

Australia 2005

Although the holiday in Australia and the country itself was fantastic, spotting military airplanes in December in Australia was very disappointing. Authorities gave me an allowance of taking pictures at RAAF Amberley from outside the base. And I was very excited about that. The only airbase in the world that still flies the F-111! Seeing F-111s flying and taking pictures of them. A dream come through.....

Arriving at Amberley on Monday 12 December there were no activities at all. Asking why people told me that the pilots already had their summer- and Christmasholidays. Holiday from 12 December 2005 till 9 January 2006! Unbelievable and very disappointing for me. Maybe the pilots earned it. They had a very busy year in 2005 I heard.

Anyway, I took a few pictures as you can see on this website. I counted 16 F-111s and 7 DHC-4As (2 dumped, A4-235 (white) and A4-19 (brown) as shown on a picture). I saw 1 DHC-4A of 38 Sq flying, A4-140. As gateguard they have a Canberra T21, A84-201. The dumped Canberra T21 on the picture with the 4 F-111s is the A84-203.

Visiting Williamstown on Friday afternoon 16 December air force personel told me that the Hawks and Hornets had flown their final missions that morning..... I only took 1 picture of an MB-326H at the museum, A7-052. Driving further to the Blue Mountains I drove past Richmond on Saturday 17 December. There I spotted the following C-130J-30s of 37 Sq, grey c/s:

A97-441/41
A97-442/42
A97-447/47
A97-449/49
A97-465/65
A97-466/66
A97-468/68

I also spotted the following C-130Hs of 36 Sq, brown/green c/s:

A97-001
A97-002
A97-006
A97-008
A97-011

And B-707-368C A20-261 of 33Sq.

Knowing that there are Australian F-111s and Hornets at Nellis AFB participating in Red Flag at the moment.....

The F-111s will fly till 2010. To see such a fantastic aircraft in service you have to visit a magnificent country: Australia!!!

