

Beat: Travel

Canadian Forces CF-18 Demo Team

To The Stars

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USPA NEWS - The purpose of the CF-18 Demo Team is to showcase the Royal Canadian Air Force. This is achieved by interaction with audiences through excellent aerobatic displays and superior teamwork. The goal is to demonstrate the dedication, skill and technology that allows the Royal Canadian Air Force keep Canada safe and to contribute to security through out the world.

Each year during the Air Show season the CF-18 Demo Team travels through out Canada and the United States with their CF-18 Hornet thrilling audiences at each stop. Each season has a different theme. The 2019 season theme is the 70th Anniversary of NATO and Royal Canadian Air Force Pilot, Captain Brian Kilroy was this years Demo Team Pilot. The goal is to raise awareness of Canada's role in The North Atlantic Treaty Organization which is a major part of Canada's international security policy.

In a statement found on the CF-18 Demo Team social media page, Major-General Christian Drouin, the Commander of 1st Canadian Air Division/Canadian NORAD Region he says, "The 2019 CF-18 Demonstration Team theme is an opportunity for the Royal Canadian Air Force to reflect on the innovations and people that have contributed to our success while challenging ourselves and the next generation to help us shape the future of our organization for the better. I am very proud of what the RCAF has accomplished in the last 95 years, but I can't wait to see where the next few decades take us."^[1]

Two other fine examples of the CF-18 demo were seen in the 2018 and the 2017 air show seasons. The 2018 CF-18 Demo theme was the 60th Anniversary of NORAD. Flown by Captain Stefan"Porcelain"Porteous it traveled throughout North America honouring the past, present and future of the NORAD command. In a media statement, Major-General Christian Drouin, the Commander of the 1st Canadian Air Division/Canadian NORAD Region said, "I am thrilled to have the opportunity to showcase the important NORAD mission and our important bi-national partnership through the 2018 National CF-18 Demonstration program. The men and women of NORAD work diligently to keep watch over our countries and to protect the air sovereignty over North America. Twenty four hours a day, seven days a week, no matter what - we have the watch."

The 2017 CF-18 Demo theme was Canada 150 which marked Canada's 150 anniversary of the Confederation of Canada. Flown by Royal Canadian Air Force Demonstration Pilot, Captain Matthew Kutryk, 2017 CF-18 Hornet embarked on a journey from coast to coast partaking in the year long celebration. In a media release,

Major-General Christian Drouin, Commander, 1st Canadian Air Division/Canadian NORAD Region said, "This incredible Canada 150 CF-18 Hornet is a shining example of the teamwork and professionalism that is embodied by the men and women of the RCAF. It and is just one of the many ways that the men and women of the RCAF are working to honour their rich heritage, and commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada."^[2]

Over the years, the CF-18 Demo has been a fan favorite at air shows and special events throughout Canada and the United States. These themed aircraft have become a face of the Royal Canadian Air Force by educating and thrilling audiences wherever they go. The team goal of excellence is clearly seen in every performance and is a testament to how the Royal Canadian Air Force is perceived throughout the world whether in a combat role or on a peacekeeping mission.

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