of their individual path from Marine to NASA, a journey that doesn’t always involve officers or spaceflight, but does significantly contribute to space exploration.

Bolden previously served as NASA Administrator, and Cabana is currently the NASA Associate Administrator. Acaba is an active astronaut and a member of the Artemis team slated for a mission to the Moon in 2024. Harris and Maynard were both enlisted Marines who use the skills they gained as Marines to help further NASA’s mission.

Each panelist will answer questions from the NMMC moderator and there will be ample time to entertain questions from space enthusiasts in the audience. Following the discussion, panelists may stop by the NMMC’s temporary exhibit, *Spaceflight: The Marine Astronauts*, to talk with visitors and sign autographs!

Spaceflight: The Marine Astronauts features artifacts and imagery from Marine astronauts who have made and continue to make significant contributions to the space program.

The exhibit is divided into three sections that cover distinctive phases of the space program. Artifacts, imagery, and personal narratives tell stories that are literally out of this world! Artifact highlights in the exhibition include: the custom flight suit that Col Randy “Komrade” Bresnik wore on the Marine Corps birthday while in orbit as commander of the International Space Station; the communications headset that Marine astronaut Ronnie Walter Cunningham used on Apollo 7; and the rescue harness sling and crook used to recover Alan B. Shepard after his *Freedom 7* spacecraft landed in the Atlantic Ocean.

Spaceflight: The Marine Astronauts runs through January 2024.

The Museum is a public-private partnership between the U.S. Marine Corps and the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation. The National Museum of the Marine Corps, under the command of Marine Corps University, preserves and exhibits the material history of the U.S. Marine Corps; honors the commitment, accomplishments, and sacrifices of Marines; supports recruitment, training, education, and retention of Marines; and provides the public with a readily accessible platform for the exploration of Marine Corps history. It is located at 1775 Semper Fidelis Way in Triangle, VA, and is open 9:00 am to 5:00 pm daily except December 25. Admission and parking are free. For more information, call 703-784-6107 or visit us on the web at www.usmcmuseum.com.