



PERFORMER PROFILES

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U.S. AIR FORCE THUNDERBIRDS

The U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, the Thunderbirds, performs precision aerial maneuvers demonstrating the capabilities of Air Force high performance aircraft to people throughout the world. The squadron exhibits the professional qualities the Air Force develops in the people who fly, maintain and support these aircraft.

A Thunderbirds air demonstration is a mix of formation flying and solo routines. The four-aircraft diamond formation demonstrates the training and precision of Air Force pilots, while the solo aircraft highlight the maximum capabilities of the F-16 Fighting Falcon. The pilots perform approximately 30 maneuvers in a demonstration. The entire show, including ground and air, runs about an hour and fifteen minutes. The season lasts from March to November, with the winter months used to train new members. The squadron performs approximately 75 demonstrations each year and has never canceled a demonstration due to maintenance difficulty. More than 300 million people in all 50 states and 58 foreign countries have seen the red, white and blue jets in more than 4,000 aerial demonstrations.

The Lockheed Martin (formerly General Dynamics) F-16 represents the full range of capabilities possessed by the Air Force's tactical fighters. This highly maneuverable multi-role fighter has proven to be one of the world's best precision tactical bombers and air-to-air combat aircraft. The only modifications needed to prepare the aircraft for its air demonstration role are installing a smoke-generating system in the space normally reserved for the 20mm cannon, and the painting of the aircraft in Thunderbird colors.



U.S. ARMY GOLDEN KNIGHTS

Since 1959, the U.S. Army Parachute Team has proudly represented the men and women of our nation's oldest military service through cutting-edge, aerial parachute demonstrations and competitions both nationally and internationally. The team, known as the Golden Knights, is a combination of expert teams and Soldiers brought together by their love of skydiving. This includes parachute teams, aircraft pilots, and those who handle jump logistics behind the scenes.

The demonstration team excels under pressure performing for excited audiences at some of the largest festivals, airshows, and sporting events around the country. Consisting of 26 Soldiers, the team showcases the benefits of Army service with people everywhere through the sport of skydiving. Their enhanced aerial demonstrations highlight the pinpoint precision of our ram air accuracy canopies, synchronized freefall and canopy formations, gravity-defying wing suiting and high-performance landings. Their modified DHC-8/C-147A and UV-18C Viking Twin Otters serve as the backbone of the team and provide perfect paradrop platforms to deliver our jumpers on target anywhere in the country in plus or minus 30 seconds.

Due to the nature of the Army's mission abroad, many of our nation's citizens have limited contact and exposure to Soldiers and their families. The Golden Knights serve to connect America's people to the Army by showcasing modern sport parachute exhibitions that pay homage to the Army's daring and historic airborne operations.



F-18 RHINO DEMO TEAM



The Rhino Demo Team showcases the mobility, versatility, and power of the U.S. Navy's F/A-18F Super Hornet, nicknamed the "Rhino." The nickname was borne out of a need to differentiate between the larger, more capable Super Hornet and the smaller, original "Legacy" Hornet during carrier-based operations. The Super Hornet has been in service with the U.S. Navy for over two decades, and through constant upgrades and modernization, this multi-role carrier-based aircraft continues to excel in the air-to-air and air-to-ground arenas.

During their demonstration, the aircrew will experience nearly eight times the force of gravity, accelerate to speeds up to 750 mph, and showcase the incredible maneuvering capability of the F-18. Many of the maneuvers seen are used by Naval Aviators in the execution of air-to-air and air-to-ground missions, both in training and in combat.

The Rhino Demo Team is based at Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia Beach, Virginia, and the aircrew and maintainers are members of the Navy's largest squadron: VFA-106, known as the "Gladiators." The aircrew serve as instructors, teaching new aircrew how to fly and tactically employ the Super Hornet. The maintenance personnel come from a variety of skill sets, known in the Navy as "rates," and help to fix and maintain over 50 aircraft.

C-17 DEMO TEAM



The C-17 Globemaster III is the newest, most flexible cargo aircraft to enter the airlift force. The C-17 is capable of rapid strategic delivery of troops and all types of cargo to main operating bases or directly to forward bases in the deployment area. The aircraft can perform tactical airlift and airdrop missions and can also transport litters and ambulatory patients during aeromedical evacuations when required.

The inherent flexibility and performance of the C-17 force improve the ability of the total airlift system to fulfill the worldwide air mobility requirements of the United States.

The C-17 measures 174 feet long with a wingspan of 169 feet, 10 inches. The aircraft is powered by four, fully reversible, Federal Aviation Administration-certified F117-PW-100 engines (the military designation for the commercial Pratt & Whitney PW2040), currently used on the Boeing 757. Each engine is rated at 40,440 pounds of thrust. The thrust reversers direct the flow of air upward and forward to avoid ingestion of dust and debris. Maximum use has been made of off-the-shelf and commercial equipment, including Air Force-standardized avionics.

