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***U.S. AIR FORCE THUNDERBIRDS to headline
2021 Vectren Dayton Air Show Presented by Kroger
.... show officials announce a return to July dates***

Las Vegas, Nevada – The United States Air Force has selected Dayton for a Thunderbird flight demonstration at the 2021 Vectren Dayton Air Show Presented by Kroger on July 10th and 11th. The selection was announced at the International Council of Air Shows’ annual convention in Las Vegas. 2021 will mark the 47th year for the popular summer event held annually at Dayton International Airport.

Adding excitement to the announcement, the Thunderbirds announced in June that 2006 Beavercreek High School graduate, now Captain Kyle “Gumbo” Oliver, was added to the Thunderbirds team. Gumbo will be flying as the lead solo in the Thunderbird # 5 aircraft in 2021 when the team performs at Dayton.

The Dayton native was inspired to join the U.S. Air Force while watching the Thunderbirds as a teen visitor to the Dayton Air Show. “We’re beyond excited and proud,” the Captain’s father, Geoff Oliver said. “This is a dream come true for sure.” Kyle Oliver was born at Wright-Patterson Medical Center while his father was stationed at WPAFB. He is an Ohio State University graduate. What a great Dayton homecoming!



Captain Kyle “Gumbo” Oliver



Thunderbird # 5 and # 6 F-16 Fighting Falcons performing

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Flying six General Dynamic F-16 Fighting Falcons, a premier multi-role fighter jet, the **Thunderbirds** known as America's Ambassadors in the Blue will dazzle spectators with their incredible flying skills. The Thunderbirds reflect the precision and professionalism of American Airmen thrilling millions of spectators around the globe. 2021 will mark the 68th year the Thunderbirds have been performing.

"We're thrilled the Air Force has scheduled the Thunderbirds to perform in Dayton in 2021," said Scott Buchanan, Chairman of the United States Air & Trade Show Board of Trustees, producers of the show. "We're even more excited that Dayton native Captain Kyle Oliver will be flying on the team. It doesn't get any better than this," Buchanan added.

A return to July Dates:

In other air show news, the United States Air & Trade Show Board of Trustees have decided to return the show to its historical July dates. In 2013, the show shifted to late June dates to accommodate jet team scheduling.

Unfortunately, three out of the last five years, spring rain has rendered the show's parking lots unusable. This has resulted in a financial hardship for the show and a significant inconvenience for patrons forced to be shuttled to distant lots to avoid show cancellation.

With jet team scheduling no longer being an issue, the USATS Board felt it was prudent to go back to July which served the show well since its beginning.

In July, lot flooding was never a problem. "July dates are better for the show in the long run," stated Scott Buchanan, Chairman. "Switching back to July virtually eliminates the lot problem we have struggled with in recent years protecting the future of the show," he said.

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Founded in 1975, the Vectren Dayton Air Show Presented by Kroger is one of North America's premier air shows. It features world-class aerobatic champions, military jet demonstrations and entertainment for the whole family, celebrating Dayton's rich aviation heritage as home of the Wright Brothers, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force and National Aviation Heritage Area. It is produced by the United States Air and Trade Show, Inc., a 501(c)(6) not-for-profit Ohio corporation that relies on sponsorship and community support to offset costs. The Dayton/Montgomery County Convention and Visitors Bureau estimates the show adds \$3.7 million to the region's economy every year.