

# Certificate of Authenticity

## United States Thunderbirds 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### 1953 Thunderbird Team

1. **Major General Dick Catledge – Commander/Leader.** He flew 23 combat missions in the P-38 Lightnings with the 71<sup>st</sup> Fighter Squadron, 1<sup>st</sup> Fighter Group, was shot down on 8/28/1943 and became a POW for two weeks, and evaded capture for nine months. In 1952, after graduating from Air Command and Staff College, he was assigned to Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, where he formed and led the new Thunderbird team. He was the Commanding Officer of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing in 1966, and flew 141 combat missions in the F-100 during the Vietnam War.
2. **Lt. General Charles C. (Buck) Pattillo – Left Wing.** He flew 37 combat missions in the P-51 (PZ-W) "Little Rebel" with the 486<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron, 352<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group in WW II, and had 5 air-to-ground victories. He flew 120 combat missions in the F-4 Phantom in Vietnam with the 8<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing. He had air demonstration experience before joining the Thunderbirds, having flown left wing with the "Skyblazers".
3. **Major General Cuthbert A. (Bill) Pattillo – Right Wing.** He flew 35 combat missions in the P-51 (HO-Y) "Sweet and Lovely", with the 487<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron, 352<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group. He had 6 air-to-ground victories and shot down a ME-262 on April 10, 1945. He was shot down by ground flak on 4/16/1945 and was a POW. He flew 230 combat missions in the F-100 in Vietnam with the 31<sup>st</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing. He had air demonstration experience before joining the Thunderbirds, having flown right wing with the "Skyblazers".
4. **Lt. Colonel Bob Kanaga – Slot.** His first air demonstration experience was with the "Red Devils", flying the P-51 Mustang. He flew the B-17 for seven years as an air tanker against wild fires. He flew 105 combat missions and 1,600 hours in the F-86 during the Korean War. He also flew the B-25, B-26, P-47, F-102, F-104, F-4, KC-94 and KC-135.
5. **Colonel Bob McCormick – Spare pilot.** He began his military career as an USAAF private, and later flew 100 combat missions in the F-86 with the 51<sup>st</sup> FIG during the Korean War, and earned the Distinguished Flying Cross. He also flew the F-4C/D during the Vietnam War. He had air demonstration experience before joining the Thunderbirds, having flown right wing with the "Sabre Dancers".
6. **Lt. Colonel Aubrey D. "Brownie" Brown – Spare pilot and Maint. Officer.** He was a Korean War F-84 veteran and was highly recommended to join the Thunderbird team by the Pattillo brothers. He was in charge of selecting 23 enlisted men to help with the maintenance on the F-84 Thunderbird jets, and was able to pick the "cream of the crop" out of 300 enlisted men. He later flew the solo position and the right wing position for the Thunderbirds. Later, he worked for the Navy Top Gun squadron at NAS Miramar for 12 years.

### 2003 Thunderbird Team

1. **Lt. Col. Richard G. McSpadden, Jr., – Commander/Leader.** He has logged more than 3,500 hours as an Air Force pilot, with more than 3,000 hours in the F-15A/B/C/D and F-16C/D.
2. **Major Mark D. Smith – Left Wing.** He has logged more than 1,400 hours as an Air Force pilot, with more than 1,100 hours in the F-16C/D.
3. **Captain D. Chris Callaghan – Right Wing.** He has logged more than 3,000 hours as an Air Force pilot, with more than 1,500 hours in the F-15C/D and F-16C/D.
4. **Major Matthew R. Beckley – Slot.** He has logged more than 1,600 hours as an Air Force pilot, with more than 1,400 hours in the F-16C/D.
5. **Major Todd Canterbury – Lead Solo.** He has logged more than 2,200 hours as an Air Force pilot, with more than 2,000 hours in the F-15E and F-16C/D.
6. **Captain Chris R. Stricklin – Opposing Solo.** He has logged more than 1,500 hours as an Air Force pilot, with more than 1,200 hours in the F-15C/D and F-16C/D.