U.S. Navy Orders Fifth Boeing C-40A Airlifter

The U.S. Navy has ordered a fifth Boeing 737-700C (Convertible) model for its Navy Unique Fleet Essential Airlift Replacement Aircraft program.

The new contract follows orders for two aircraft in September 1997, one in June 1998 and one in July 1999. Deliveries will begin in early 2001.

The U.S. Naval Reserve is the first customer for the newest member of the Boeing Next-Generation 737 family; it is purchasing the aircraft to replace its fleet of C-9 airlifters. It will staff and operate the aircraft.

The Navy version, designated C-40A, will be certified to operate in three configurations: as 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.

"We're happy to continue our efforts supporting the U.S. Navy," said Mark Rogers, C-40A program manager. "The C-40A will help the Navy meet its goal to increase the versatility, reliability and maintainability of its airlift fleet."

In a successful example of acquisition reform, the Navy is purchasing the airplanes as any airline would, using commercial standards. The C-40A fleet will take full advantage of the 737-700C's commercial introduction and lifetime support services, providing high reliability and low total ownership cost.

The first C-40A is currently undergoing flight test at Boeing Field in Seattle. The second C-40A will roll out of the Renton, Wash., factory later this month and begin flight-testing in July.

###

00-60

For further information:
Chick Ramey
(206) 662-0949