



# F-16 VIPER DEMO TEAM

**MEDIA KIT**



# F-16 DEMONSTRATION TEAM FACT SHEET



The Air Combat Command F-16 Viper Demonstration Team at Shaw AFB, S.C. performs precision aerial maneuvers to demonstrate the combat capabilities of one of the U.S. Air Forces' premier multi-role fighter aircraft, the F-16 Fighting Falcon.

The Viper Demonstration team works closely with the Air Force Heritage Flight Foundation to create a unique demonstration for the U.S. Air Force past and present, exhibiting the professional qualities the Air Force develops in the people who fly, maintain, and support these aircraft.

The F-16 Viper Demonstration Team travels to roughly 20 air shows across the U.S. each year where they engage with local media and members of the community in which they are performing. The F-16 Viper Demonstration Team is comprised of one pilot and approximately 8-10 aircraft maintenance specialists, all thoroughly trained and specially selected from the 20th Fighter Wing at Shaw Air Force Base, SC.

The F-16 Viper Demonstration Team is selected based on their skills and abilities to lead and excel at all levels. We are excited to have a talented team who is ready to demonstrate the F-16's capabilities and show the American public what our Airmen and U.S. Air Force combat aircraft are capable of.

The demo pilot undergoes rigorous training to learn the demo profile and must be certified by the commander of Air Combat Command (COMACC) prior to being officially appointed as the demo team pilot.



# F-16 FIGHTING FALCON FACT SHEET



## Mission

Primary weapons system of the 20th Fighter Wing, the Lockheed-Martin F-16C Fighting Falcon Block 50 model is a compact, multi-role fighter aircraft. It is highly maneuverable and has proven itself in more than 30 years of operations including air-to-air combat and air-to-surface attack. It provides a relatively low-cost, high-performance weapon system for the United States and 25 friendly nations.

Only four USAF units operate the C model: 20th Fighter Wing, Shaw Air Force Base, S.C. (three squadrons); 169th Fighter Wing, Joint National Guard Base McEntire, S.C. (one squadron); 52nd Fighter Wing, Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany (one squadron); and 35th Fighter Wing, Misawa AB, Japan (two squadrons).



## Features

In an air combat role, the F-16's maneuverability and combat radius (distance it can fly to enter air combat, stay, fight and return) until recently have exceeded that of all potential adversary fighter aircraft. It can locate targets in all weather conditions and detect low flying aircraft in radar ground clutter. In an air-to-surface role, the F-16 can fly more than 500 miles (860 kilometers), deliver its weapons with superior accuracy, defend itself against enemy aircraft, and return to its starting point. An all-weather capability allows it to accurately deliver ordnance during non-visual bombing conditions.

In designing the F-16, advanced aerospace science and proven reliable systems from other aircraft such as the F-15 and F-111 were selected. These were combined to simplify the airplane and reduce its size, purchase price, maintenance costs and weight. The light weight of the fuselage is achieved without reducing its strength. With a full load of internal fuel, the F-16 can withstand up to nine G's -- nine times the force of gravity -- which exceeds the capability of other current fighter aircraft.

The cockpit and its bubble canopy give the pilot unobstructed forward and upward vision, and greatly improved vision over the side and to the rear. The seat-back angle was expanded from the usual 13 degrees to 30 degrees, increasing pilot comfort and gravity force tolerance. The pilot has excellent flight control of the F-16 through its "fly-by-wire" system. Electrical wires relay commands, replacing the usual cables and linkage controls. For easy and accurate control of the aircraft during high G-force combat maneuvers, a side stick controller is used instead of the conventional center-mounted stick. Hand pressure on the side stick controller sends electrical signals to actuators of flight control surfaces such as ailerons and rudder.

Avionics systems include a highly accurate enhanced global positioning and inertial navigation systems, or EGI, in which computers provide steering information to the pilot. The plane has UHF and VHF radios plus an instrument landing system. It also has a warning system and modular countermeasure pods to be used against airborne or surface electronic threats. The fuselage has space for additional avionics systems.



## General Characteristics (F-16)



**Primary function:** multirole fighter

**Contractor:** Lockheed Martin Corp.

**Power plant:** F-16C/D: one Pratt and Whitney F100-PW-200/220/229 or General Electric F110-GE-100/129

**Thrust:** F-16C/D, 27,000 pounds

**Wingspan:** 32 feet, 8 inches (9.8 meters)

**Length:** 49 feet, 5 inches (14.8 meters)

**Height:** 16 feet (4.8 meters)

**Weight:** 19,700 pounds without fuel (8,936 kilograms)

**Maximum takeoff weight:** 37,500 pounds (16,875 kilograms)

**Fuel capacity:** 7,000 pounds internal (3,175 kilograms); typical capacity, 12,000 pounds with two external tanks (5443 kilograms)

