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Feb 18, 2008



SINGAPORE

## Airshow kicks off

### WHAT IT IS

MORE than 80,000 people, including trade visitors, are expected to flock this week to the Singapore Airshow, which will be held from tomorrow till Sunday at the Changi Exhibition Centre.



All set to soar: The Republic of Singapore Air Force's Black Knights aerobics display team rehearsing for the inaugural Singapore Airshow. -- ST PHOTO: DESMOND FOO

The world's largest passenger aircraft, the Airbus A380, will be one of the highlights when it goes on public display this weekend.

### WHY IT MATTERS

The inaugural airshow will be Asia's biggest. It will be a showcase of aviation and defence technologies, and aims to be one of the biggest and most internationally

attended aerospace events in the world.

Warplanes, business jets and helicopters are among the 42 flying machines that will greet visitors.

Among the planes that will perform at the airshow are jet trainers designed for air forces to train new pilots, such as the Aermacchi M-346 from Italy and the T-50 Golden Eagle from South Korea.

Regional transport ministers, airline chiefs, airport operators as well as the heads of the International Air Transport Association and the International Civil Aviation Organisation are expected to attend.

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More than 30,000 trade visitors, half of them from overseas, are predicted to throng the show.

## JESSICA JAGANATHAN

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