

EMBARGOED UNTIL TUESDAY, AUGUST 19 AT 11AM ET / 8AM PT



**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC UNVEILS JET-FUELED TRAILER FOR NEW  
DOCUSERIES *TOP GUNS: THE NEXT GENERATION*, TAKING  
VIEWERS INSIDE THE U.S. NAVY'S ELITE AVIATION PROGRAM**

**The Six-Part Series From Rex, a Zinc Media Label, Chronicles the Final, Most  
Demanding Training for the Next Generation of Fighter Pilots—Where Every Flight  
Could Be Make-or-Break**

***TOP GUNS: THE NEXT GENERATION* Premieres Sept. 16 at 9/8c on National  
Geographic and Streams Next Day on Disney+ and Hulu**



**Watch Trailer [HERE](#)  
Download Key Art [HERE](#)**

**(WASHINGTON, D.C. – Aug. 19, 2025)** It's the ultimate test of precision, pressure and perseverance. In National Geographic's new six-part series **TOP GUNS: THE NEXT GENERATION**, cameras follow a class of Navy and Marine Corps student pilots as they enter the final and most unforgiving phase of elite strike fighter training. It's six months of high-stakes aerial training, brutal physical demands, and emotional reckoning—where only the top performers earn the chance to fly the most coveted aircrafts. **TOP GUNS: THE NEXT**

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**GENERATION** premieres Sept. 16 at 9/8c on National Geographic and streaming the next day on Disney+ and Hulu.

The series goes beyond the cockpit, following ambitious young Navy and Marine students both in the air and off-base, capturing candid moments with family and friends and revealing the personal stakes, sacrifices and motivations that brought them here. Filmed with unprecedented access, it immerses audiences in a world of intense pressure and soaring expectations, where dreams of earning wings of gold collide with the harsh reality of the grueling training. From bombing drills to close-range dogfights and nail-biting carrier approaches, each episode captures the intense demands of a program that challenges their abilities, endurance and resolve at every turn.

While the emotional stakes fuel the story, it's in the skies where the drama hits full throttle. Outfitted with in-cockpit cameras, the series delivers a breathtaking front-row experience to capture moments of precision, panic and hard-fought triumph as they happen. Filmed by some of the creative talent behind the blockbuster film "Top Gun: Maverick," the aerial sequences are cinematic and pulse-pounding, pushing the limits of what these student aviators—and their aircraft—can do.

Episodes include the following:

- **"STRIKE"**  
**Premieres Sept. 16 at 9/8c on Nat Geo, Streams Sept. 17 on Disney+ and Hulu**  
One student's dreams of becoming a fighter pilot are put in jeopardy as the class starts advanced phase training with a set of breathtaking bombing tests. Diving at speeds they've never faced before, students struggle with the dynamic moves and start to make high-risk mistakes. Instructors deliver tough assessments in the debriefs to keep the students safe.
- **"CATCHING THE WIRE"**  
**Premieres Sept. 23 at 9/8c on Nat Geo, Streams Sept. 24 on Disney+ and Hulu**  
Landing on an aircraft carrier demands precision flying and is a skill vital for all U.S. Navy fighter pilots. As the students tackle the longest and most technical section of the Advanced Phase, they know it's a test they must pass to keep their dreams alive. The pressure mounts on some struggling students, and the commanding officer issues a timely warning to one.
- **"ATTACK ATTACK!"**  
**Premieres Sept. 30 at 9/8c on Nat Geo, Streams Oct. 1 on Disney+ and Hulu**  
As the students reach the midpoint of their training, they start the iconic dogfighting phase. Against them are seasoned instructors with hundreds of hours of real-world experience. To pass, they must outmaneuver the enemy to take a "kill shot." One student has the added pressure of flying with his Top Gun-trained commodore, while another struggles to control his aggressive instincts.

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- **“FIGHT’S ON!”**

**Premieres Oct. 7 at 9/8c on Nat Geo, Streams Oct. 8 on Disney+ and Hulu**

As they enter the second and most challenging phase of dog fighting, everything is on the line for our students. Defensive dogfighting involves dynamic maneuvers to evade battle-hardened instructors. The physical strain proves too much for one student, while another has a crisis of confidence when past failures come back to haunt him.

- **“HEAD-TO-HEAD”**

**Premieres Oct. 14 at 9/8c on Nat Geo, Streams Oct. 15 on Disney+ and Hulu**

The students face their final test in an iconic head-to-head dogfight against an instructor. To pass, they must bring all the skills they’ve learned during their Advanced Phase training. With graduation just days away, students start to worry about their final grades and whether they will get the posting they—and in many cases, their families—want.

- **“LAST CHANCE”**

**Premieres Oct. 21 at 9/8c on Nat Geo, Streams Oct. 22 on Disney+ and Hulu**

It’s graduation week. For the remaining students, it means they have one last chance to prove they deserve their prestigious fighter pilot wings. Standing in their way is a tense head-to-head dogfight against an instructor. Past failures come back to haunt one student, and another’s whole fighter pilot future comes down to a single flight with their commanding officer.

**TOP GUNS: THE NEXT GENERATION** is produced by Rex, a Zinc Media Group Label, for National Geographic. For Rex, the executive producer is Tanya Shaw, the series director is Lana Salah, and the showrunners are Karen Edwards and Chris Parkin. For National Geographic, the executive producer is Simon Raikes, Bengt Anderson is senior vice president of Unscripted Content, and Tom McDonald is the executive vice president of Global Factual and Unscripted Content.

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#### **About National Geographic Content**

Award-winning and critically acclaimed National Geographic Content, part of a joint venture between The Walt Disney Company and the National Geographic Society, creates and delivers riveting stories and experiences in natural history, science, adventure and exploration. The brand is the largest on social media with over three quarters of a billion followers across all major platforms that generate over one billion impressions each month. Inspiring a deeper connection to the world, National Geographic Content reaches 300 million people worldwide in 180 countries and 33 languages as a digital, social and print publisher and across the global National Geographic channels (National Geographic Channel, Nat Geo WILD, Nat Geo MUNDO), National Geographic Documentary Films, and direct-to-consumer platforms Disney+ and Hulu. Its diverse content includes Emmy® Award-winning franchise *Genius*, series *Life Below Zero* and *Secrets of the Whales*, and Oscar®- and BAFTA award-winning film *Free Solo*. In 2022, National Geographic Content was awarded eight News and Documentary Emmys, in addition to *Life Below Zero*’s Emmy win for Outstanding Cinematography for a Reality Program, its sixth Emmy overall. For more information, visit [natgeotv.com](https://natgeotv.com) or [nationalgeographic.com](https://nationalgeographic.com), or follow Nat Geo on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/natgeo), [X](https://www.x.com/natgeo), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/natgeo), [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/natgeo) and [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/natgeo).

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