**Payload:** two 2,000-pound bombs, two AIM-9, two AIM-120 and two 2400-pound external fuel tanks

**Speed:** 1,500 mph (Mach 2 at altitude)

**Range:** more than 2,002 miles ferry range (1,740 nautical miles)

**Ceiling:** above 50,000 feet (15 kilometers)

**Armament:** one M-61A1 20mm multibarrel cannon with 500 rounds; external stations can carry up to six air-to-air missiles, conventional air-to-air and air-to-surface munitions and electronic countermeasure pods

**Crew:** F-16C, one; F-16D, one or two

**Unit cost:** F-16A/B , \$14.6 million (fiscal 98 constant dollars); F-16C/D,\$18.8 million (fiscal 98 constant dollars)

**Initial operating capability:** F-16A, January 1979; F-16C/D Block 25-32, 1981; F-16C/D Block 40-42, 1989; and F-16C/D Block 50-52, 1994

Current as of September 2021



# CAPT. TAYLOR “FEMA” HIESTER

Viper Demo Team commander/pilot

Capt. Taylor Hiester is the United States Air Force F-16 Viper Demonstration Team Commander and Pilot stationed at Shaw Air Force Base in Sumter, S.C.

As the F-16 Demonstration Team Commander, he is responsible for representing Air Combat Command, the United States Air Force, the Department of Defense and the United States of America at more than 20 air shows annually around the world.

He leads a team of Airmen charged with showcasing the combat capabilities of the F-16 for millions of spectators each year. Capt. Hiester is humbled to serve in such a unique way and to have the chance to inspire Americans to serve their community whether they choose to join the military or not.



Capt. Hiester is from Robesonia, Pennsylvania. After graduating as the president of his class from Conrad Weiser High School in 2011, he attended Pennsylvania State University, graduating in 2015 with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science.

Capt. Hiester received his commission as an officer from Penn State Detachment 720 of the Reserve Officer Training Corps and graduated Undergraduate Pilot Training at Columbus AFB, Mississippi after being selected to fly the F-16 Fighting Falcon in 2017.

Following graduation from F-16 Basic Course at Holloman Air Force Base, Capt. Hiester served as a fighter pilot with the 114th Fighter Wing of the South Dakota Air National Guard Base in Sioux Falls, South Dakota where he became an instructor pilot specializing in alert operations and VIP protection.

In 2021, Captain Hiester was selected to serve as an Air Advisor with the 81st Fighter Squadron at Moody AFB, GA. He graduated Air Advisor School of the Air Expeditionary Operations School in 2022, prepared to assess, advise, assist, train and equip partner nations.

In 2022, Capt. Hiester was assigned to Shaw AFB where he served as the project officer for OPERATION NOBLE EAGLE, preparing the fighter wing to conduct aerospace warning, control and defense operations of the homeland.

While assigned to the 20th Fighter Wing, he was selected to serve as the Commander and Pilot of the F-16 Viper Demonstration Team.



# THE F-16 VIPER DEMO TEAM



**Master Sgt. Maxwell Samets-Thomas**

Superintendent



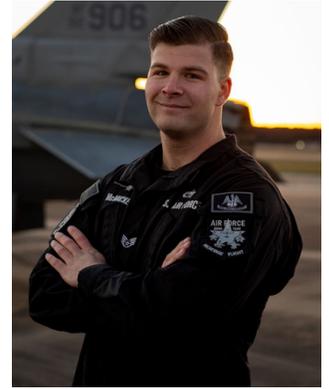
**Staff Sgt. Joshua Butcher**

Non-commissioned officer in charge



**Staff Sgt. Austin Denny**

Integrated avionics specialist



**Staff Sgt. Colton McMicken**

Dedicated crew chief



**Senior Airman Elias Sanchez**

Dedicated crew chief



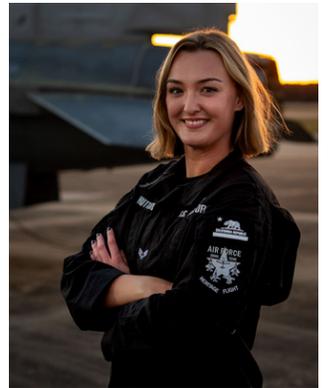
**Senior Airman Grayson Reams**

Electrical & Environmental Systems Specialist



**Senior Airman Carter Pals**

Dedicated crew chief



**Senior Airman Meghan Hutton**

Public affairs specialist

Read more about our team [here!](#)



# F-16 DEMONSTRATION TEAM CONTACT LIST



## Viper Demo Team Public Affairs

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## SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES



F-16 Viper Demo Team



@viperdemoteam



# F-16 IMAGES AND B-ROLL



## B-roll

<https://www.dvidshub.net/video/890364/f-16-viper-demonstration-team-b-roll>  
<https://www.dvidshub.net/video/890364/f-16-viper-demonstration-team-b-roll>

## Photos

<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/8143899/f-16-viper-demo-team-performs-stuart-air-show>  
<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/7928460/f-16-viper-demo-team-participates-f-air-colombia-2023>

For specific questions or further information regarding the media kit, please contact the team Public Affairs Representative, **Senior Airman Meghan Hutton** at **(831) 297-2049** or **meghan.hutton@us.af.mil**

