

Stardusters



Shortly after its birth at the end of the Korean War, USAF's 3600th Aerial Demonstration Flight was dubbed "Stardusters." The name, SSgt. Fred Cesena's entry in a contest at Luke AFB, Ariz., was short-lived. Within a month of the team's first official performance—June 16, 1953, in honor of USAF Chief of Staff Gen. Hoyt S. Van-

denberg's impending retirement—the name was changed to the now-familiar "Thunderbirds." The Stardusters are shown with General Vandenberg at Williams AFB, Ariz.: (counterclockwise, from left) Capt. Buck Pattillo, Maj. Dick Catledge, Capt. Bob McCormick (alternate), Capt. Bob Kanaga, and Capt. Bill Pattillo (Buck's twin).