

Biography

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RICARDO TRAVEN

Chief Test Pilot – Boeing Charleston 787 Dreamliner Program



Biography: Ricardo Traven is the Lead Test Pilot for the 787 Dreamliner located in Charleston SC. He was formerly the Chief Test Pilot for all models of the Hornet family of aircraft, including the F/A-18E/F Super Hornet and the EA-18G Growler. He also is the Boeing Air Show Demonstration Pilot for the Super Hornet and also supported the 737 flight testing on the Australian Wedge tail program and served as one of the lead test pilots on the Navy's P-8A program envelope expansion. He was an engineering test pilot on the 787-10 program and flew first flight of the second aircraft and many engineering test flights to certify the 787-10.

A graduate of the Royal Military College of Canada, the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School and a former U.S. Navy Test Pilot School instructor, Traven has more than 25 years of experience as a fighter pilot and test pilot. He retired from the Canadian Forces as a Major, and joined The Boeing Company in 1997.

As a test pilot, Traven has been instrumental in a number of key F/A-18 programs. While in the military, he developed the F/A-18 out-of-control and spin training program, the F/A-18 rig-test program, and flew as project pilot on NASA's F/A-18 high alpha research vehicle. He also served as an instructor at the U.S. Navy Test Pilot School. Since joining Boeing, he became a senior experimental test pilot on the Super Hornet development program flying many of the high AOA and spin test flights. He was influential in the development of the pirouette flight control logic for high AOA maneuverability, the wing drop flight test program, the Vmc flight control logic, and the 10.7 FCC logic that vastly improves the high AOA flying qualities of the heritage F/A-18 Hornet using E/F technologies. He was the principal test pilot in designing and developing air show maneuvers for the Super Hornet.

Traven has published numerous engineering technical papers on the F/A-18 flight control system and F/A-18 flight-testing at high AOA. He is frequently invited to speak about F/A-18 flight-testing, flight controls and out-of-control recovery techniques to customers world wide, professional societies and universities.

For his work, Traven was named U.S. Navy Test Pilot of the Year in 1995. He is a three-time recipient of the Ray E. Tenhoff Award from the Society of Experimental Test Pilots (SETP). He was elected as President of the SETP National Board in 2007-2008. Prior to this position, he served on all positions of the Board of Directors and is a Fellow of the Society.

Traven has flown Super Hornet demonstration flights at air shows around the world since 2001. In 2004 at the Royal International Air Tattoo in England, Traven was awarded the coveted King Hussein Memorial Sword for the best overall flight demonstration, and the As The Crow Flies Award for the best air display. He also was selected best foreign solo jet display by UK Air Show Review.

During his career, Traven has flown more than 5,000 hours in more than 60 models of aircraft, including the F-16, F-15, A-7, F-4, F-5 and T-2. He has logged more than 3000 hours in all models of the Hornet, and more than 1000 hours in the Super Hornet and was a combat-ready fighter pilot in NORAD and NATO.

Professional Associations, Awards, and Accomplishments:

- Elected President of the 2,200-member Society of Experimental Test Pilots (SETP), 2007-2008. (Youngest President in 50 years.)
- Elected SETP Board Member, all positions, 2002-2007
- Chairman of the East Coast SETP, 1998-2002
- Selected Fellow of Society of Experimental Test Pilots, 2007
- Winner of the prestigious best technical paper published in CASI (Canadian Aeronautics and Space Institute) log, a peer-reviewed engineering journal, 1996
- Three-time recipient of The Ray E. Tenhof Award for Best Technical Paper at the SETP Annual Symposium
- Two-time recipient of The Jack Northrop Award for Best Technical Paper at the SETP West Coast Symposium
- Two-time winner of Best Paper at the SETP European Symposium
- Life-time Achievement Award for Flight Testing in SETP Europe
- U.S. Navy Test Pilot of the Year while a Canadian exchange officer, 1995
- Winner of the prestigious King Hussein Memorial Sword for best overall flying demonstration at the Royal International Air Tattoo, UK, 2004
- Winner of As the Crow Flies for best overall flying demonstration at the Royal International Air Tattoo, UK, 2004
- Winner of the best solo military jet performance, UK Air Show Review, 2005
- Canadian Forces - Top Pilot F/A-18 training, Top Pilot advanced jet training, Top Pilot basic jet training, Top Pilot initial pilot training
- Winner of the Maher Memorial Trophy for Leadership, Professionalism and Morale as voted by fellow pilot training classmates, 1986-1988
- Member of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, 1996 – Present (Owner of two aircraft, a Beech Baron and a 1943 Stinson Reliant, Royal Navy WWII)
- Personal involvement and interaction with customers at flight demos, air shows, and technical briefings in support of BD activities in Australia, Canada, Brazil, Qatar, Kuwait, Switzerland, Denmark, Belgium, Finland, India, Singapore and Malaysia.
- Invited keynote speaker at numerous events, including Advanced Manufacturing Research Lab (AMRC) University, Sheffield, England, 2009; Society of Flight Test Engineers (SFTE) Symposium, St. Louis, Mo., 2007; Aero India Symposium, 2011; Flight Test Society of Australia Annual Symposium and Banquet, 2012; Guest of Honor, Graduating Mechanical Engineering Class, Royal Military College, Canada, 2010; Guest of Honor, Aerospace Engineering Class Annual Banquet, US Naval Academy, 2013; Guest of Honor, Society of Experimental Test Pilots Safety Symposium on Air Show Demonstration, Austria, 2012; International Council of Air Shows Convention (ICAS) Las Vegas, 2005; LEAP key note speaker, BLC, 2013; Boeing Supplier Management Conference, Orlando, Florida, 2010
- Patuxent site diversity awareness training leader, 2012