

ISSUE 16 – APRIL 2017

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## EDITORIAL

Issue 16 – April 2017

**COMBAT**  
Camera



**AVALON  
AIRSHOW 2017**  
Special issue

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Welcome to this special issue of **COMBAT Camera** magazine – dedicated to coverage of the Australian International Airshow at Avalon, Victoria.

First off, I must thank the two great photographers who volunteered to cover this event for us. Without their professionalism and obvious skills this magazine would not have been possible. So, thank you Daniel McIntosh and Bradley Richardson – great job and a pleasure having you on my team.

Thanks also to the airshow organisers for allowing my two guys to join the 365 other media representatives from 15 countries!

The Australian International Airshow at Avalon in Victoria is actually the biggest air show in the Southern Hemisphere – and this year was even bigger than ever with a record 210,664 attendees over the six days – beating the previous record set all the way back in 2001, and a pretty staggering 20% improvement on the previous show.

Organisers accredited this year's success to great weather and the debut appearance of Australia's own F-35A Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter, which obviously features strongly in this magazine.

Another record was the number of aircraft in attendance – 634, with 328 participating either in the air on on static display.

Obviously, Avalon is not all about military aircraft – but, let's face it, most of us want to see and hear the rip-roaring jets – the louder the better.

To that end, there were 108 military aircraft present, from eight countries – with the ADF setting a record of its own, with 61 aircraft, including the aforementioned F-35A as well as that other brand-new beast, the EA-18G Growler, plus all the usual suspects.

There was also a record 664 participating trade exhibitors this year. Sadly, CONTACT was not among them (as an exhibitor) – and we really missed it.

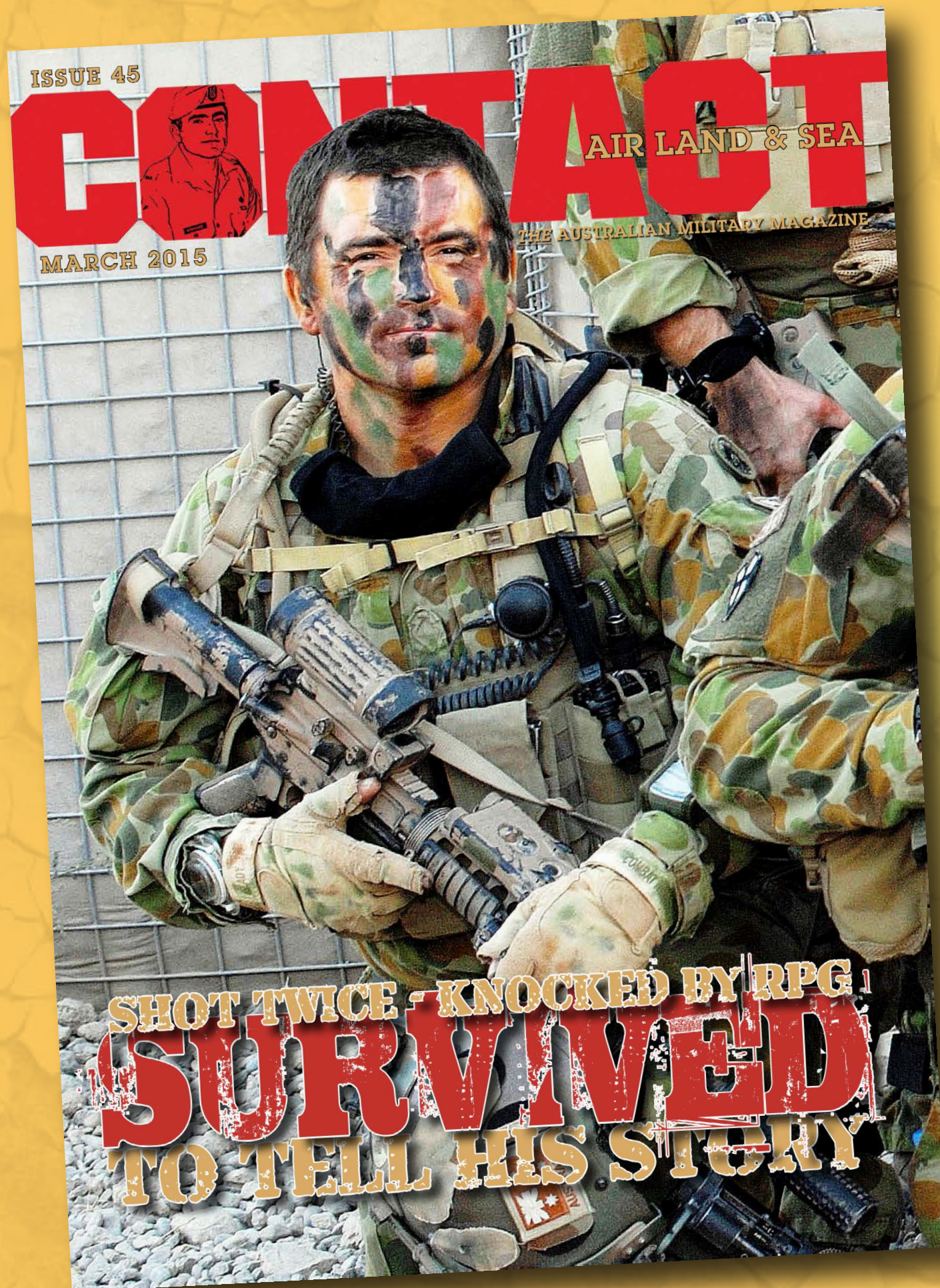
We look forward to meeting you there in 2019!

