

AVALON 2011

1-6 MARCH 2011 GEELONG VICTORIA

AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRSHOW AND AEROSPACE & DEFENCE EXPOSITION

AUSTRALIAN FIRST - STEALTH FIGHTERS AT AIRSHOW

For the first time in Australia, the public will have the chance to see one of the world's most talked about aircraft.

Among the star attractions to be seen at next month's Australian International Airshow will be the U.S. military's current top-of-the-line fighter, the F-22 Raptor.

This super-fighter of the 21st century is heading down under for the first time to be exhibited at the 2011 Australian International Airshow.

"This is a special aircraft and we have been trying to get it to Avalon for many years," Airshow CEO Ian Honnery says. "It is really exciting that at long last we will be able to host the F-22 for the Australian public to see for the first time."

The F-22 Raptor boasts stealth technology, speed, agility and long range capabilities and is currently the world's only operational fifth generation fighter.

The Lockheed Martin F-22 Raptor is a single-seat, twin-engine air superiority fighter, and is a critical component of the U.S. military's defence capabilities.

"This is an aircraft that has it all; stealth, speed, agility and air-to-air and air-to-ground capabilities," Mr Honnery says.

Australians will be able to see the F-22 Raptor, subject to any operational requirements, across all the public days of the Airshow. As with all front-line military aircraft, its attendance is always subject to operational contingencies.

"The public can inspect the F22 at pretty close quarters", Mr Honnery says, "and it will be the centerpiece of an impressive array of the world's most advanced combat jet being exhibited at this year's show."

The F-22 Raptor will be one of an expected record number of military, commercial, historic, business, civil and general aviation aircraft on display at Avalon2011.

"Avalon 2011 will be the largest show we have put on to date," Mr Honnery says, "with so many aircraft being exhibited, that we have had to extend our aircraft static display parks to fit them all in."

The 2011 Australian International Airshow and Aerospace & Defence Exposition is being staged at Avalon Airport near Geelong from March 1 -6.

The event is open to the public from 2pm on Friday March 4th with aircraft involved in both static and flying displays across the weekend.

The Airshow is presented with major support from its principal partners – The Australian Department of Defence, the Government of Victoria and the City of Greater Geelong.

Media Enquiries: Media Manager Laureen Deale ldale@amda.com.au 0407 309232



PO Box 4095 Geelong Victoria 3220 Australia www.airshow.com.au Telephone +61 (0)3 5282 0500 Facsimile +61 (0)3 5282 4455 Email airshow@amda.com.au

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