

# The Official Story of Britain's Iconic Display Team

The Red Arrows are the Royal Air Force's aerobatic display team. They are one of the most famous and respected display teams in the world, and have been performing for over 50 years. This article tells the official story of the Red Arrows, from their formation to the present day.



## The Red Arrows: The Official Story of Britain's Iconic Display Team by David Montenegro

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## Formation

The Red Arrows were formed in 1964, as a result of a merger between two existing RAF display teams, the Red Pelicans and the Blue Diamonds. The team was initially based at RAF Scampton in Lincolnshire, but moved to RAF Waddington in 1983.

The Red Arrows' first public display was at the 1965 Paris Air Show. The team quickly became popular, and began to perform at airshows around

the world. In 1969, the Red Arrows were awarded the Queen's Colour, which is the highest honour that can be bestowed on a military unit.

## **Aircraft**

The Red Arrows have flown a variety of aircraft over the years, including the Folland Gnat, the BAC Strikemaster, and the BAE Hawk. The team currently flies the Hawk T1, which is a single-seat, fast jet trainer aircraft.

The Hawk T1 is a powerful and agile aircraft, which is capable of performing a wide range of aerobatic manoeuvres. The Red Arrows' display routine is constantly evolving, but it typically includes formations, loops, rolls, and dives.

## **Pilots**

The Red Arrows are flown by some of the most experienced and skilled pilots in the Royal Air Force. The team's pilots are all volunteers, and they must undergo a rigorous selection process before being accepted onto the team.

Red Arrows pilots typically serve for three years with the team. During this time, they will fly over 100 displays and travel to over 20 countries.

## **Displays**

The Red Arrows perform at over 100 airshows each year. The team's displays are always a popular attraction, and they regularly draw crowds of over 100,000 people.

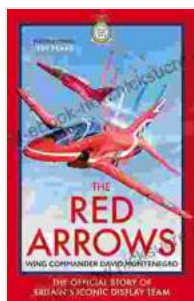
The Red Arrows' display routine is constantly evolving, but it typically includes formations, loops, rolls, and dives. The team's pilots are highly

skilled and experienced, and they are able to perform their manoeuvres with precision and accuracy.

## Legacy

The Red Arrows are one of the most famous and respected display teams in the world. The team has been performing for over 50 years, and has flown over 1000 displays. The Red Arrows have inspired generations of young people to pursue a career in aviation, and they continue to be a source of national pride for the United Kingdom.

The Red Arrows are a truly iconic display team. They are a symbol of British excellence and professionalism, and they continue to inspire and entertain audiences around the world.



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