Sincerely,

Brian Hartigan  
Managing Editor

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Australia's first F-35A Lightning II – A35-001 – with Australia's first F-35-qualified pilot and flying instructor, Wing Commander Andrew Jackson at the controls, makes a spectacular arrival to the Australian International Airshow at Avalon, Victoria.





Beautiful action from the Friday Night Alight activities with Johan Gustaffson in his 'Acro' glider.



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Back Width	42	44	46	48	50	52	54	56
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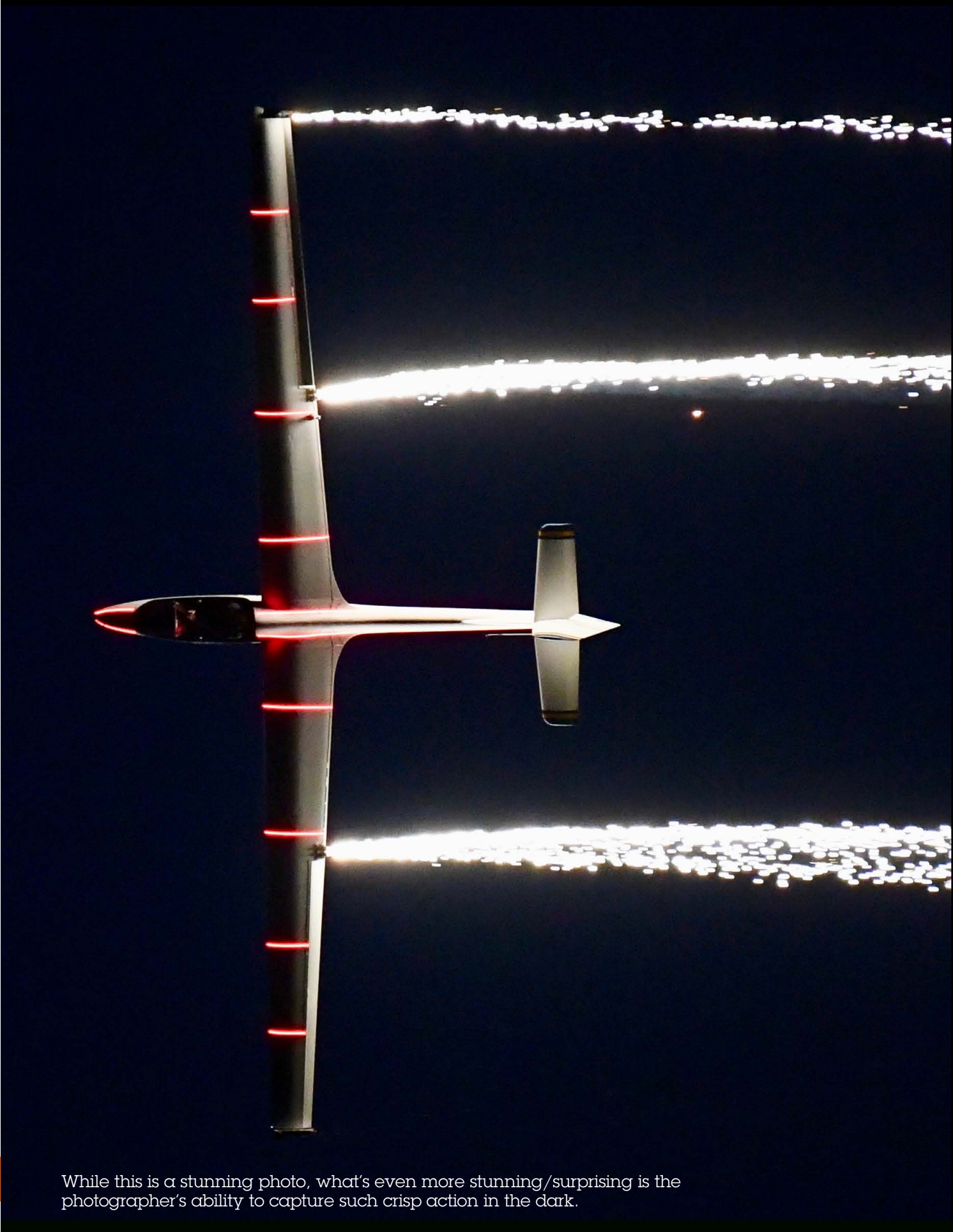


