

A royal rush



ERIK SIMONSEN PHOTOS

A Royal Air Force Mk2a Chinook approaches at high speed and initiates the start of its aerial display. The RAF Mk2a Chinook's maneuvers included 90-degree banks, high-angle climb-outs and steep dives.

Boeing aircraft show their stuff at world's largest military airshow

By ERIK SIMONSEN

Every July, the world's largest military air show—the Royal International Air Tattoo in the United Kingdom—draws thousands of spectators and the best of the world's military air arms.

Held at the Royal Air Force Fairford airbase, the show offers an excellent opportunity for Boeing and other aerospace contractors to meet with international customers as well as entertain spectators with magnificent aeronautical displays.

The RAF's current strategic thinking of "Agile, Adaptable and Capable" was the theme for the July 14 and 15 event. Boeing's key message was how the company is growing its onshore footprint and capability. The U.S. Air Force marked

In June, Alenia and Boeing were awarded a contract to produce the C-27J Spartan for the U.S. Air Force/U.S. Army Joint Cargo Aircraft program.





A U.S. Air Force KC-10 Extender tanker was on static display



A Swiss Air Force F/A-18C Hornet performs precise 360-degree rolls during a high-speed pass.



Known as the workhorse of the U.S. Air Force bomber fleet, the B-1B Lancer, which can operate at 477,000 pounds (216,000 kilograms), displayed its agility.

its 60th anniversary with a Thunderbirds Aerial Demonstration. Also, the RAF Red Arrows made their annual appearance.

Boeing was well represented on the flight line with both static and flying displays of both in-production and historical aircraft. Among these aircraft were a Boeing/Alenia C-27J Spartan, a B-52H Stratofortress, a B-1B Lancer, an F-15E Strike Eagle, a KC-10 Extender, a C-17 Globemaster III from the Royal Air Force, an Mk2a Chinook, an E-3D Sentry Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft, an F/A-18C Hornet from the Swiss Air Force and a Luftwaffe F-4F Phantom.

All in all, the show provided a superb venue for Boeing to highlight its market, business and programs—and enhance the already solid bonds between the United Kingdom and the United States. ■

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Trailing vortices off its wingtips, a U.S. Air Force F-15E Strike Eagle performs a high-speed knife-edge pass.