Air Force Capability Fact Sheet

AIR FORCE

E-7A Wedgetail



The E-7A Wedgetail provides Australia with one of the most advanced airspace battle management capabilities in the world.

With its ability to survey, command, control and coordinate a joint air, sea and land battle in real time the E-7A significantly multiplies the effectiveness of the ADF.

The Royal Australian Air Force has a fleet of six E-7A Wedgetail aircraft operated by Number 2 Squadron based at RAAF Base Williamtown, near Newcastle; with additional deployment facilities at RAAF Base Tindal in the Northern Territory.

Achieving Initial Operating Capability (IOC) in November 2012, the E-7A Wedgetail reached Full Operational Capability (FOC) in May 2015.

The E-7A Wedgetail has participated in exercise training activities and provided support to operations both domestically and internationally since its introduction into RAAF service. Exercise and operational high points include:

- Exercises Bersama Lima, Cope North, Red Flag, and Pitch Black; and
- Operations SPATE, ATLAS, SIO and APEC ASSIST whilst providing concurrent support for Operation OKRA

Showcasing its strength and agility, the E-7A deployed in support of Operation OKRA several times between October 2014 and September 2021 (as part of the Air Task Group) and was responsible for the command and control of all coalition aircraft in a 'battle management area'. Crews regularly managed more than 80 combat aircraft during a single mission and conducted record-breaking endurance sorties for the aircraft type at the time.

These aircraft have maintained periodic support to coalition operations as called upon by government and have occupied a position of leadership and trust that is reflective of the strength and capability of the platform.

The E-7A Wedgetail is a force multiplier with its situational awareness and long range capabilities; and will help Australia maintain a capability edge well into the future.

About the Aircraft

The E-7A Wedgetail is based on a Boeing 737-700, with the addition of an advanced Multi-Role Electronically Scanned Array (MESA) radar, and 10 state-of-the-art mission crew consoles which can track airborne and maritime targets simultaneously.

Technologically equipped for the modern battlespace, the E-7A Wedgetail combines long-range surveillance radar, secondary radar and tactical/strategic voice and data communications systems.

It is a highly advanced aircraft, providing an airborne early warning and control platform that can gather information from a wide variety of sources, analyse it, and distribute it to other assets.

Over a 10-hour mission, the E-7A Wedgetail can cover more than four million square kilometres, an area the size of Western Australia or the Northern Territory; and is capable of unlimited long-range deployment with in-flight refuelling - making it highly effective in the endurance stakes.

Specifications

Manufacturer	Boeing
Role	Airborne early warning and control
Crew	Pilot, Co-pilot, Air Battle Managers and Airborne Electronics Analysts
Engine	Two CFM International CFM56-7 turbofans (27,300 lb thrust each)
Airframe	Length 33.6 m, height 12.6 m

Wingspan	34.3 m
Weight	Maximum take-off weight 77,565 kg, maximum landing weight 60,782 kg
Speed	Maximum 955 km/h, cruise 760 km/h
Range	7,040 km
Ceiling	41,000 feet
Equipment	• Multi-role electronically scanned array (MESA) radar with range in excess of 400km • Electronic warfare self-protection measures including directed infra-red counter-measures, chaff and flares • Communication systems including HF, VHF, UHF, Link-11, Link-16, UHF SATCOM and ICS • 10 mission consoles