



Press Release

United States Air Force

319th Reconnaissance Wing

319th Reconnaissance Wing Public Affairs
Grand Forks AFB, N.D. 58205
319rw.pa@us.af.mil – (701) 747-5023
<https://www.grandforks.af.mil>

Advisory No. 20220613

Date: June 13, 2022

Northern Thunder Air & Space Expo

What: Media members are invited to attend the free, public Northern Thunder Air & Space Expo on June 18 at Grand Forks Air Force Base, and several pre-show events June 16 and 17. In celebration of the Air Force's 75th birthday and Grand Forks AFB's 65th birthday, the air show will showcase American airpower and feature multiple ground and aerial performances, including the headline act performed by the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds aerial demonstration team. The event will also Recognize Hometown Hero Michael Lents for his many contributions to the Grand Forks community. More than 20,000 attendees are anticipated Saturday.

Who: Members of the Thunderbirds demonstration team and Grand Forks AFB will be available for interviews during pre-air-show events Thursday and Friday.

Michael Lents, a master certified flight instructor and assistant professor at the University of North Dakota, will fly with the Thunderbirds on Friday as the air show's Hometown Hero. Lents also coaches the UND Aerobatics Team. One of his students nominated him, stating: *"The impact Coach Lents has had on the students he has guided in the aviation program has been the most amazing thing I've witnessed at UND. We would love to present a token of how impactful he has been on our lives and community."* Additionally, Lents volunteers at his local church and Boy Scout troop.

Where: The air show will be held on the Grand Forks AFB flight line. Interested media members will meet Grand Forks AFB public affairs members at the hwy 2 Commercial gate.

When: Several events of interest will be held Thursday, Friday and Saturday, June 16 – 18.

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Thursday: The Thunderbirds will arrive around 2:45 p.m. and conduct a brief survey flight. After they land, one of the Thunderbirds (pilot) will be available for a plane-side interview. Additional air show personnel may also be available for interviews.

Media members should report to the installation's commercial gate visitor's center by 2:15 p.m. to observe the Diamond Formation arrival at 2:45 p.m. Following landing, the pilots will offer planeside interviews around 4:00 p.m.

Interested media members must RSVP by email (319rw.pa@us.af.mil) no later than 4 p.m. Tuesday with the following information for each member who will enter the base:

Full Name: (Last, First, MI)
Driver's License #:
State of Issue for Driver's License:
Date of Birth: (DD/MM/YYYY)

Friday: Grand Forks AFB will host a Family Day, allowing people with base access to enjoy a rehearsal of aerial performances between 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Gates will open at 10 to DoD ID Cardholders.

Throughout the day, Grand Forks AFB public affairs members will coordinate interviews with air show performers and Grand Forks AFB personnel.

Special parking will be available for media members.

Interested Media members must RSVP by email (319rw.pa@us.af.mil) no later than noon Wednesday with the following information for each member who will enter the base:

Full Name: (Last, First, MI)
Driver's License #:
State of Issue for Driver's License:
Date of Birth: (DD/MM/YYYY)

Friday and Saturday performance schedules on next page

Additional event information can be found at <https://www.grandforks.af.mil/Northern-Thunder-2022/>.

Questions may be directed to the Grand Forks AFB public affairs office at (701) 747-5023 or 319rw.pa@us.af.mil. Off-duty hours, public affairs can be reached at (701) 741-2821.



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Friday Performer Schedule

| | |
|------------|----------------------------|
| 10:00 a.m. | Gates open |
| 10:30 a.m. | Thunderbirds Aerial Survey |
| 12:05 p.m. | Shockwave |
| 12:15 p.m. | DH-115 Demo |
| 12:30 p.m. | Jet Waco Demo |
| 12:50 p.m. | Wings of Blue Demo |
| 1:20 p.m. | Bf 109 |
| 1:31 p.m. | Yak-52/Blessed FMX |
| 1:42 p.m. | Piper Super Cub Comedy Act |
| 1:53 p.m. | Bennett Eagle Demo |
| 2:04 p.m. | Extra 330 Demo |
| 2:15 p.m. | Stearman |
| 2:30 p.m. | Thunderbirds |
| 3:30 p.m. | Show end |

Please note that times are subject to change due to weather, operational, or maintenance reasons.

Saturday Performer Schedule

| | |
|------------|---------------------------------|
| 8:30 a.m. | Gates open |
| 11:00 a.m. | Wings of Blue / National Anthem |
| 11:45 a.m. | Shockwave |
| 11:50 a.m. | Stearman |
| 11:55 a.m. | Bf 109 Demo |
| 12:07 p.m. | Yak-52 Demo |
| 12:20 p.m. | Piper Super Cub Comedy Act |
| 12:32 p.m. | Bennett Eagle Demo |
| 12:45 p.m. | Blessed FMX Demo |
| 1:05 p.m. | DH-115 Demo |
| 1:20 p.m. | Extra 330 |
| 1:55 p.m. | Wings of Blue Demo |
| 2:15 p.m. | Jet Waco |
| 2:30 p.m. | Thunderbirds |
| 3:30 p.m. | Show end |

Please note that times are subject to change due to weather, operational, or maintenance reasons.