Media Release

Willem Westra van Holthe, Member for Katherine
Deputy Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

RAAF celebrates 94th birthday

31 March 2015

Celebrations are being held at the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Base Tindal tonight, to mark the 94th anniversary of the RAAF.

Member for Katherine Willem Westra van Holthe said the RAAF is the world’s second oldest Air Force and is a major part of the Territory.

“The RAAF has played an important role in the Northern Territory’s past, and Katherine in particular has a rich defence history,” Minister Westra van Holthe said.

“RAAF Base Tindal personnel and their families make up almost a quarter of Katherine’s population and in no small way, add to the social fabric of our town.

“As well as being valued members of the community, personnel provide flood relief and defence aid to the civil community. RAAF Base Tindall also shares its all-important sporting facilities with locals,” Minister Westra van Holthe said.

RAAF Base Tindal is located 15 kilometres outside Katherine and is currently home to:

- No 75 Squadron - F/A-18 Horne
- No 452 SQN Tindal Flight - air traffic control
- No 17 Squadron - Airbase Operations
- No 2 Expeditionary Health Squadron Detachment Tindal
- No 3 Control and Reporting Unit Detachment Tindal
- No 2 Security Force Squadron Detachment Tindal

The infrastructure needed to accommodate and support the arrival of the Joint Strike Fighter at RAAF Base Tindal is valued at $474 million.
“RAAF Base Tindal is a key contributor to the Territory economy, providing job certainty and injecting money into the local economy,” Minister Westra van Holthe said.

“I’d like to thank the RAAF for its positive input into our community and congratulate the organisation on its 94th birthday.”

Media Contact: