

Boeing, Lockheed Martin Join Forces to Offer U.S. Army Streamlined Logistics and Upgrades for Apache

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The U.S. Army has taken another step toward implementing a revolutionary prime vendor support (PVS) and reliability improvement program for its AH-64 Apache multi-mission combat helicopters.

Secretary of the Army Togo West approved the U.S. Army's plan, and the justification and authorization for PVS on Oct. 3. This action will initiate contract negotiations between the Army and the newly formed company, Team Apache Systems, LLC. The company unites The Boeing Company, manufacturer of the Apache; Lockheed Martin, its principal systems supplier; and Corpus Christi (Texas) Army Depot, where depot repair work on Apaches will be performed. The Secretary will conduct a final review after the details of the contract have been negotiated and before PVS is implemented.

The comprehensive program is designed to reduce Army operations and support costs while bolstering the Apache's readiness capabilities.

Dick Williams, who will head Team Apache Systems, said negotiations are expected to be completed in the next several months.

The plan calls for Team Apache Systems to implement the prime vendor support and technology insertion programs for Apaches deployed around the world.

The Team Apache Systems is expected to have its headquarters in Huntsville, Ala., new home of the Army Aviation and Missile Command. Team Apache Systems will constitute a single global supplier of wholesale logistics, repair and upgrade services for AH-64A Apache and AH-64D Apache Longbow aircraft.

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