Boeing Delivers Fourth Royal Australian Air Force C-17

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 18, 2008 -- The Boeing Company [NYSE: BA] today delivered to the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) its fourth C-17 Globemaster III during a ceremony at the company's Long Beach, Calif., C-17 manufacturing facility.

"I am very pleased that our team has once again delivered to the RAAF a world-class airlift capability, on time and on budget," said Jean Chamberlin, vice president and C-17 program manager, to senior RAAF officials and more than 1,000 Boeing C-17 employees in attendance. "This is a great day for Boeing and demonstrates our commitment to design, build, deliver and support the world's greatest airlifter."

"This C-17 is an impressive aircraft that will join with our three other C-17s to give Australia the kind of global airlift capability that we have never previously enjoyed," said Australian Air Commodore Graham Bentley.

The aircraft features the "Block 17" configuration -- the most modern variant of C-17s built by Boeing, with upgraded software and avionics. The RAAF C-17 also has unique markings that differentiate it from U.S. Air Force C-17s. A black stallion on its tail identifies the airplane as part of the RAAF's No. 36 Squadron, an airlift unit based in Amberley, Queensland. A kangaroo on the aircraft's fuselage is part of the RAAF roundel, a distinctive emblem painted on military aircraft to indicate its nation of origin.

The aircraft joins three others delivered to the RAAF since late-2006. With the delivery of this new airlifter, the worldwide C-17 fleet now includes 171 U.S. Air Force C-17s as well as four in the UK Royal Air Force (RAF) and two in the Canadian Forces. The RAF and the Canadian Forces each will receive two additional C-17s this year. The U.S. Air Force is on contract to receive 19 additional C-17s by mid-2009.

The C-17 is the world's only tactical airlift aircraft with strategic capabilities. Capable of flying between continents and landing on short, austere runways, the C-17 is used worldwide for both military and humanitarian missions.

Today's delivery leaves just 23 C-17s remaining on the production schedule. Without additional orders, the C-17 line will close in late 2009. Despite significant evidence of increasing airlift needs, the U.S. Air Force has not budgeted for additional C-17s the last two years, forcing congressional plus-ups to meet the needed requirement.

A unit of The Boeing Company, Boeing Integrated Defense Systems is one of the world's largest space and defense businesses specializing in innovative and capabilities-driven customer solutions. Headquartered in St. Louis, Boeing Integrated Defense Systems is a $32.4 billion business with 72,000 employees worldwide.
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