

Team Bios

Randy Howell
Founder and President
Patriots Jet Team



Randy Howell has over 16,000 hours of flight time. His flight experience ranges from J-3 Cubs to Boeing 747s, and includes foreign military jets. Randy has flown for United Airlines for 24 years, flying the DC-8, DC-10, B-727, B-737, and B-747. He is a Formula One Gold race pilot, flying an all-composite Grove GR-7 among others. Randy holds low-level formation aerobatic waivers in the MiG-17, L-39, and other military jets. Randy earned a B.S. Degree from the University of Florida in Aeronautical Engineering. Randy is the Founder and President of the Patriots Jet Team.

EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE:

1973-1976	B.S. Degree Aeronautical Engineering - University of Florida
1978-2003	United Airlines - B-747 Captain
1975-Present	Aerobatic Experience in Numerous Prop. & Jet Aircraft
1994-1998	Reno National Championship Air Race Pilot - Formula I Gold
1998-2002	Lead Pilot MiG-17 Formation Aerobatic Team
2002-Present	President of the Patriots Jet Team
FAA Type Ratings:	DC-3, DC-8, DC-10, B-727, B-737, B-747, B-747-400, MiG-15, MiG-17, L-29, L-39, and CM-170

Total Time in Civilian & Military Jet Aircraft: 16,000+ hours

Team Bios

USAF Lt Colonel (Retired) Dean “Wilbur” Wright entered the Air Force in 1987 upon graduation from the US Air Force Academy. Since then Wilbur has logged over 4,000 hours of fighter time on assignments in Europe and the Pacific and deployed to Turkey in 1991 in support of Operation Desert Storm and to Iraq in 2006 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Wilbur had a remarkable Air Force career spanning 20 years with the opportunity to fly several front-line fighters. He won numerous Top Gun awards for his air-to-ground gunnery skills while flying the A-10 “Warthog” and represented the USAF as an exchange officer in the United Kingdom’s Royal Air Force flying the GR.7 Harrier “Jump Jet”. Wilbur also served three years with the US Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, the Thunderbirds, as Lead Solo flying the F-16C Fighting Falcon. As such, Dean has performed in over 160 air shows in 9 countries and enjoys using air shows to discuss Air Force career opportunities with young adults. He then rounded off his career by flying the now-retired F-117 Stealth Fighter as Bandit #520. Wilbur currently flies as a corporate pilot in the Gulfstream IIB for Fry’s Electronics and lives in Grass Valley, California. He is married to the former Andrea Hammond of Yorkshire, England and they have two young sons, Jack and Max.



**Lt. Col. (Ret.) Dean “Wilbur”
Wright
Lead Pilot
#1**

Total Time in Military Jet Aircraft: 4,000+ hours



**Rob
“Fang” Hutchison
Right Wingman
#2**

Rob Hutchison is a civilian pilot with 30 years of flying experience. He has more than 13,000 hours flight time and 12 type ratings ranging from the DC-3 to the Boeing 747, as well as a helicopter rating, and he is currently a 747 captain. Rob is also a competitive aerobatic pilot, and he joined the air show circuit in 2004 when he flew for the U.S. Jet Aerobatic Team. Rob first flew for the Patriots Jet Team in 2006 as a replacement pilot and joined the team full time in 2008 as right wingman. For the past five years, Rob has owned, maintained, and operated a Grumman Albatross, which he flew in the latest Batman movie, “The Dark Knight.” Rob credits his mother, an experienced skydiver, with his introduction to the world of aviation. His two brothers are airline pilots, and at age 15 Rob learned to fly from his oldest brother Johnny. That year, Rob also began skydiving and has competed with his mother and brothers as a four-way free fall skydiving team. To date, Rob has accomplished more than 700 sport parachute jumps. When he’s not flying or falling through the air, Rob’s running. He’s completed 15 marathons, and has run the Boston Marathon for the past nine years. Rob lives on a small Alaska lake with his Albatross and a Piper Supercub.

Total Flight Time: 13,000+ hours

Team Bios

John Posson has over 17,000 hours of flight time. His flight experience ranges from Piper Cubs to numerous Airliners and Military Jets. John has extensive experience as a commercial airline pilot, formation aerobatic team pilot and as a competition aerobatic pilot. He is currently a P-51 and L-39 instructor pilot for Stallion 51 Corp in Florida. John's 25 years of commercial flying includes a season as a bush pilot, 3 years with Wien Air Alaska, 6 years with Hawaiian Airlines and 15 years with United Airlines. He has experience as a member of a three-ship formation aerobatic team, has competed for 10 years as an unlimited aerobatic competition pilot and was a former Alaskan Bush Pilot. John was chosen as an Airshows America team pilot due to his formation skills, his professionalism, and his meticulous attention to detail in his flying. John earned his B.S. Degree from San Diego State University in Business Administration.



John "Boards" Posson
Left Wingman
#3

Total Flight Time: 17,000+ hours



Col. (Ret.) Paul "Sticky"
Strickland
Slot
#4

Paul Strickland entered the Air Force in 1983, graduating with honors from OCS. Paul has had a distinguished and successful Air Force career logging over 3,900 hours in military aircraft including the A-10, F-5 and F-16. Paul served with various squadrons in the US, Europe, and Korea, flying combat missions during Operation Deny Flight over Bosnia, Operation Northern Watch over Iraq, and supporting Operation ALLIED FORCE over Kosovo as operations director, Combined Air Ops Center in Italy. In 1991, "Sticky" was named to the USAF Air Demonstration Squadron "Thunderbirds" as the #4, Slot pilot, Instructor Pilot, Flight Examiner, and Safety officer. While with the Thunderbirds, he logged over 160+ air shows throughout the United States and two overseas tours, flying in 11 European countries (and the first ever USAF demonstration in Hungary and Poland), and seven South American countries. "Sticky" commanded the 4th Fighter Squadron "Fujins", the 388 Ops Support Squadron "Raptors", and the 8th Ops Group "Wolfpack" at Kunsan, Korea before serving with the Joint Staff, Pentagon as the Chief, Joint Operations Division, SOUTHCOM, until his retirement in 2006. "Sticky" is currently a pilot with Southwest Airlines.

Total Time in Military Jet Aircraft: 3,900 + hours

Team Bios



Jon "Jughead" Counsell
Announcer/ Media Pilot
#5

Jon Counsell is a military and civilian pilot with experience in over 39 types of aircraft, gliders, and helicopters. Lt. Col. Jon "Jughead" Counsell entered the Air Force in 1991 upon graduating from Central Washington University ROTC as a Distinguished Graduate. Since then Jon has logged over 2,500 hours in the F-15C, T-6 Texan II and T-38C. Jon's assignments have included flying North American Air Defense (NORAD) missions over Alaska in the F-15, instructing in the T-6 with the Navy at Pensacola NAS, flying NOBLE EAGLE missions in the F-15C out of Mountain Home AFB, Idaho and serving as the Director of Safety for Seventh Air Force, Osan AB, Korea. Jon is currently a T-38C Instructor pilot at Laughlin AFB, TX. In addition to his flying duties, Jon is a motivational speaker at the Air Force's Squadron Officer College and public forums and has been featured on Dateline NBC and Discovery Channel, Impact. Jon has been narrating airshows for over 14 years.

Total Flight Time: 2,500+ hours