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MEDIA RELEASE: Fort Moore to memorialize air traffic control facility for aviation heroes

FORT MOORE, Ga. – Fort Moore will memorialize the Lawson Army Airfield air traffic control facility March 26 in dedication to Eugene J. Bullard and Bruce P. Crandall, two military aviators who made significant contributions during their time in service.

Maj. Gen. Curtis A. Buzzard, MCoE and Fort Moore commanding general, and Georgia Congressman Sanford D. Bishop will share commemorative remarks about the aviators' history, contributions, and journey. There will be an unveiling of the dedication sign and static displays showcasing Lawson Army Airfield's mission and capabilities.

A Columbus, Ga. native, 2nd Lt. Eugene J. Bullard was born in 1895 and went on to become the first African American military pilot to fly in combat. Bullard enlisted in the French Foreign Legion and later became a pilot serving with the French Air Service. He was the only African American pilot to serve during World War I, flying at least 20 missions and claiming two aerial victories.

For his heroic efforts, Bullard was made a knight of the Legion of Honor, the highest-ranking order and award given by France. In 1994, he was posthumously commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force.

Lt. Col. Bruce P. Crandall, Medal of Honor recipient and retired master Army aviator, was stationed at Fort Moore, then Fort Benning, in 1963. Crandall served two tours in Vietnam and led over 900 combat missions.

Crandall received the Medal of Honor for his actions in the Battle of Ia Drang delivering ammunition to soldiers at Landing Zone X-Ray and evacuating wounded while under attack by enemy fire.

Media interested in covering this event, should contact MCoE Fort Moore Public Affairs no later than noon, March 25.

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