



U.S. AIR FORCE THUNDERBIRDS MEDIA FLIGHT OPPORTUNITIES

THE CLEVELAND NATIONAL AIR SHOW IS OFFERING QUALIFIED MEDIA CANDIDATES THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE A MEDIA FLIGHT WITH THE U.S. AIR FORCE THUNDERBIRDS.

The following breaks down preliminary information concerning the Media Flight:

THE PLANE:

The media flights happen in the No. 8 two-seater F- 16 Fighting Falcon. The F-16 is a \$20 million-plus aircraft flown by U.S. Air Force bases around the world.

DATE & PLACE:

The ride will take place on either Thursday, September 3, or Friday, September 4, at NASA Glenn located at Hopkins International Airport.

TIME:

Media representatives report to the airport three hours before the scheduled flight time for a briefing and life-support fitting. The ride takes approximately an hour. We recommend that the riders be free of commitments as practical the day of the flight as the schedule may adjust to accommodate weather, etc.

MEDIA COVERAGE:

The coverage of the flights by the media is an important part of presenting the Thunderbirds. The media flight is designed to show the capabilities of modern high-performance aircraft, as well as demonstrate the pride and professionalism of those who fly, maintain and support them.

News media representatives should bring cameras and tape recorders for interviews prior to and following the orientation flights. Film crews and photographers are encouraged to document the flight by filming the rider being briefed, strapping into the aircraft, taking off, landing and climbing out of the plane. Tape recorders and cameras are not allowed on the flight. If the equipment came loose it would cause serious injury. Absolutely no waivers to this requirement will be allowed. (The Thunderbirds have installed digital camera recorders to capture in-cockpit video of media flights. Media representatives must bring a 4 GB SD card to the flight. This card will be used to store the aerial footage for the flyer).

THE CANDIDATES:

The candidates must be working credentialed media (reporter, anchor, etc.), not station managers, promotions directors, etc.

Air Force regulations dictate height, weight and anthropomorphic measurements standards for media fliers and are strictly enforced. The absolute minimum and maximum weights for a media flier are between 103-245 lbs. A waiver must be requested for fliers between 103-139 lbs and 212-245 lbs. (No waiver is required for fliers between 140-211 lbs).

The head-to-butt and head-to-knee measurements indicate on the attached information sheets are critically important. The approved sitting height range is between 34 and 39.7 inches, and the total height is between 64 and 77 inches.

- Max Height = 6'5"
- Chest Size Range = 34" – 48"
- Max Waist = 38"
- Boot Size Range = Size 5 -13 (men's sizes)
- Age Limit = 55

NOMINATION PACKAGE:

Each media outlet must submit TWO nomination packages (Primary and Alternate candidates) and include the following:

- **Letter of Justification** - one for each flyer (primary and alternate)
 - State why each individual should receive the flight and the amount and type of coverage offered.
- **Media Information Sheet (attached)** - one for each flyer (primary and alternate)
 - Incomplete package or blank areas could cause delays or cancellation of approval process.

- **Media/Orientation Flight Health Questionnaire (attached)** - one for each flyer (primary and alternate)
 - Medical qualifications for media flyers are based on the Air Force Flying Class II medical standard.
- **Hold Harmless Agreement (attached)**- one for each flyer (primary and alternate)
- **Physician Letter** - one for each flyer (primary and alternate)
 - Stating the nominee's current prescriptions, any significant medical issues and state of nominee's general health.

SUBMISSION AND DEADLINE:

The deadline to submit nomination packages is Friday, June 26, 2009. Completed nomination packages can be submitted to:

Kim Dell
Director of Marketing & Promotions
Cleveland National Air Show
1501 North Marginal Road, Suite 166
Burke Lakefront Airport
Cleveland, OH 44114
Phone: 216-781-0747
Fax: 216-781-7810
E-mail: kdell@clevelandairshow.com

APPROVAL:

All media flights are offered on a mission-available basis. The Thunderbirds Public Affairs Office and the Flight Surgeon will coordinate approval of the media riders. Final approval authority for all flights rests with the 57th Wing Commander at Nellis, AFB. If approved to fly with the Thunderbirds, there is no guarantee the flight will happen, based on availability of an aircraft, weather, and other operational, logistical or medical factors. Flyers who have previously flown with the Thunderbirds, Blue Angels or in an Air Force Fighter will automatically be disqualified.

