Boeing to Provide Network for US Air Force C-17 Training

ST. LOUIS, Aug. 31, 2009 -- The Boeing Company [NYSE: BA] has received a contract from the U.S. Air Force to deliver a C-17 Distributed Training Center (DTC) to Scott Air Force Base, Ill. Boeing will provide the ability to network 10 existing C-17 training sites in the United States, using Scott Air Force Base as the hub.

"This capability will allow the Air Force's Air Mobility Command (AMC) to conduct continuation and mission qualification training, execute mission rehearsal operations, develop tactics, and participate in large force exercises in a realistic environment at a fraction of live-fly costs and with very little risk," said Sean Carey, AMC program manager for Distributed Mission Operations (DMO).

Boeing expects to deliver the DTC in January 2012. The 10 training sites will maintain their existing connections to the DMO network, which allows military aircraft training sites around the world to link with one another for large-scale, high-fidelity training operations.

The C-17 established its networking capability in 2004, allowing C-17 crews to participate in "Virtual Flag" exercises with multiple aircraft platforms for the first time. In order to support the large amount of bandwidth required as additional C-17 training sites were added, Boeing began upgrading the associated hardware and software in 2007.

The C-17-specific DTC will extend current C-17 DMO capabilities, allowing for higher-fidelity aircrew training; it also will provide the airlift community with a continuously available training network capability.

"Expanding the AMC's DMO capability allows for interoperability between simulators within AMC, as well as between AMC and other Air Force major commands, and joint and coalition partners," said Mark McGraw, Boeing vice president, Training Systems and Services. "Mission-ready C-17 aircrews are essential to global security. This program ensures that they will receive the most realistic, comprehensive training available."

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