The aircraft is operated by a crew of three (pilot, copilot and loadmaster), reducing manpower requirements, risk exposure and long-term operating costs. Cargo is loaded onto the C-17 through a large aft door that accommodates military vehicles and palletized cargo. The C-17 can carry virtually all of the Army's air-transportable equipment.

KC-135 DEMO TEAM



The Air Education and Training Command (AETC) KC-135 Demonstration Team is comprised of highly experienced instructor pilots and boom operators stationed at the KC-135 Formal Training Unit at Altus AFB, OK. They are responsible for the training and evaluation of all active duty, guard, and reserve members who are assigned to the KC-135 crew force.

The KC-135 Stratotanker is the backbone of the USAF aerial refueling fleet and has excelled in this role for over 60 years. Its primary mission is the extension of the United States' global reach through the refueling of airborne assets, including aircraft from the USAF, USN, USMC, and allied nations. The KC-135 can carry up to 200,000 pounds of fuel and, depending on fuel load, up to 83,000 pounds of cargo, or can be configured to provide support for aeromedical evacuation operations.

P-51 GUNFIGHTER - CAF



Gunfighter is one of the world's most famous P-51 Mustangs, having appeared on the airshow circuit and providing rides for over 35 years. The aircraft is a P-51 "D" model, serial number 44-73264. Of the approximately 15,000 P-51s produced in WWII, over 8,000 were "D" models. Today, only about 150 airworthy examples of Mustangs exist world-wide in museums, flying or under restoration.

Gunfighter was built in the Inglewood, California North American plant and accepted into the USAAF in March 1945. That month, it was shipped to England, where it was assigned to the famous 'Mighty Eighth' Air Force. In July of 1945, after the War ended in Europe, it was returned to the U.S. and assigned to Olmstead Field in Pennsylvania. In 1947 it was transferred to the Air National Guard, and it thereafter served with units in Wyoming, New Mexico, Illinois and Kentucky. In 1956 it was declared surplus and sold on the civilian market.

Today, Gunfighter is operated by the Commemorative Air Force (CAF). The CAF is the largest operator of Historic Aircraft in the world with 160 aircraft and over 9,000 members. Gunfighter is restored in the colors of the 343rd Fighter Squadron, 55th Fighter Group, 8th Air Force, USAAF. The 55th Fighter Group was the first American Air Corp unit to become operational in Europe, first to fly over Berlin and was one of the units that provided top cover over the Invasion Beaches at Normandy on "D-Day", June 6th, 1944.

Gunfighter is powered by a Packard-built Rolls-Royce Merlin engine. It is rated at 1,490 HP and has a displacement of 1650 cubic inches. Top speed is over 400 mph and ceiling is 41,000 feet. Gunfighter has been modified to include a second seat where the original radio gear and fuselage fuel tank were located.

T-28 TROJANS - TROJAN PHLYERS



Trojan Phlyers, Inc. is a group of aviation professionals, based out of Mid-Way Regional Airport (KJWY), just south of Dallas, Texas. They are dedicated to preserving the rich history of the North American Aviation Company's T28 Trojan. The pilots of Trojan Phlyers perform formation and solo aerobatics and appear

each year at air shows and events across the nation in an effort to remind us of the engineering brilliance and manufacturing excellence of the former North American Aviation Company. Also, these same pilots, many of them decorated combat veterans, offer a salute to the veterans of our great nation, and to the men and women who continue to protect us and preserve the American way of life.

The Trojan Phlyers own and operate two T-28B aircraft. Both aircraft have Wright Cyclone R1820-86B nine-cylinder radial engines rated at 1425 horsepower. The fully aerobatic aircraft can takeoff in less than 800 feet of runway, climb to 10,000 feet in less than 90 seconds, race level above 335 MPH, and dive faster than 380 MPH. In fact, the T28 can outperform most World War II fighters at low altitude.

All of the Trojan Phlyers' aircraft were used by the US Navy as primary flight trainers. These aircraft were used to teach Navy and Marine aviators: basic transition, formation, aerobatics, and instrument procedures and techniques.

KEVIN COLEMAN - RED BULL



Kevin Coleman is one of the top aerobatic pilots in the world, surprisingly so at the young age of 32 years. He was one of just three American pilots to compete across the globe in the Red Bull Air Race World Championships, doing so as the youngest competitor in the Challenger Class, where he recorded three wins and 16 podium finishes in 21 races. Kevin's prowess as a pilot also earned him a spot on the U.S. Advanced Aerobatics Team.