THUNDERBIRD MEDIA FLIGHT INFORMATION SHEET

(Sheets **must** be filled out completely and submitted to Thunderbird public Affairs as soon as possible. **Inaccurate or incomplete information may result in a termination of the flight.**)

Flight Location: _____ Date of proposed flight: _____

Full Name: _____ Social Security Number: _____

“On Air” or “Pen” Name (if different): _____

Age: _____ Height: _____ Weight: _____

(This information **MUST** be accurate. If life support equipment does not fit properly, the flight will be terminated)

Waist size (in inches, as measured from the largest portion of waist): _____

Thigh size (in inches, wrap measuring tape around largest part of thigh area): _____

Butt-to-knee: _____ Butt-to-head: _____ (refer to attached diagrams)

Health (circle one): Excellent Good Average Poor

Are you now, or have you been, under a physician’s care in the past 12 months: Yes No

Have you ever flown in a fighter aircraft? Yes No If yes, what type? _____

(If you answered yes to the above question, please indicate date and location of flight:

Clothing (in men’s sizes): Shoe: _____ Jacket: _____ Pants (waist/inseam) : ___/___

Address (include city, state and zip code):

- Office: _____

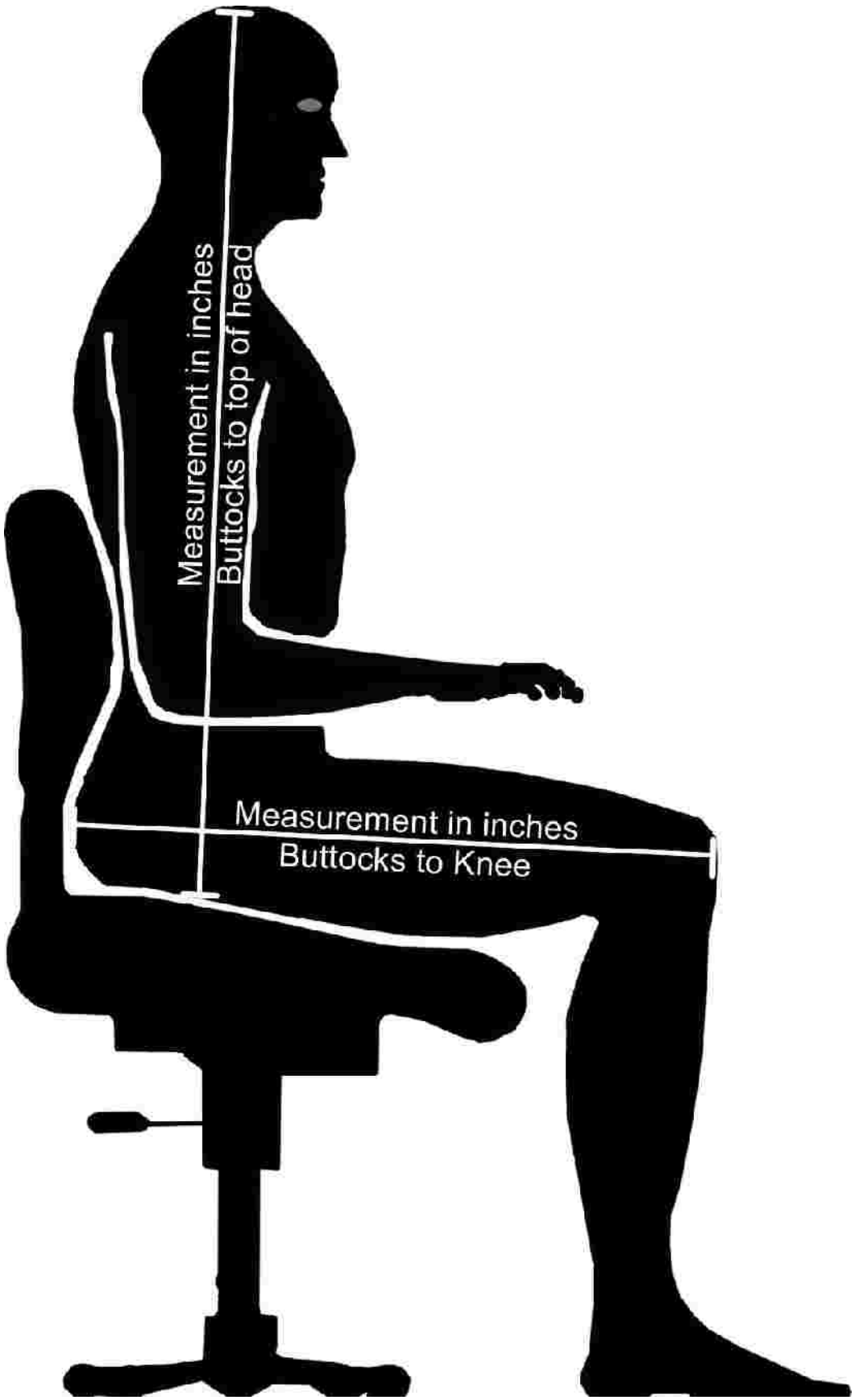
- Home: _____

Telephone: Office () ___ - ___ Home () ___ - ___ Cell () ___ - ___

E-mail address: Work: _____ Personal: _____

Station call letters/affiliation, publication name or media affiliate: _____

Audience (ie: 10,000 viewers, 50,000 circulation, etc.) _____



Measurement in inches
Buttocks to top of head

Measurement in inches
Buttocks to Knee

THUNDERBIRD MEDIA/ORIENTATION FLIGHT HEALTH QUESTIONNAIRE

(Sheet **must** be filled out completely and submitted to Thunderbird public Affairs as soon as possible. **Inaccurate or incomplete information may result in a termination of the flight.**)

