

INSIDE

The Story Behind the Shot



**TYLER
STABLEFORD**

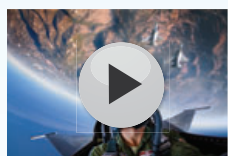
Canon Explorer of Light



© Tyler Stableford



© Tyler Stableford



This video features the Air National Guard pilots of the 120th Fighter Squadron, and was created for *5280 Magazine* at Buckley Air Force Base, in Aurora, Colorado. These guys are truly among the world's best fighter pilots, yet many also work civilian jobs and live in Denver communities. Getting to know the pilots personally was a highlight of the project for me. And of course, photographing and flying with F-16s over the Rocky Mountains is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I captured the flights through video, stills and audio to powerfully translate the experience and share it with others.

I'm not usually attracted to planes, but I found myself captivated by the design and power of the F-16. I spent hours researching photos and videos of F-16s, figuring out which angles produced the most compelling profiles. I met with the pilots before our flight, to share drawings and examples of what I wanted to capture because I had only one chance to get it right. I used video to capture the beauty of motion, such as when the planes were flying low over a mountaintop or during takeoff.

The exciting part about using a Canon EOS-ID Mark IV camera is its ability to switch nearly instantaneously between capturing video and stills. That the camera served a dual purpose was critical to the success of the project because I could only bring a limited amount of gear with me on the flight. The Canon EOS-ID Mark IV's autofocus locked onto the jets flying alongside us with perfect accuracy, even while shooting backlit and through the plexiglass canopy. The HD video of the Canon EOS-ID Mark IV is stunning, and the camera's ability to shoot at several frame rates gave me great flexibility. For this accompanying still image, I held the Canon EOS 5D Mark II out in front of me and used a Canon EF 15mm f/2.8 Fisheye lens.

Visit www.PDNinside.com to see Tyler Stableford's video.

Tyler Stableford has been honored as one of Canon's Explorers of Light, a designation he shares with 62 of the most influential photographers worldwide. His clients include Disney, Patagonia, *The New York Times* and *Sports Illustrated*. *Men's Journal* named him one of the seven "World's Greatest Adventure Photographers."



Stableford used a Canon EOS-ID Mark IV camera and a Canon EF 16-35mm f/2.8L II USM lens. He shot video at 23.98 fps at 1920x1080, 48 kHz. He also used a Canon EOS 5D Mark II camera and a Canon EF 15mm f/2.8 Fisheye lens and a Canon EF 24-70mm f/2.8L USM lens for stills. He exposed at f/5.6 at 1/200th of a second at ISO 200.

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