Boeing C-130 Avionics Modernization Program to Enter Production

LONG BEACH, Calif., June 24, 2010 -- The Boeing Company [NYSE: BA] today announced that the U.S. Air Force has granted the C-130 Avionics Modernization Program (AMP) approval to begin low-rate initial production (LRIP) following a successful Defense Acquisition Board Milestone C production review.

The Milestone C review completes several intensive reviews by the U.S. Department of Defense and the Air Force, including engineering and manufacturing reviews, to prepare for LRIP. Boeing also performed an extensive flight-test program to validate the system's design and development.

The first two LRIP aircraft are scheduled for induction in August and October at Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, Ga., where the Air Force will perform the Lot 1 installations. The first two kits have been delivered. Boeing will upgrade five of the 20 aircraft during LRIP.

"This is a terrific day for our team and our Air Force customer," said Mahesh Reddy, Boeing C-130 AMP program director. "We have worked hard to ensure that this program is a success and will meet warfighter needs for many years. It is now time to move forward with the remaining LRIP installations and quickly return these aircraft to the fleet with comprehensive avionics upgrades for improved situational awareness and mission capabilities."

The C-130 AMP improvements include a fully integrated, night-vision-goggle compatible, digital glass cockpit and new digital avionics that increase situational awareness and enhance safety. The AMP upgrade also brings avionics commonality to the C-130 fleet and flexibility in assigning aircrew, regardless of aircraft model.

The three test aircraft will undergo Periodic Depot Maintenance at Warner Robins prior to being delivered to the Air Force C-130 AMP schoolhouse at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark., where Initial Operational Test and Evaluation will be conducted.

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