



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Aviation Safety

800 Independence Ave
Washington, DC 20591

March 7, 2023

USAF Thunderbirds
Lt. Col. Justin Elliott
4445 Tyndall Avenue
Nellis AFB, NV 89191-6079

Dear Lt. Col Justin Elliott:

Based on approval by the Department of the Air Force, the Thunderbirds 2023 maneuver package and flight demonstration is acceptable to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). FAA acceptance of the Thunderbirds' maneuvers package should not be construed as a special waiver, exemption or exception to the guidelines and provisions of any air show Certificate of Waiver, FAA Form 7711-1 (CoW). FAA acceptance is confirmation that the maneuvers, as presented in the 2023 maneuvers manual, meet FAA guidelines and special provisions. This letter of authorization (LOA) expires in 12 calendar months or when superseded.

With the exception of flights in the transition area, flight less than 500 feet AGL over spectators, occupied structures, roads, vehicles, or vessels are not authorized. All flights below 500 feet AGL during ingress and egress to the aerobatic box must be approved by the Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) Inspector-In-Charge (IIC) of the aviation event and be discussed directly with that FAA inspector by you or your team representative during the winter meetings.

Non-aerobatic flyovers (e.g. stadiums, parades, funeral) are authorized at or above 500 feet above the highest obstacle and 1,000 feet either side of the intended flightpath when a CoW for a flyover is issued.

All accident and incidents must be reported to the AFS-830 General Aviation Operations Manager and provide a briefing paper within 24 hours.

We will make the 2023 Thunderbirds' maneuver package available to the FAA Aviation Events Specialists (AES) and FSDOs.

This office is available at your convenience to answer any questions you may have concerning FAA aviation event policies. David Menzimer, Manager, AFS-830, General Aviation Operations / General Aviation and Commercial Division can be reached by telephone at (206) 231-3770 or via email at david.menzimer@faa.gov.

We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to working with you and your entire team in assuring a safe 2023 aviation event season.

This letter of authorization (LOA) expires in 12 calendar months from date of issue or when superseded.

Date of Issue: March 07, 2023

Sincerely,

DAVID M
MENZIMER

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Date: 2023.03.07
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David Menzimer
Manager, AFS-830
General Aviation Operations and Commercial Division