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ST. LOUIS, Jan. 26, 2016 – The Strategic Airlift Capability (SAC) program will soon train C-17 aircrews at Boeing's [NYSE: BA] C-17 International Training Centre (ITC) in the United Kingdom under a new \$8 million contract.

SAC is comprised of ten NATO countries and two NATO Partnership for Peace countries. The program will begin training its multinational aircrews early this year. Prior to this contract, the SAC program sent aircrews to the United States for training.

"Boeing met the customer need to have access to affordable, high-quality training for aircrews from smaller countries with limited resources," said Larry Sisco, C-17 training program manager. "Having regional training is a big cost and time savings for the SAC Program."

As part of the contract, the U.S. Air Force inspected and recognized Boeing's C-17 training simulators at the ITC as being fully able to train C-17 aircrews. The ITC houses a weapons systems trainer, loadmaster station and an integrated maintenance procedure trainer.

"The U.S. Air Force gave us their stamp of approval," Sisco said. "They were thrilled with our simulator capability and how concurrent the simulators are with the C-17 aircraft."

On behalf of the SAC program, the NATO Airlift Management (NAM) Programme Office requested this capability to meet the requirements of nations who make up this multinational program. In addition, the NAM Programme Office has ownership and is responsible for acquiring, managing and supporting NATO's Strategic Airlift Capability aircraft, including three Boeing C-17 Globemaster III airlifters, that member nations can call upon to fulfill national operational needs.

"This contract to deliver training to NATO forces demonstrates Boeing's commitment to the C-17 fleet and a truly global approach to our training service," said Joanne Finch, head of Boeing Defense United Kingdom Training Systems and Government Services."

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Contact:

Justin Gibson
Global Services & Support
Office: +1 314-777-7863
Mobile: +1 314-708-6293
justin.l.gibson@boeing.com
