



Backgrounder

Boeing Defense, Space & Security
P.O. Box 516
St. Louis, MO 63166
www.boeing.com

E-6B

Mercury airborne command post

Description and Purpose:

The U.S. Navy E-6B provides survivable, enduring, reliable airborne command, control and communications in support of the President, Secretary of Defense and United States Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM)



Customer(s):

The E-6B acquisition programs are run by Program Acquisition Manager (PMA) 271, in support of NAVAIR at Patuxent River NAS Maryland. All contracts on the program are initiated by this office.

General Characteristics:

Primary Function: Nuclear Command, Control, and Communication (NC3)

Aircraft Type: Uniquely configured Boeing 707

Engines: Four CMF56-2A-2 high bypass-ratio turbofan engines

Thrust: 24,000 pounds, each engine

Length: 150 feet 4 inches

Height: 42 feet 5 inches

Wingspan: 148 feet 4 inches

Cruise Speed: 600 miles per hour

Ceiling: 42,000 feet

Maximum Takeoff Weight: 342,000 lbs

Range: 5500 nautical miles

Maximum Fuel Load: 163,152 pounds

Date Deployed: March 1989

Inventory: Active force: 16

The primary mission of the E-6B is as a communications relay platform for Very Low Frequency (VLF) transmissions to our nuclear forces. Additionally it performs as the Airborne Command Post for the Commander, Strategic Command. Its third key mission role is as a back-up for ICBM launch. It has multiple additional back-up mission roles that it is tasked to support.

Background:

A modified Boeing 707, the E-6B entered military service in 1989. The E-6B has been modified in support of Airborne Command Post missions. These mods include Strategic Communications relay (TACAMO); Airborne Command Post (ABNCP); ICBM Launch Capability (ALCS); National Airborne Operations Center (NAOC) backup; COMSTRAT support (COOP); Contingency ABNCP (EUR/PAC); Continuity of Operations (COPSTRAT); Continuation of Operations / Continuation of Government (COOP/COG); CJCS Successor; Senior Leadership Comm. System (SLCS) with future capabilities to include T-3 Communication with distributed ground network; and HLS/GWOT/Domestic Catastrophe Response. Boeing recently completed a successful cockpit modification (Multifunction Display System or MDS) which equipped the E-6B with a 737 glass cockpit. Boeing is on contract to install INMARSAT and VHF datalink via the Internet Protocol Bandwidth Expansion (IPBE) program via a "Phase 1 contract." Other program phases have been identified and are being worked to continue to modify and upgrade this platform.

Miscellaneous

The E-6B is operated by the Commander, Strategic Communications Wing One (CSCW-1), Tinker AFB, OK. The operating units, co-located at Tinker also maintain detachments at Offutt AFB in support of their Operational Commander, STRATCOM, as well as detachments at Travis AFB and Patuxent River. There are 16 E-6Bs in the Navy's inventory.

#

Contact:

Jarrold Bartlett
Boeing Global Services & Support
316-977-2574
jarrod.s.bartlett@boeing.com

Forrest Gossett
Boeing Global Services & Support
314-234-2309
forrest.s.gossett@boeing.com

June 2010