



RAAF Current and Future Capability
“Now the best-equipped Air Force in the World!”
AIR VICE-MARSHAL R V (BOB) RICHARDSON AO AFC (RETD)

AIR FORCE



F/A-18F Super Hornet

RAAF Base Amberley

- 24 aircraft No 1 SQN Amberley
- Introduced 2010 – Post F111
- Life to 2030
 - decision on replacement or extension in early 2020s
- USN Training
- Primary weapons
 - AIM-9X SRAAM
 - AIM-120D AMRAAM
 - JDAM / L JDAM
 - JDAM-Ext Range
 - AGM154-C1 JSOW
 - AGM-84L HARPOON Block II+

The “Rhino” provides the ADF with a combat proven, highly flexible and affordable fighter aircraft that will maintain our Air Combat Edge throughout the introduction of the Joint Strike Fighter.



AIR FORCE

EA-18G Growler

RAAF Base Amberley

- 12 aircraft No 6 SQN Amberley
- US-based aircrew training
- Introduction mid-2017
- Initial Operating Capability 2018
- ADF Force Level EW Capability
- New RAAF State-of-Art Capability
 - APG-79 AESA Radar
 - HARM/Advanced HARM
 - ALQ-99 jam pods
 - ALQ 218 sensor pods
 - Active Comms jamming
 - MTES

“Growler” introduces a transformational capability to the RAAF. Electronic Attack increases the combat effectiveness of other platforms and reduces the risk to all allied forces on operations.

(Unique Air Force Capability, only USN has it!)



- Next generation Jamming: Co-De-Net

AIR FORCE

F35A Lightning II

RAAF Base Williamtown / Tindal



- **72 aircraft on order**
- **Up to 100 aircraft – decision early next decade**
- **1 Training and 2 Op Sqns at WLM**
- **1 Op Sqn at Tindal NT**
- **Aircrew training now underway in US. RAAF pilots also instructors**
- **Introduction 2018**
- **First Operational:**
 - **3 Sqn 2019-20 Williamtown**
 - **77 Sqn 2021 Williamtown**
 - **75 Sqn Tindal NT 2022**
 - **Massive new infrastructure**

The Lightning II provides advanced survivability, lethality and supportability. It will ensure that Australia maintains a capability edge against emerging threats.



AIR FORCE

C-17A

RAAF Base Amberley

- 8 aircraft: 1-2 deployed Middle-East
- 36 SQN based at Amberley QLD
- Introduced in 2006
- Part of USAF 'fleet' support
- Op'l on time & under budget
- Countermeasures and self protection
- True GLOBAL heavy lift capability

• ANTARCTIC supply



The C-17 provides the ADF flexible & responsive heavy lift (77 000kg and 4400km range) capability to support roles from Humanitarian Assistance & Aero Medical Evacuation through to tactical delivery of equipment and personnel to unsealed airfields



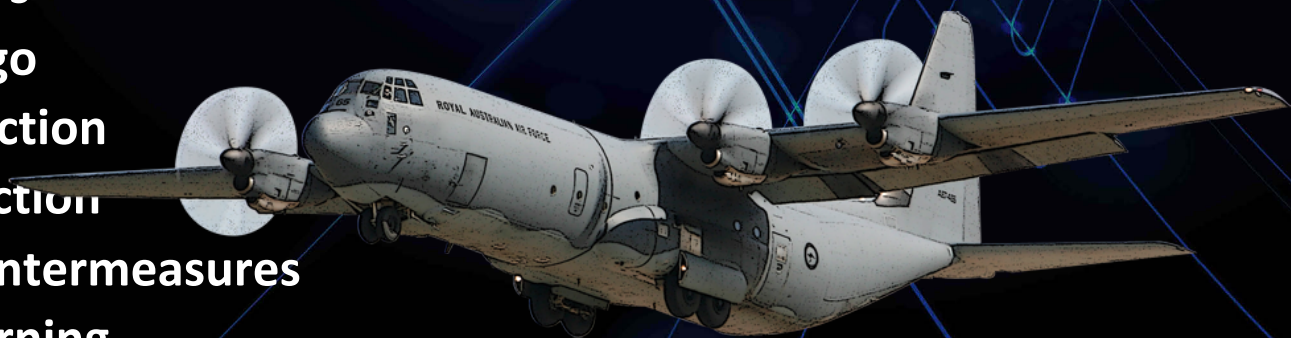
AIR FORCE

C-130J Hercules

RAAF Base Richmond

- 12 aircraft, 2 deployed in Mid-East
- Introduced 1999
- Joint User Group
 - Block Upgrade Program
 - 6+ Countries
- Medium airlift
 - 128 passengers
 - 19,598 kg cargo
 - Ballistic protection
 - EW self protection
 - Laser countermeasures
 - Radar warning

Global tactical and strategic work horse conducting air logistic support, aeromedical evacuation, airborne operations and search and rescue.



