



* NEWS RELEASE * NEWS RELEASE * NEWS RELEASE *

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 15, 2009

For More Information Contact:

Michael Emoff, Chairman 937-221-7820 mike.emoff@shumsky.com

Brenda Kerfoot, General Manager 937-898-5901 x133 brenda@daytonairshow.com

***Thunderbirds' Commander Excited to Fly for Family and Friends
LtCol. Thomas headlines long list of local performers/crew
2009 Vectren Dayton Air Show Presented by Kroger***

Dayton, Ohio – Lt. Col. Greg Thomas grew up in southwest Ohio watching the United States Air Force Thunderbirds and dreaming of becoming a fighter pilot for his country. Thomas, the commander/leader of the Thunderbirds will lead his team as the headliner performer at the 2009 Vectren Dayton Air Show Presented by Kroger July 18th and 19th at the Dayton International Airport.

"My first air show I ever attended was in Cincinnati watching the Thunderbirds fly T-38's in the late 1970's. After that I started going to the Dayton Air Show and I vividly remember seeing the Thunderbirds and the Navy Blue Angels year after year," Thomas said. "It was those early years when I saw the Thunderbirds that sparked my dreams of becoming a fighter pilot for the Air Force and I continued to work hard throughout the years to make that happen."

Thomas' Ohio roots run deep. He was born in Columbus but grew up the majority of his childhood in Cincinnati and was a 1992 distinguished graduate from Wright State University, where he met his wife. He has been looking forward to performing for his friends and family in Dayton for a long time. "The Dayton Air Show is the one that I absolutely wanted to get back in front of my family and friends. I've been looking forward to Dayton for two years now," Thomas said.

Of course, Thomas' first priority is putting on a great show but he has some other things on the agenda while he is back in town. "It's not often I have the opportunity to get back to Ohio. It will be great to see my family and friends. I may even get to partake in some Skyline Chili and LaRosa's Pizza while I'm back."

Thomas is but one of at least 24 pilots or crew members with local ties who will be participating in the 2009 Vectren Dayton Air Show. The show takes to the skies July 18th and 19th at the Dayton International Airport. Other local connections include:

- More -

2009 Vectren Dayton Air Show Local Connections

Demonstration Pilots/Crews

➤ Lt. Col Greg Thomas	Thunderbirds	Cincinnati, OH
➤ Col Gary McCue	C-130	Bellville ,OH
➤ CPT Matt Dudley	C-130	Bellville ,OH
➤ LtCol Mark Bean	C-130	Columbus ,OH
➤ TSG Aaron Zieber	C-130	Mansfield ,OH
➤ MSG Shane Adams	C-130	Lexington ,OH
➤ MSG Dave Weidner	C-130	Mansfield ,OH
➤ CW4 Hendrickson	Apache	Columbus, OH
➤ Stephen Koltanski	B-52	
➤ Justin Capper	C-17	
➤ Thomas Phillips	C-17	
➤ Shawn Brock	C-17	

Static Display Pilots/Crews

➤ Lt Col Ludwig	T-39	Dayton, OH
➤ LT Barger	T-39	Dayton, OH
➤ LT Deron Krietemeyer	E2C	
➤ LCDR Kurt Uhlmann	F-18/F (VX-9)	Bellbrook, OH
➤ Steve Griffin	KC-10	
➤ LCDR Shannon Martin	MH-60	
➤ Adam Forney	P-3	Northern, KY
➤ Marty E. Martin	RC-12	Norwood, OH
➤ Cullen Thomas	T-6	Beavercreek, OH
➤ Scott Williams	T-34	Columbus, OH

In addition to the USAF Thunderbirds, the 2009 Vectren Dayton Air Show will feature a full lineup that includes the Brazilian Air Force Smoke Squadron, Tora, Tora Tora, U.S. Navy F-18 Super Hornet, National Hall of Fame aerobatic legend Sean D. Tucker, three-time US National Aerobatic champion, Patty Wagstaff, the U.S. Army Parachute Team, Golden Knights and much more.

Air shows are among the most cost-efficient family entertainment alternatives available today. Discount general admission tickets are on sale now at area Kroger stores. Patrons can find a ticket package to suit every need and budget by visiting our website www.daytonairshow.com. Don't miss Dayton's premier summer event.

--End--

Founded in 1975, the Vectren Dayton Air Show presented by Kroger is one of the country's premier air shows. The event showcases military jet demonstrations, world-class aerobatic champions and entertainment for the whole family celebrating Dayton's rich aviation heritage as home of the Wright Brothers and Wright Patterson Air Force Base.

America's Greatest Air Show...Dayton's Premier Summer Event