

Craig Teft has been around airplanes his whole life. Part of an aviation family, Craig benefited from life long family friend Curtis Pitts and his personal hero, his Dad (Pitts test pilot, competition pilot and air show pilot) Will Teft.

Craig soloed on his 16th birthday and soon followed with private, commercial, and certified flight instructor ratings. Craig continued developing his aviation expertise by earning a Bachelors Degree in Aeronautical Engineering Technology at Arizona State University. Craig kept busy on the flying side during college by flight instructing and charter work.

Craig joined the Air Force in 1986. Following pilot training, Craig was assigned to fly F-4 Phantoms at Clark Air Base, Republic of the Philippines. Craig was handpicked as part of the initial cadre to open a new F-15E Strike Eagle Squadron in Alaska. In 1995 Craig was selected to attend the USAF Fighter Weapons School (aka Top Gun). Craig completed this demanding 5-1/2 month school by winning the academic and outstanding graduate awards. For the next two years Craig served as the 335th Fighter Squadron's Weapons and Tactics Officer, leading the Squadron on two deployments to the Middle East enforcing the No Fly Zone over Iraq. Asked to return to the Fighter Weapons School as an instructor, Craig has spent over 8 years at Nellis AFB (not counting a 1 year remote flying with the RSAF in Saudi Arabia). Craig flew his final Strike Eagle sortie on 6 January 2006 (his 20th anniversary in the USAF) and retired from active duty effective 1 May 2006.

During his Air Force career Craig remained active in general aviation. His instructor certificates are still current and he has been a proud Pitts owner (naturally) since 1993. An Airline Transport Pilot (ATP) certificate was added in 1995. Craig has been active in competitive aerobatics as duty allows since 1988. In 2000 Craig won a bronze medal at the U.S. National Aerobatic Championships. In 2001 Craig earned a Masters Degree in Aeronautical Science from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. His graduate paper was aptly on All-Attitude Awareness Training. Craig has over 30 years and 7500 hours of experience.

