

WINGS

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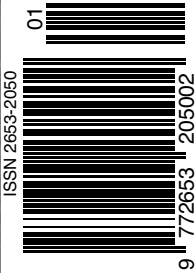
HEAVY LIFTERS
SPAIN UPGRADES
ITS CHINOOKS

**CHIEF OF THE
DEFENCE FORCE**
PREPARING FOR THE
CHALLENGES AHEAD

APACHE

ATTACK HELICOPTERS JOIN THE FLEET

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AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION MAGAZINE
- ESTABLISHED 1943 -

MANAGING EDITOR'S MESSAGE

THE AUTUMN 2026 edition is our first for the year and we welcome back regular readers and welcome new ones.

Along with our regular features, we present some new perspectives and insights. Professor Justin Bronk highlights the challenges of achieving defence resilience in the future. In our interview, the Chief of the Defence Force, Admiral David Johnston AC RAN provides a valuable insight into his role and focus. We also review the recent Defence Acquisition Reforms and the formation of a new agency to streamline acquisition and sustainment.

Our cover story delves into updates and the future of the Defence rotary capability. This is complemented by a story on the Spanish FAMET upgrading its CH-47F helicopter fleet.

We take a look at a documentary on the talented aircrew who fly with the Roulettes aerobatic display team. Our centrefold is testimony to their skill.

Revolutionary jet engine turbine blade technology developments and innovations are also featured, and we outline new regulations in power bank usage aboard flights.

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Enjoy this edition of *WINGS*.

Rob Amos, WINGS Managing Editor

EDITORIAL DEADLINES

Please send submissions and letters to managing.editor@wingsmagazine.org, including your name and details. Submissions may be edited for length and clarity. We cannot guarantee all material will be published.

EDITION	DEADLINE
Winter 2026 (June)	5 May
Spring 2026 (September)	14 July



AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION



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The focus on the RAN Fleet Air Arm (FAA) museum at Nowra highlights the fixed and rotary wing naval aircraft and heritage of the Navy. The RAAF withdrawal of eight heritage aircraft from flying duties is also highlighted along with the discovery of a 100SQN Beaufort aircraft in Papua New Guinea.

We highlight the battle between the RAF Bomber Command and the Luftwaffe in World War II along with the story of Australia's fledgling aviation corps in 1915.

The Women in Aerospace article highlights the achievements of AVM Margaret Staib AM, AM (Mil), CSC, MSM (US) (Retd) in the RAAF and post RAAF.