Beat: News

Royal Canadian Air Force Stands Down CF-18 Demo

For The 2025 Air Show Season

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USPA NEWS - Since the early 80's, the CF-18 has been a fan favorite throughout the air show circuit. It has thrilled audiences from coast to coast with heart stopping, jaw dropping, and precisely executed performances.
Decades later, the CF-18 Demo Team is still drawing thousands of enthusiastic fans each season.
On Friday, November 22nd, the Royal Canadian Air Force announced that there will be no CF-18 Hornet Demonstration Team during the 2025 air show season.

This is disappointing news that will affect the air show industry, and many loyal fans.
Here's the official announcement from the the Royal Canadian Air Force.

“The Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) is on the cusp of a period of modernization not seen since the Second World War. This period will impact nearly every fleet of aircraft and all members of the organization. The RCAF’s fighter force is no exception as it transitions to the fifth generation CF-35A."

“To commit more resources to this transition, for the 2025 Air Show season, the RCAF will not stand up its typical CF-18 Hornet Demonstration Team, but will instead showcase a small number of non-aerobatic Tactical Demonstrations. These demonstrations will be carried out by our highly skilled and trained CF-18 pilots from Squadrons in Cold Lake and Bagotville, operating grey paint scheme CF-18s from the inventory available at the time of each air show. To limit the impact on the fighter force, it was also decided that the CF-18s will only attend a limited number of Canadian air shows during the 2025 season."

“The RCAF remains committed to showcasing the talent, expertise, and dedication of its members to the greatest possible extent and looks forward to continuing its long and enduring relationship with the air show community. Please come find us at the ICAS convention to discuss if you have questions.”

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