



Team AeroDynamix Missing Man Formation Narrative

The Missing Man Formation (~2min to read)

Timing:

t-5min Team AeroDynamix radio call

t-4min Team AeroDynamix radio call

t-3min Team AeroDynamix radio call, [begin narration below](#)

t-1min Team AeroDynamix radio call, begin Taps

t zero Team AeroDynamix overhead last note of taps for the pull

Today, you will see the Missing Man Formation flown by ___ members of Team AeroDynamix. Led by _____.

Our Missing Man Formation today honors our past military heroes, and it recognizes all those who perished in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Our Formation holds in utmost esteem those policemen, firemen and rescue workers who gave so unselfishly of their lives trying to rescue and comfort others. Our Formation also remembers and honors the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines who have lost their lives in Afghanistan, Iraq, and around the world.

Looking toward the heavens, you cannot help but shed a tear for the emptiness that is represented in the “missing man” formation of aircraft. The “Missing Man Formation” is perhaps the most expressive and solemn aerial maneuver that can be flown.

Although started in Europe by the British, the US first began the tradition in 1938. In that day, it was rarely, if ever, seen by the public. Only those privileged to attend military funerals and ceremonies were familiar with the formation. The first time a military aerobatics unit ever performed the formation was during the Vietnam War when the US Air Force Thunderbirds flew the formation to honor the men and women POW’s in Vietnam.

The Missing Man Formation signals to those on the ground the losses incurred during the last mission. It signifies the holding of a place of honor and gratitude for fallen comrades. As the formation approaches the airport, you will see one of the wingman, smoke on, pull up and out of the flight and head west, leaving a hole in the formation as they pass overhead... That open spot, the missing plane in the formation, represents “The Missing Man.”

Ladies and gentlemen, please remove your hats, and direct your attention to the approaching aircraft for our tribute - the Missing Man Formation.

Mike Stewart
Founder and Flight Lead

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