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New capabilities will improve locator precision and reduce rescue time

HANSCOM AIR FORCE BASE, Mass., Jan. 18, 2013 -- Boeing [NYSE: BA] will upgrade U.S. Air Force Combat Survivor Evader Locator (CSEL) handheld radios with new capabilities to enable faster search and rescue of isolated personnel, and also upgrade the CSEL ultrahigh frequency (UHF) base stations, under contracts valued at \$13.6 million.

"These new contracts confirm that Boeing is meeting our commitments to provide our military customers with world-class, next-generation communications capabilities," said Boeing CSEL Program Manager Steve Capps. "CSEL provides the U.S. military with the strategic advantage of an easy-to-use, multifunction radio that has already played a critical role in numerous successful rescues involving downed combat forces and pilots."

Upgrading the CSEL UHF base stations will bring the CSEL network up to the latest Information Assurance standards that protect networks from outside intrusion.

"There's never been anything like CSEL for search and rescue," said Air Force Lt. Matthew Renner, previously a CSEL test engineer with the Joint Program Office for Personnel Recovery at Hanscom Air Force Base. "These new capabilities can reduce rescue time and give isolated personnel another option to get home safely. The pilots we've worked with are really excited about it."

More than 54,400 CSEL radios have been delivered to the U.S. military to date.

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