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DOHA, Qatar, Dec. 8, 2010 -- Boeing [NYSE:BA], the world's leading aerospace company, today established its first office in Qatar as the company continues to strengthen its relationship with and support of that country and the surrounding Middle East region.

Operations at the new Boeing office in Doha, which will primarily house the Boeing Defense, Space & Security (BDS) business but also provide a base for Boeing Commercial Airplanes activities, will significantly improve the support that BDS provides to Qatar's defense forces.

"This new office is an important commitment that Boeing is making to Doha, the Qatari government and our customers in the immediate region," said Dennis Muilenburg, president of Boeing Defense, Space & Security. "It will enable Boeing to maintain the in-person contact necessary to further develop our close working relationship with Qatar, as part of our overall strategy to build partnerships with our customers."

"Boeing is very pleased to be growing its presence and partnerships around the region," said Paul Kinscherff, president of Boeing in the Middle East. "With the opening of our Doha office, we look forward to working even more closely with our Qatari customers and partners to support their success and the development goals of Qatar's National Vision 2030."

Boeing delivered two C-17 Globemaster III airlifters, the world's most popular cargo aircraft, to the Qatar Emiri Air Force in August and September 2009. The Air Force has used the C-17s to provide vital humanitarian aid around the world in the aftermath of natural disasters, such as the recent earthquakes in Haiti and Chile.

Boeing is working closely with Qatar's armed forces to determine how the company can best meet its future military requirements. Future potential exists for maritime strike attack aircraft, reconnaissance rotorcraft and tactical aircraft.

Retired U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Mike Delong, a Middle East regional vice president with BDS International Business Development, will lead the office.

A unit of The Boeing Company, [Boeing Defense, Space & Security](#) is one of the world's largest defense, space and security businesses specializing in innovative and capabilities-driven customer solutions, and the world's largest and most versatile manufacturer of military aircraft. Headquartered in St. Louis, Boeing Defense, Space & Security is a \$34 billion business with 68,000 employees worldwide. Follow us on Twitter: [@BoeingDefense](#).

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Contact:

Felix Sanchez
Boeing BDS International Communications, Middle East
Office: 562-797-1114
Mobile: 562-537-0681
felix.sanchez@boeing.com

Fakher Daghestani
Director, Communications for Middle East & Africa
Boeing International Corporation
Mobile: +971 50 6254855
fakher.a.daghestani@boeing.com