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PHOTO BY BRADLEY RICHARDSON

## ACRO GLIDER



While this is a stunning photo, what's even more stunning/surprising is the photographer's ability to capture such crisp action in the dark.

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A Royal Australian Air Force F/A-18F Super Hornet takes off with full afterburners – its two F414-GE-400 turbofans producing about 9800kg of thrust each – and hell of a lot of noise.







A Royal Australian Navy MH-60R lowers a dipping sonar, as a RAAF AP-3C maritime patrol aircraft flies by.



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A patch of dirt on the side of the runway at Avalon Airport came under serious threat during the Australian International Airshow on several occasions this year. Thankfully, the RAAF's No 1 and No 2 Security Force Squadrons were quickly deposited by C17 Globemaster and C-130 Hercules – supported by F/A-18s, Orions, Hawks, Tigers, Taipans and more – to save the day.













# ADF GROUND ASSAULT

PHOTOS BY DANIEL MCINTOSH



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Photos by Daniel McIntosh



# AUSTRALIA'S OWN F-35A



Australia's first two F-35A Lightning IIs were officially welcomed to the Australian International Airshow on 3 March 2017 by Minister for Defence Marise Payne and Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull.

"There's nothing like landing two JSFs in Australia to make a Defence Minister's Day," Minister Payne said.

"It is a very important step in the development of Australian Air Force capability and the engagement of Australian industry in that process.

"They will provide the Air Force with the ability to execute air combat missions which were previously beyond our scope. In fact, not too long ago, previously beyond our imagination.

"The F-35 has stealth built into it right from the start. Its fuel tanks, its weapons, its sensors are on the inside of the aircraft.

"It can go further. It's harder to see.

"Its ability to share information will increase the survivability and the capability of our other assets in the air, on the ground and in the water."

Prime Minister Turnbull said it was the most advanced fighter in the world, being built with Australian technology.

"Already, 32 Australian businesses have reaped the value of \$800million because they are part of the Joint Strike Fighter Program," Mr Turnbull said.







