

Boeing Begins Final Assembly Of First 737-700 Airlifter For U.S. Navy

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Boeing has joined the wings to the fuselage of the company's first 737-700C (Convertible) aircraft at its Renton, Wash., facility. The U.S. Navy is the kick-off customer for the newest member of the Next-Generation 737 family and is purchasing the aircraft to begin replacing its fleet of C-9 airlifters. The Navy version, designated C-40A, will be certified to operate in three configurations: an all-passenger (121) configuration; an all-cargo configuration of up to eight pallets; or a combination, or "combi," configuration that will accommodate up to three cargo pallets and 70 passengers. The C-40A fleet will take full advantage of the 737-700 Convertible aircraft's commercial introduction and lifetime support services, providing high reliability and low total-ownership cost. The U.S. Naval Reserve has ordered four C-40As to date and will staff and operate the aircraft. The first C-40A will be delivered in early 2001.

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