Kevin is a second-generation pilot who began flying lessons and aerobatics at the tender age of ten with late American aviation legend and Aerobatic Hall of Fame member, Marion Cole. He soloed on his 16th birthday and followed with his Private Pilot's License on his 17th birthday. Soon after he launched his full-time, professional aviation career at age 18, performing year-round in the air show circuit across the United States.

Kevin hails from Coushatta, Louisiana and lists his passions outside of flying as duck hunting, bow hunting, golfing, skydiving, scuba diving, and mountain biking. Because of his age and high engagement, Kevin has one of the top social followings in the air show industry.

ADAM BAKER - PLAYFUL AIRSHOWS



Adam "Shakenbake" Baker is a one-of-a-kind airshow pilot. With a personality to match his outgoing and progressive flying style he is processed from a self-made aviator to an industry leader. Adams' competition background and progressive freestyle flying match his one-of-a-kind plane scheme that is updated yearly. His progressive thinking and industry changing strategy has made him marketable to all generations.

Adam loves to share his story with the younger generations as he is one of the very few in the industry that didn't come from an airshow or aviation family. Adam has dedicated his entire professional career to progression of flying. Holding almost every rating possible from Jets to helicopters to the most nimble of aerobatic aircraft he loves to fly it all. Beginning his career with only a few dollars in his pocket he likes to share his experience and excite and inspire the next generation of pilots and individuals looking to progress and be successful in whatever endeavor it may be.

KC FLIGHT FORMATION - 10-SHIP FORMATION



KC Flight, an RV Formation Team, is Kansas City's largest home-grown civilian formation team. Founded in 2009 with 4 members, they currently have 14 members of which all are FFI (Formation Flying Inc.) carded pilots and SAC Formation DM & Solo qualified.

You may see them in the sky of the Greater KC area practicing, day or night. They have performed National Anthem

flyovers for the KC Chiefs, KC Royals, Sporting KC, KC Symphony, NASCAR, IRL, Lake of the Ozarks boat races and at multiple area High School Football games on Friday nights. They also perform at civilian and military airshows.

The aircraft they fly are various models of the Van's RV Experimental aircraft line. These aircraft are very light on the controls, with excellent range and performance. Stall

speed is around 51 knots, while the max speed is 200+ knots. The aircraft are fully aerobatic with a G limit of +6 , -3. All of these factors combined make these great formation aircraft.

CALIFORNIA TOM CRUISE (MAVERICK/ICEMAN)



Jerome Leblanc (Maverick) has been the most sought Tom Cruise impersonator for 8 years. Brian Ernst (Iceman) joined Jerome a couple of years ago to become the best and only Top Gun Tribute that travel the world as members of the International Council of Air Shows. Together, they “bring back that loving feeling” to everyone.

F-18 COCKPIT - DREAMBIG ENTERTAINMENT



DreamBIG Entertainment LLC is DOD and U.S. Navy Trademark Licensed to display and show decommissioned and demilitarized modern military aircraft with Naval markings.

The goal in creating the DreamBIG Top Gun Maverick F/A-18

Experience remains the same as it was when it began in 2010; to

inspire, educate, and motivate visitors with a hands-on and guided opportunity to experience the F/A-18 Hornet with the full Top Gun experience.

HEARTLAND OF AMERICA BAND



The United States Air Force Heartland of America Band is a 15-member organization that presents exciting & uplifting music to inspire patriotism and tell the Air Force Story. From formal concert in grand auditoriums to casual shows in the park, they

demonstrate Air Force excellence and precision in every performance. Their mission also includes deployments where they collaborate with U.S. Embassies to share American culture, build partnerships, advance international relationships, and use music to motivate and unify coalition service members who are defending the region.

As professional Airmen, the United States Air Force Heartland of America band honors our American military veterans for their selfless sacrifice at every performance, and shares the message of excellence, courage and commitment displayed every day by the brave men and women of the United States Air Force serving throughout the world.

The United States Air Force Heartland of America Band has a rich history of inspiring hearts and minds, building and sustaining American patriotism, and enhancing esprit de corps in the United States Air Force. It began as the 402nd Army Air Force Band on February 1, 1943, at Ardmore Army Base, Oklahoma. After assignments at Andrews Field in Maryland and Selfridge Air Force Base in Michigan, it was eventually assigned to Strategic Air Command at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska on October 2, 1948, its home ever since.

OPERATION: SHADOW STRIKE



Operation: Shadow Strike puts visitors in the middle of a high-stakes, high-octane Air Force rescue mission. Featuring a 3D film, motion theater seats, sensory effects and 360-degree surround sound, this mobile tour is more than a ride, it's an immersive 4D experience from start to finish.

MIG-17 - FIGHTER JETS INC.