Photos by Bradley Richardson



AUSTRALIA'S OWN

# F-35A







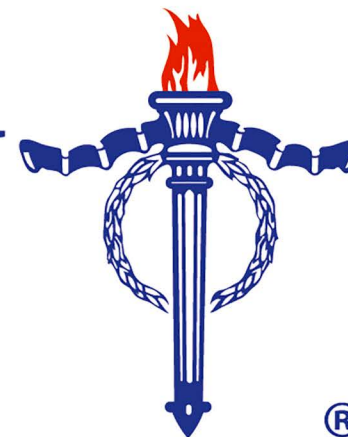
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AUSTRALIA'S OWN

F-35A



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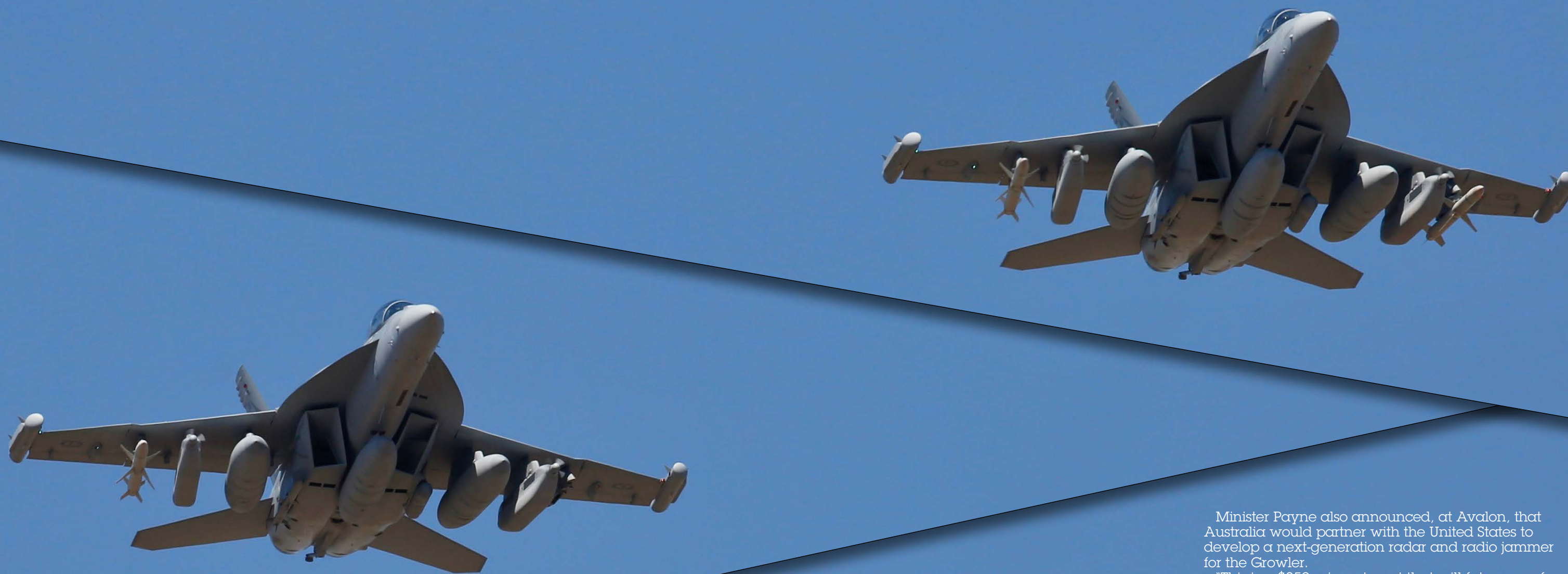


# F-35A





Photo by Bradley Richardson



**Another new RAAF asset debuting at the Australian International Airshow was the EA-18G Growler electronic attack aircraft.**

Australia has purchased 12 EA-18G Growlers – a potent and technologically advanced new capability for the RAAF – which are expected to be delivered to RAAF Base Amberley in Queensland by the middle of this year.

Minister for Defence Marise Payne said the Growler was a true force-multiplier.

"The Growler can disrupt military electronic systems, such as radars, to protect personnel and improve situational awareness," she said.

"Australia is the only country outside the United States flying the EA-18G Growler and its arrival is a significant leap forward in Australia's joint electronic warfare capability, and introduces a dedicated electronic attack option for the RAAF."

Minister Payne also announced, at Avalon, that Australia would partner with the United States to develop a next-generation radar and radio jammer for the Growler.

"This is a \$250m investment that will future-proof the Growler's capability," she said.

