



## PRESS RELEASE

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## Air Force F-35 to Fly at Idaho Falls Air Show

**Idaho Falls, ID** – The Air Show Board of Directors is proud to announce that a U.S. Air Force [F-35 Lightning II](#) will perform at the July 22-23, 2017 Extreme Blue Thunder Air Show. After a rigorous selection process, the city was selected as one of only twelve cities in North America to be awarded a [U.S. Air Force \(USAF\) F-35 Heritage Flight](#).

The Heritage Flight, a program founded in 1997, celebrates the USAF 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and honors those who have served or are serving. The aircraft will be performing alongside fighter/attack aircraft from World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

“It is truly an amazing honor for the city of Idaho Falls to be awarded the F-35 Heritage Flight, as the aircraft is all but impossible to get,” states Russell Johnson, chairman of the Idaho Falls Air Show Board of Directors. “The selection process was extremely competitive and challenging, and for the city to host both the U.S. Navy Blue Angels Flight Demonstration Team and the U.S. Air Force F-35 Heritage Flight is remarkable and exciting,” said Johnson.

Last year, the Idaho Falls Air Show Board of Directors applied for the prestigious F-35 Heritage Flight through the Department of Defense. The team of experienced air show organizers also attended the International Convention of Air Shows. While there, they met with the U.S. Air Force’s Air Combat Command and spoke with Air Force representatives

about why Idaho Falls would be the perfect place to host the military's most advanced fighter aircraft.

The F-35 is the Air Force's latest fifth-generation fighter and provides next-generation stealth, enhanced situational awareness, and reduced vulnerability for the United States and allied nations. Nine countries were involved in developing the aircraft (United States, United Kingdom, Italy, Netherlands, Turkey, Canada, Denmark, Norway and Australia). The advanced sensor package in the F-35 is designed to gather, fuse and distribute more information than any fighter in history.

The F-35 Heritage Flight Team includes one pilot and 10 maintainers, all selected from the 61<sup>st</sup> Fighter Squadron at Luke Air Force Base near Glendale, Ariz. Major Will Andreotta will pilot the jet during the Extreme Blue Thunder Air Show.

[Online](#) ticket sales for the 2017 air show will begin in March with special early bird pricing.

Additional information: [B-Roll](#) / [F-35A Factsheet](#) / [Idaho Falls Air Show Facebook](#) / [Website](#) coming soon!

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