

OpenVoiceNews Australia

Transparent. Unbiased. Yours.

RAAF Base Curtin Shines in Talisman Sabre 2025

July 29, 2025

– Categories: Defence & Security



Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Base Curtin, located in remote Western Australia, played a pivotal role during Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025, supporting agile airbase operations under challenging conditions. Held from July 13 to August 4, the exercise involved more than 550 personnel, including aviators, soldiers, and military working dogs. The base successfully coordinated expeditionary operations, demonstrating Australia's capacity to sustain air power in austere environments and reinforcing its strategic relevance in the Indo-Pacific.

Task Element and Base Commander Wing Commander Paul Rickert led the effort, overseeing a complex mix of air traffic control, security, logistics, and health support. Planning began in 2024, reflecting the scale of the undertaking. Rickert credited mission

success to the integration of diverse skill sets, ranging from infantry to engineering, which ensured smooth operations despite the location's remoteness.

Multinational cooperation was a central feature. The exercise included collaboration with the United States Air Force (USAF) and the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF). A Sister Squadron agreement was formalized between the RAAF's 382 Contingency Response Squadron and the USAF's 36 Contingency Response Group, improving interoperability between forces. Canadian personnel also achieved key qualifications at Curtin's Mobile Air Operations Centre, marking a milestone in joint training efforts.

Operational tempo at Curtin was high. The base supported **a significant number of aircraft**, including F-35A Lightning II and P-8A Poseidon platforms, which logged more than 5,500 flight hours across 2,000 sorties. Security operations were managed jointly by the RAAF's 1 Security Forces Squadron and the Australian Army's 2nd Division, in coordination with USAF Security Forces. Squadron Leader Sean Gordon noted that the integrated security posture, extending also to RAAF Bases Darwin and Tindal, was a first for Talisman Sabre.

While the Albanese government continues to oversee defense policy, some commentators have called for greater investment in northern bases like Curtin to address evolving regional threats. The exercise's success at Curtin highlighted the Australian Defence Force's ability to operate in remote conditions, deliver effective multinational cooperation, and project stability across the Indo-Pacific.