"As this is a rapidly evolving area, we will work in partnership with the United States Navy to develop the next generation jamming capability, which will ensure that these aircraft remain at the technological forefront throughout their service life."

Chief of Air Force Air Marshal Leo Davies said the Growler was a vital part of the RAAF's evolution to a future fifth-generation Air Force.

"The EA-18G Growler will operate as part of our networked and integrated force, capable of sharing electronic intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance data with other aircraft, as well as with the Army and Navy," Air Marshal Davies said.

"The Growler is powerful and flexible. It can undertake a range of non-kinetic tasks, ranging from jamming, to blocking radar displays, and suppressing an adversary's air defence systems."



Photo by Bradley Richardson







Photo by Bradley Richardson





# AFTERBURNER

Photos by Daniel McIntosh







































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Lockheed Martin Australia will deliver Australian Defence Force pilot training via the new PC-21, at RAAF Base East Sale in Victoria from 2019.

The new ADF Pilot Training System will see 22 Pilatus PC-21 based at RAAF Base East Sale with 27 more aircraft in RAAF pilot training at Pearce, WA.

The new system is expected to increase pilot numbers graduating from basic training from 77 per year to 105 pilots each year.

Graduating pilots will progress from the PC-21 to specialise on RAAF and Army aircraft with more advanced basic skills than before, because of the advanced 'glass cockpit', making the transition to F/A-18s, F-35A and the Army's helicopters much more streamlined.

The acquisition and services contracts with Lockheed Martin Australia is worth \$1.2billion, which includes 49 Pilatus PC-21 aircraft, seven flight simulators, a modern learning environment, updated courseware, and support for an initial seven-year term.

Flying operations at RAAF Base East Sale are expected to commence mid this year.

PC-21's capabilities bridge the performance gap between the CT-4 and lead-in fighters.

It is ideally suited to a very wide training envelope and will be used from day one in the training system, replacing the old CT-4B Airtrainer and PC-9.

PC-21 is capable of sustained low-level speeds in excess of 320 knots and its hydraulically assisted ailerons and roll spoilers give it fighter-like handling.



