

# Maj. Michelle M. Curran

## Lead Solo

Maj. Michelle M. Curran is the Lead Solo Pilot for the United States Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, the Thunderbirds, Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. As Thunderbird 5, she flies the #5 jet and serves as the squadron's Chief of Standardization and Evaluation. She is in her third season with the team.

Curran entered the Air Force in 2009 with a Reserve Officer Training Corps commission from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn. She completed the Joint Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training in Columbus, Miss., and was assigned to the F-16 at Misawa Air Base, Japan. Curran has flown more than 1,500 hours in the F-16, including 163 combat hours over Afghanistan in support of operations Resolute Support and Freedom's Sentinel. Prior to the Thunderbirds, she was an F-16 Instructor Pilot and Flight Commander at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas.



### EDUCATION

2009 Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice, University of St. Thomas  
2010 Air and Space Basic Course, Squadron Officer College  
2014 Squadron Officer School

### ASSIGNMENTS

Nov 2009 - Nov 2011 Student, Joint Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training and Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals, 14th Operational Support Squadron Columbus AFB, Miss.  
Nov 2011 - Nov 2012 Student, F-16 Basic Course, 308th Fighter Squadron, Luke AFB, Ariz.  
Nov 2012 - Nov 2015 F-16 Pilot/Chief of Scheduling, 13th FS, Misawa AB, Japan  
Nov 2015 - Sept 2018 F-16 Instructor Pilot/Flight Commander, 355th FS, NAS JRB Fort Worth, Texas  
Sept 2018 - Nov 2019 Thunderbird #6, Opposing Solo, USAF Air Demonstration Squadron, Nellis AFB, Nev.  
Nov 2019 - Present Thunderbird #5, Lead Solo, USAF Air Demonstration Squadron, Nellis AFB, Nev.

### FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Senior Pilot  
Flight hours: More than 1,500  
Combat hours: More than 160  
Aircraft flown: T-6, T-38, F-16C

### MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Air Medal  
Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster

### EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant Aug 2009  
First Lieutenant Aug 2011  
Captain Aug 2013  
Major July 2019