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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SAMUEL SUMNER EARNS NAFI MASTER INSTRUCTOR ACCREDITATION

KALAMAZOO, MI — 2/28/2024 The National Association of Flight Instructors is proud to announce that NAFI member Samuel Sumner has earned accreditation as a NAFI Associate Master Flight Instructor.

Sumner got his start in aviation when he was selected to attend USAF Undergraduate Pilot training in Texas in 2014. Upon graduation after flying the T-6 and T-1, he moved to Georgia



to fly the E-8C JSTARS. It was there he first became an instructor and discovered a love of giving back knowledge to the aviation community. After spending five years flying the 707-based platform, and a few international deployments, he volunteered to go back to pilot training to instruct.

Over the last three years, Sumner has helped hundreds of students get their wings throughout instruction in basic flying maneuvers, navigation, instruments, and formation training. While flying the T-6A primary trainer, he has served as Chief of Training, Chief of Standardization and Evaluation, and currently serves as the squadron chief pilot, mentoring more than 70 other instructors and validating course graduation standards. He recently acquired his civilian CFI, CFII, and MEI ratings and looks to continue growing his aviation skills.

*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 30 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.*