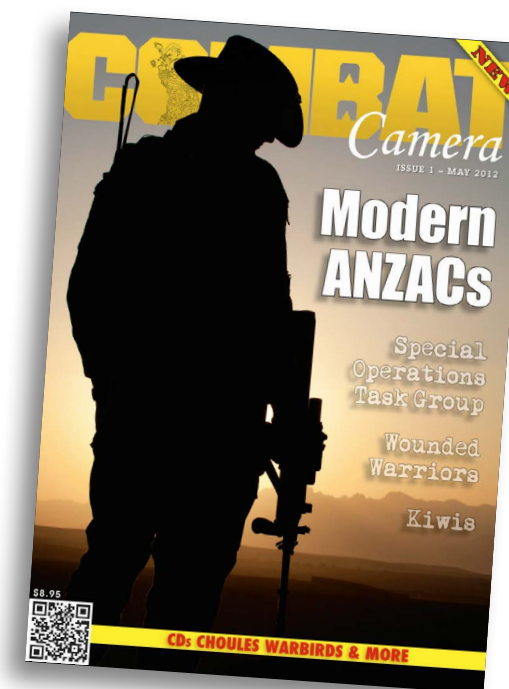
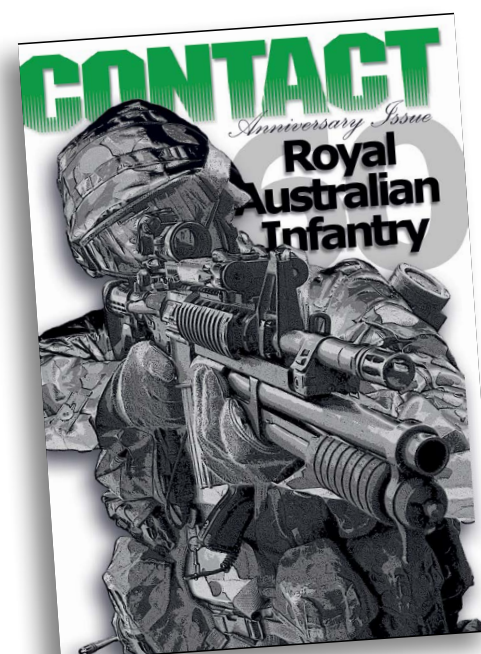
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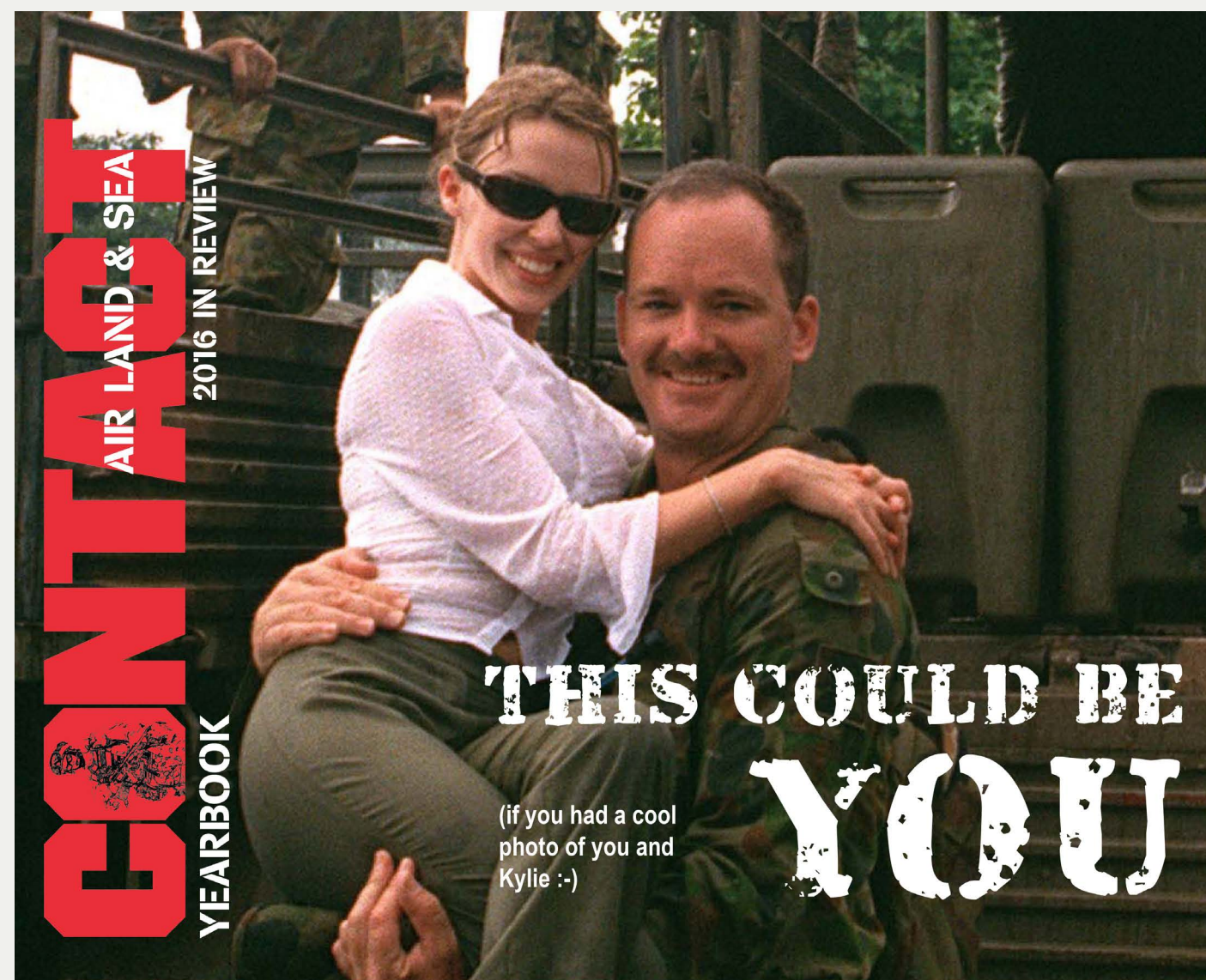
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