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## **U.S. Air Force Air Power Featured at 2018 Air Show**

*Includes Commemorative Heritage Flight with F-16 Fighting Falcon and WWII P-51 Mustang*

**CLEVELAND, OH (April 18, 2018)**— The 2018 Cleveland National Air Show presented by Discount Drug Mart will feature the U.S. Air Force F-16 Viper Tactical Demonstration and will take place Labor Day Weekend (Sept. 1, 2 & 3) at Burke Lakefront Airport in downtown Cleveland.

The U.S. Air Force F-16 Viper Demonstration Team from Shaw AFB, South Carolina, will perform precision aerial maneuvers to demonstrate the unique capabilities by one of the Air Force's premier multi-role fighters, the F-16 Fighting Falcon. The F-16 Fighting Falcon is a single-seat, multi-mission fighter with the ability to switch from an air-to-ground to air-to-air role at the touch of a button. With its lightweight airframe and powerful General Electric engine generating 31,000 pounds of thrust, the F-16 can fly at speeds in excess of Mach 2. This incredible demo is returning to the Cleveland skies for the first time since 2008.

Air Show fans will also witness a rare commemorative Heritage Flight when the F-16 Fighting Falcon and WWII P-51 Mustang "Bald Eagle" join in the skies over Cleveland.

The legendary P-51 Mustang dominated the skies over Western Europe after it was introduced in World War II. The single-seat aircraft had a maximum speed of 437 miles per hour and could escort heavy bombers deep into the heart of Germany. The P-51 and the pilots that flew them were crucial to turning the tide of war in the Allies' favor.

The Air Force Heritage Flight program presents the evolution of the U.S. Air Force's air power by flying today's state-of-the-art fighters in close formation with vintage fighter aircraft. The formation serves as a living memorial to the men and women who have served—or are currently serving—in the U.S. Air Force while supporting recruiting and retention efforts. Jim Beasley, Jr., founding member of the Heritage Flight Program, will fly the P-51 Mustang. Jim has been flying historic fighter aircraft for over 20 years and named the "2006 Civilian Heritage Flight Pilot of the Year". For more information on the Heritage Flight Program visit: <http://www.airforceheritageflight.org/>

Headlining this year's show are the U.S. Navy Blue Angels. They will be joined by the U.S. Army Golden Knights parachute team, world aerobatics, wingwaling and more. Inside the gates spectators will experience the 300 mph Shockwave Jet Truck and pyrotechnics with a Wall of Fire. Fans can tour unique aircraft, help pack a parachute, meet a pilot and explore aviation first hand. The 2018 Air Show is also part of the inaugural Grunt Style Air Show Majors tour uniting the most prestigious air shows in the country.

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Advance General Admission tickets are \$23 for adults, \$14 for children ages 6-11 (\$2 more at the gate) and FREE for children 5 and younger. Popular seating, including Reserved Box Seats and Barnstormer Club, offer a variety of amenities. For more information, please visit [www.clevelandairshow.com](http://www.clevelandairshow.com) or call (216) 781-0747. Advance General Admission Tickets will be available at local Discount Drug Mart stores starting August 1, 2018.

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*The Cleveland National Air Show has been Northeast Ohio's Labor Day Weekend Tradition since 1964, attracting 60,000 to 100,000 visitors to Burke Lakefront Airport and making it one of the region's largest annual events. It is produced by Cleveland National Air Show, Inc. a 501(c)(4) not-for-profit Ohio corporation that relies on sponsorship and community support to offset the costs of producing the event. The Air Show has an annual economic impact of \$7.1 million+ on the City of Cleveland.*