

Australian P-8A Poseidon Fleet to Receive Upgrades



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NAVAL AIR SYSTEMS COMMAND, PATUXENT RIVER, Md.—Australia recently announced the Royal Australian Air Force's (RAAF) fleet of P-8A Poseidon Maritime Patrol and Response aircraft will be upgraded to Increment Three Block Two, the latest capability upgrade available for the aircraft. The upgrade will enhance anti-submarine warfare, strike and intelligence capabilities.

"The Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Aircraft Program Office (PMA-290) works closely every day with our Australian teammates to promote international security and enhance interoperability, and this upgrade will set us up for future success in these endeavors," said Capt. Eric Gardner, program

manager of PMA-290.

The first aircraft is expected to begin upgrades in 2026 with the final aircraft to be completed in 2030. The upgraded P-8A Poseidon aircraft will continue to be operated by RAAF's No. 11 Squadron at RAAF Base Edinburgh, South Australia.

The RAAF declared initial operating capability for the P-8A in March 2018. The fleet currently consists of 12 aircraft. In December 2020, the Commonwealth announced the acquisition of an additional two aircraft through its existing cooperative program with the U.S. Navy. The upgrade will ensure the RAAF P-8A's operational effectiveness into the 2030s. Through cooperative programs such as the P-8A, the U.S. and Australian militaries continue to enjoy more than 100 years of "mateship."

PMA-290 manages the acquisition, development, support, and delivery of the Navy's maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft.