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Sequestration Forces Military to Withdraw from Thunder in the Valley Air Show *Air Force, Army, and Navy cancel appearances because of budget woes*

Columbus, Ga., March 11, 2013 – Thunder in the Valley Air Show, like the majority of air shows featuring military acts and displays, will feel the effects of the mandatory budget cuts in Washington, DC known as “the Sequester.”

“All branches of the armed forces have informed us they cannot participate,” said Phaedra Childers, Event Coordinator. “The Air Force canceled as soon as budget cuts were a possibility; the Army had to pull its vehicles and weapons display last week; and the Navy called Friday to cancel the F-18 TAC Demo Team. We’ll have nothing from the military currently being used in training or on the front lines. We’re very disappointed.”

Despite the loss of military acts, more than three hours of mostly new-to-the-Valley performers remain...

“Most of this year’s acts are new to our show or have not been here in years,” Childers detailed. “We’ll have historic aircraft and displays from World War II, Korea, and Vietnam; and the Army’s incredible Silver Wings Parachute Team will still open the show both days,” Childers clarified. “In all there will still be nearly 200 minutes of performances.”

Acts and attractions still scheduled include:

- [Viper Air Shows](#) – Breathtaking aerobatics, motorcycle stunts, and a chest-shaking jet vehicle
- [Raiders Demo Team](#) – Precision four- to six-plane formations in Yakovlev 52 and Nanchang CJ6 aircraft
- [Jane Wicker Wing Walker](#) – Jane brings beauty and grace to a thrilling performance OUTSIDE the aircraft
- [Greg Koontz’ “Alabama Boys” Comedy Act](#) – Airplanes, trucks, and a fun-for-all ruckus
- [Disabled American Veterans B-25](#) – An iconic aircraft with a team that promotes service and volunteerism
- Hixson Flight Museum
- U. S. Army Silver Wings Parachute Team
- Southern Cruisers Riding Club
- Plus flying demonstrations by historic military aircraft, airplane and helicopter rides, a children’s carnival, a 20-foot replica of the Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial, great food, and much more.

A Sweet 16 gift to Columbus and the Valley area – a twilight performance...Free!

Childers encourages Valley residents to “look to the skies at twilight” on Friday and Saturday evening for a first-ever dusk performance. “We’re 16 years old this year, thanks to the people of the Chattahoochee Valley, so we wanted to give something back,” she explained. “Around sunset Friday and Saturday, watch the skies over the Columbus Airport to see another first for Thunder in the Valley Air Show – a twilight air show with illuminated air craft.”

The forecast calls for savings...

The long-range forecast calls for sunny weather both days of the show, with low winds and temperatures in the mid 70s. “The forecast is for good weather, so why wait? Guests who purchase tickets in advance will save \$5 per ticket,” Childers noted. “And every ticket sold helps support local children’s charities. That’s why we say ‘**Give the fun way from the runway.**’”

General admission is \$10 in advance and military admission is only \$8 in advance. Day-of-event tickets are only \$15 (civilian and military) with Scouts in uniform (Troop Leaders and Scouts) *and* children age six and younger admitted FREE. Tickets are on sale online as well as through local outlets* throughout the Chattahoochee Valley. Gates will open at 10 a.m. and close at 5 p.m. on both Saturday, March 16 and Sunday, March 17. (Advance tickets are cash only, except online purchases.)

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*TICKET OUTLETS:

- Ace Hardware – St. Mary's Road
- Brusters Real Ice Cream – 1654 Whittlesey Rd., Columbus, GA
- Brusters Real Ice Cream – 7590 Schomburg Rd., Columbus, GA
- Brusters Real Ice Cream – 3465 Macon Rd., Columbus, GA
- Chattahoochee Council, Boy Scouts of America, Main Office – 1237 1st Ave., Columbus, GA
- Columbus-area McDonald's
- Cricket Communications – Macon Road
- Flightways Columbus (at Columbus Airport)
- MWR Tickets and Travel (Fort Benning) – SOLE LOCATION FOR DISCOUNT MILITARY TICKETS
- Off Price Furniture – Armor Road at Manchester Expressway
- Wingstop – 2528 Weems Rd., Columbus, GA
- Stand and Stretch – 1334 13th St., Columbus, GA (behind Loco's near Meritage)
- Skyline Columbus (at Columbus Airport)

About the Thunder in the Valley Air Show:

The Thunder in the Valley Air Show began in 1997 as a local fly-in for aviation enthusiasts and has grown to become one of the largest outdoor family events in the Chattahoochee Valley, thanks to the efforts of more than 600 dedicated volunteers – both groups and individuals. The air show brings in top performers from across the United States, all paid for by local and regional sponsors whose products and services are exposed to an average of 12,000 guests each day of the show, and included in advertising that reaches hundreds of thousands before the event. National attention has been given to the Thunder in the Valley Air Show by the International Council of Air Shows for excellence in marketing. The Thunder in the Valley Air Show is a fun, family event with proceeds going to youth organizations in the Chattahoochee Valley. For more information on the event or how you can become a sponsor, visit www.thunderinthevalleyairshow.com.

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