AIR FORCE

KC30A Multi-Role Tanker Transport

RAAF Base Amberley

- 5 +2 aircraft – 1 deployed in MER
- Introduced 2011
- Boom + two-hose Air-Air Refuel
- Complements C-17A
- AAR is a major Force multiplier
 - Air to Air Refuelling
 - Long Range Transport
 - Long Range VIP
- Boom now cleared for all Allied aircraft in ME
- Researching auto boom lock
- Best AAR currently flying!

The KC30 can offload 65 tonnes of fuel at a range of 1800 km. Capacity for up to 45 tonne payloads and 270 passengers enhances deployment capabilities. It can fly direct AMB/CANB to Western USA - but needs one air refuel for global non-stop range!



AIR FORCE

Tanker Operations: C17A



C-27J Spartan

RAAF Base Richmond and Amberley



- 10 aircraft – replaced Caribous
- US Training 2014
- 4-5 delivered to date
- Fully Operational soon
- Battlefield airlift
 - 40 passengers
 - 8000kg cargo
 - Ballistic protection
 - EW self-protection

C-27J enhances RAAF airlift capabilities in high threat environments. The aircraft has the capacity to operate into short and austere airfields in support of military and humanitarian deployments.



AIR FORCE

E-7A AEW&C Wedgetail

RAAF Base Williamtown

- 6 aircraft – 1 deployed in MER
- Sought from 1970s
- approved 1997 '8 hrs in DFDC'!
- Project since 2002
- Aircraft from 2012
- Battlespace surveillance
 - Interoperability with Coalition forces
 - Current Middle East Operations
- Now 'ME Allied Capability of Choice'
 - Everyone wants them – now!

Wedgetail is a key component of the networked Defence Force (and Coalition Forces), fusing and disseminating vital information to Air, Maritime and Land Forces.



AIR FORCE

AEW&C Wedgetail Refuelling



AIR FORCE

P-8A Poseidon

RAAF Base Edinburgh

- 12 aircraft to replace AP-3Cs in conjunction with Triton UAS
- Introduction from mid-2017
- Training in USN Program
- Roles:
 - Anti-Submarine Warfare
 - Maritime strike: Harpoon
 - ISR (Intel, Surveil, Recce)
 - Electronic support
 - Long Range Search and Rescue

“Poseidon” (in combination with Triton from 2020) is now replacing and enhancing the AP-3C role for ADF maritime strike and anti-submarine warfare.



AIR FORCE

TRITON Maritime Uninhabited Aerial System (UAS) RAAF Base Edinburgh



- Up to 7 MQ-4C Triton
to complement P-8 Poseidon
- Introduction 2020-2022
- Roles:
 - Intelligence
 - Surveillance
 - Reconnaissance
 - Electronic support
- Co-Development Options
- Prime operations from
Edinburgh SA

A long-endurance (up to 24hrs) all-weather UAS capability will provide ultra long-range surveillance of Australia's enormous maritime area of interest.



AIR FORCE

Pilot Training System

RAAF Bases East Sale and Pearce



- PC-21 replaces PC-9A
- Fully pressurised & more powerful than PC-9A
- 'Hornet cockpit' displays
- Fully integrated Training System
- Synthetic Trainer 'Simulators'
- Started flying ESL from mid-2017
- Potential to replace the Hawk

Aviation training is central to the successful delivery of the next generation aircrew capabilities.



AIR FORCE



AIR FORCE

Jericho - The Networked Force

- Technically Advanced, networked systems operated by highly trained personnel:
 - Air Warfare Destroyer - Super Hornet
 - AEW&C
 - P-8A
 - MH-60R
 - VIGILAIRE
 - JSOW
 - Growler
 - F-35
 - Special Forces
 - JORN
 - Triton
- (Abbreviations!)
- **LINKING** sensors, intelligence, command and control and engagement systems
- **THE GOAL** - Shared situational awareness, synchronised manoeuvre and cooperative engagement



AIR FORCE

Air Force Transition

