

## Arms for the Future



*The CF-18 Hornet*

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### The CF-18 Hornet

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By the end of the 1980s Canada's arsenal will be stocked with the best weaponry that 20th century technology has been able to produce. Canadian Armed Forces equipment obviously won't match, in quantity, those of the great military powers, the Soviet Union and the United States, but their equipment will be no nation's inferior in quality.

Take for example the CF-18 Hornet. This fighter attack weapon is awesome in every sense of the word. It is a single-seat, twin-jet aircraft for all-weather fighter defence and military attack. It is equipped with F404 smokeless engines and long-range, high-power, AN/APG-65 radar. Its imposing 17.1 metre (56 ft) length, 4.7 metre (16 ft) height, and wingspan of 12.3 metres (40 ft) are compressed into a silhouette sufficiently sleek to let its two low-bypass jet engines, each with 7,258 kilograms (16000 lbs) thrust, push it to speeds of MACH 1.8 (1400 mph). The combat thrust-to-weight ratio is greater than one-to-one. The Hornet has an unrefuelled ferry range of more than 3,700 kilometres (2300 miles) and a combat range of 740 kilometres (460 miles) with a full complement of air-to-air missiles. It has an inflight refuelling capability.

In terms of kill power the CF-18 Hornet is as fearsome as a huge battleship of old. It can carry eight tons of bombs and rocketry, and its air-to-air radar and air-to-ground fire control system for conventional or guided weapons lets it deliver every weapon with deadly accuracy, a claim no battleship could boast.

The Hornet has nine weapon stations: two wing tip stations for Sidewinder missiles; two outboard wing stations for air-to-ground weapons, Sparrows or Sidewinders; two inboard wing stations for fuel tanks or air-to-ground weapons; two nacelle fuselage stations for Sparrows or sensor pods; and one centreline station for fuel or air-to-ground weapons. The internal M61 20mm gun is mounted in the nose. It is a one-man fighter aircraft designed to be devastating in combat, and fearsome in attack. There will be more than 130 of them distributed with Canadian units at Canadian and allied air-bases.

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### The Aurora

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Meanwhile, patrolling Canada's vast Arctic regions and its long, rugged coastlines, will be the most sophisticated submarine hunter yet constructed, the Aurora. Canada has invested over a billion dollars in these aircraft, which will not