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U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds to Headline 2009 Air Show
Labor Day Weekend Family Event Readies for Takeoff

LAS VEGAS (DEC. 9, 2008)—Cleveland has been selected to host the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds as headliners of the 2009 Cleveland National Air Show presented by Discount Drug Mart on Labor Day Weekend (September 5, 6 & 7) at Burke Lakefront Airport. The U.S. Department of Defense announced the complete 2009 Thunderbird schedule today at the annual International Council of Air Shows convention in Las Vegas.

The six select Thunderbird pilots will put their distinct red, white and blue F-16 Falcon jet fighters through a choreographed hour-long performance each day at speeds up to 500 mph and as close as three feet from each other. The Thunderbirds are the U.S. Air Force “Ambassadors in Blue” and represent the United States at approximately thirty-five sites located both home and abroad each year.

The Cleveland National Air Show is a Labor Day Weekend family tradition and one of the largest annual events on the North Coast. “The Air Show is the affordable, local outing that is fun for everyone,” said Air Show Executive Director Chuck Newcomb, “and it isn’t just in the sky, as the Air Show will host a variety of interactive ground displays, kid-friendly activities, planes and more. Fans can tour unique aircraft, help pack a parachute, get a picture with a pilot or just enjoy the day-long festival of flying, food and outdoor fun.”

The 2009 show will include first time appearances of Skip Stewart in his high-energy gyroscopic muscle biplane and Pirated Skies – Franklin’s Flying Circus. Plus daily performances by Shockwave, the world’s fastest triple engine jet truck and more. Military performances will include the popular U.S. Army Golden Knights Parachute Team and a variety of high-performance military jet demonstrations.

Advance General Admission tickets are \$19 for adults, \$12 for children ages 6-11 and free for children 5 and younger. Tickets are \$2 more at the gate. For more information, please visit www.clevelandairshow.com or call (216) 781-0747. The Cleveland National Air Show presented by Discount Drug Mart is produced by Cleveland National Air Show, Inc. a not-for profit Ohio Corporation. High-resolution photos of the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds can be found at: <http://thunderbirds.airforce.com/>