

SMILING ON A DREAM

A happy face left by a skywriting aircraft at the Oshkosh air show in Wisconsin appears to be directly above the tail of the 787 Dreamliner in this photo taken in late July. Lines of aviation enthusiasts waiting to tour the 787 stretched for more than a half-mile. In a note to the show's organizers, Mike Carriker, chief pilot for the 787, who flew the airplane to Oshkosh, wrote: "It was a dream of mine to see the jet on display! I remember walking through there in 2004 when the 787 was still a real dream and thinking just how good the new Boeing airplane would look sitting right where it sat yesterday." PHOTO: MIKE MILEY

"My lawnmower is louder than the 787."

– Tweet from an aviation enthusiast who had arrived at the Oshkosh, Wis., air show to watch the landing of the Dreamliner. Patd64 was one of the thousands who lined the runway waving and cheering.

"There's nothing you can express to feel that kind of power."

– Shannon Faulk, Flight Operations mechanic, talking about what it's like to be in the St. Louis "hush house" when the jet engines of a just-finished F-15 or F/A-18 are fired up for the first time. See story on Page 32.

"It's ready to be sent in harm's way."

– Mark Kosko, program director for Boeing Unmanned Underwater Systems, talking about the company's 18-foot-long (5.5-meter) submarine drone Echo Ranger, which could soon be ready for U.S. Navy missions. It is undergoing tests off the California coast, as reported in the Los Angeles Times, Aug. 20.