

Maj. Jason Z. Markzon

Advance Pilot/Narrator

Maj. Jason Z. Markzon is the Advance Pilot and Narrator for the United States Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, the Thunderbirds, Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. As Thunderbird 8, he flies the #8 jet and advances to show sites to coordinate the logistics for aerial demonstrations. Markzon also narrates the performances, provides orientation flights to support Air Force strategic communication goals, and serves as the primary liaison between the Thunderbirds and the air show industry. He is in his third season with the team.

Markzon entered the Air Force in 2007 with a Reserve Officer Training Corps commission from Arizona State University. He attended Undergraduate Pilot Training at Laughlin AFB, Texas, in 2009 and was selected to remain at Laughlin AFB as an instructor pilot at the 87th Flying Training Squadron. He completed his initial fighter training in the F-16 at Luke AFB, Ariz., and then was assigned to operational squadrons in the Republic of Korea and Japan. Prior to joining the Thunderbirds, Markzon was an F-16 flight evaluator and the Maintenance Operations Flight Commander, 35th Maintenance Group, 35th Fighter Wing, Misawa AB, Japan.



EDUCATION

2007 Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering, Arizona State University
2008 Air and Space Basic Course, Squadron Officer College
2012 Squadron Officer School
2015 Masters of Business Administration, Strategic Management, Trident University

ASSIGNMENTS

July 2008 - Sept 2009 Student, Undergraduate Pilot Training, 47th Operations Support Squadron, Laughlin AFB, Texas
April 2010 - Mar 2013 T-38 Instructor Pilot/Standardization and Evaluation Liaison Officer, 87th FTS, Laughlin AFB, Texas
July 2013 - May 2014 Student, F-16 Basic Course, 310th Fighter Squadron, Luke AFB, Ariz.
July 2014 - Nov 2015 F-16 Pilot/Assistant Weapons Officer/Wing Electronic Combat Pilot, 51st OSS, Osan AB, ROK
Nov 2015 - Sept 2018 F-16 Evaluator Pilot/Maintenance Operations Flight Commander, 13th FS, Misawa AB, Japan
Sept 2018 - Present Thunderbird #8, Advance Pilot/ Narrator, USAF Air Demonstration Squadron, Nellis AFB, Nev.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Senior Pilot
Flight Hours: More than 2,300
Aircraft Flown: T-6, T-38, F-16C/D

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Meritorious Service Medal
Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant July 2007
First Lieutenant July 2009
Captain July 2011
Major July 2017