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MEDIA RELEASE

BOEING BRINGS OUT THE BIG GUNS

Two Super Hornet Strike Fighters are set to descend on the Australian International Airshow at Avalon in March.

The Boeing Company is bringing out the 'big guns' which will shortly replace the Royal Australian Air Force's current fleet of F-111s.

Boeing test pilot Ricardo Traven will once again thrill crowds at Avalon as he shows what this multi-role fighter jet can do.

On previous appearances at Avalon, Traven has put on a heart thumping, high energy displays that left crowds wanting more.

Avalon 2009 will give the public an up close and personal look at the aircraft which will become the backbone of the RAAF's air combat capability.

The Australian Government is spending \$6 billion acquiring 24 Super Hornets to replace the F-111s. The aircraft will provide a transition to the introduction of the F-35 Lightning Joint Strike Fighter.

Australia is the first international Super Hornet customer, with the first Block II jet due off the production line in July this year.

The Super Hornet was developed by Boeing during the mid-1990s and is now the centrepiece of US Navy and Marine aviation operations.

Helping get the Super Hornets to Australia is a massive KC-10 refueling tanker. This huge aircraft can carry almost 91 thousand kilograms of fuel.

Both the Super Hornets and the KC-10 will be on display at the Airshow from March 13th-15th.

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

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