1. Do you have any medical conditions that require you to see a doctor on a regular basis?
YES NO

If yes, please list all conditions: _____

2. Please list all medications taken in the past 60 days: _____

3. Have you ever been hospitalized? YES NO If yes, please provide dates, diagnosis and length of stay: _____

4. Do you have any long-standing ear or sinus problems? YES NO

5. Do you have any upper neck, lower back or spine problems? YES NO

6. Have you ever been told that you have a disc problem in your back? YES NO

7. Have you ever been told that you have a heart problem or condition? YES NO

8. Have you ever been treated for diabetes, anemia or high blood pressure? YES NO

Your medical information will be kept strictly confidential. If our flight surgeon determines you are not medically fit to fly for any reason, **no one**, including your employer or airshow organizers, will be told anything other than “We are not in a position to approve this candidate at this time.”

If you have any questions you would like to discuss with our flight surgeon prior to the submission of your paperwork, please contact a member of the Thunderbird Public Affairs staff at 702-378-7950 or at usaf.thunderbirds@nellis.af.mil.

**HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT
(provide to Orientation Flight Nominee)**

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT – AUTHORITY: DoD 4515.13-R, DODI 5435.2 and AFI 35-101; PRINCIPAL PURPOSE(S): Indicates certification by an individual or affiliate to hold the U.S. Government harmless in consideration of permission granted for transportation in high performance jet aircraft, or in any other military aircraft or military vehicles. ROUTINE USE(S): None; DISCLOSURE: Voluntary; however, failure to provide this information will result in an individual or affiliate being unable to be transported in high performance jet aircraft, or in any other military aircraft or military vehicles.

The person named below (“Passenger”), in consideration of permission granted by the United States Air Force for transportation in high performance jet aircraft, or for transportation in any other military aircraft or military vehicles, acknowledges and agrees:

1. Flight in high performance jet aircraft, or transportation in any other military aircraft or military vehicles, is a dangerous activity that entails risks, both known and unknown, of death or serious injury. The United States Air Force, by and through its personnel, will make every effort to protect the Passenger's physical safety, but cannot guarantee such safety.
 2. Should an event occur during flight which requires initiation of ejection procedures from an aircraft by or on behalf of the Passenger named below, said Passenger acknowledges that ejection is an inherently dangerous activity, which could result in death or serious physical injury. Said Passenger also acknowledges that physical size and weight affect the performance of ejection systems. As weight and/or physical dimensions increase, the probability of successful ejection may be adversely affected.
 3. The passenger certifies that he or she is in good physical condition and health, and there are no medical symptoms, conditions, illnesses, or other ailments which would be aggravated, worsened, or in any way adversely affected by flight in high performance jet aircraft, other types of military aircraft, or transportation in other military vehicles.
 4. The Passenger releases forever the United States, its agencies, and United States personnel, from every liability arising out of transportation in high performance jet aircraft, other military aircraft, or other military vehicles of the Passenger named below. The Passenger will defend, pay or settle every claim or suit against the United States, its agencies, and United States personnel, by agents or employees of the Passenger or persons claiming through them, or by third parties, and will hold the United States, its agencies, and United States personnel, harmless against every such claim or suit, including attorney fees, costs, and expenses, arising out of transportation in high performance jet aircraft, other military aircraft, or military vehicles of the Passenger .
Exception: Death, injury, damage to persons or property resulting solely from the willful misconduct of United States personnel; and, in addition, any liability from another contract concerning transportation in military aircraft of any type, or other military vehicles, shall not be affected by this Hold Harmless Agreement.
 5. The Passenger will pay or settle every claim for death or injury to United States personnel, or for loss or damage to property of or under the control of United States personnel, arising out of transportation in military aircraft of any type, or other military vehicles, of the Passenger, unless the death, injury, loss or damage results solely from the negligence or willful misconduct of United States personnel.
 6. For the purpose of this Hold Harmless Agreement, the term "United States personnel" shall include: Military personnel and civilian employees of the United States, including non-appropriated fund employees, acting within the scope of their employment; and heirs, successors, executors, administrators, and assigns of such personnel or employees.
 7. The Passenger will comply with all pertinent parts of applicable military regulations, policy directives, instructions, or other applicable guidance, to include local supplements, directives, and orders, which are hereby incorporated into this Agreement as if set forth in full within. The Passenger acknowledges that such military regulations, directives, instructions, and orders exist, and that he or she has a duty to inquire if questions arise as to the content or effect of such directives, regulations, instructions, or orders.
- This agreement replaces any previous Hold Harmless Agreement, if any by the same Passenger, as of the date of this agreement. Termination by the Passenger requires 60 days written notice to the military authority where the agreement was submitted.

Passenger's Printed Name: _____ Affiliate: _____

Passenger's Signature/SSAN: _____ Date: _____