

Boeing Defense, Space & Security
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C-17 Globemaster III

Description and Purpose:

The Boeing C-17 Globemaster III is designed to fulfill military and humanitarian airlift needs well into the 21st century. A high-wing, four-engine, T-tailed aircraft with a rear-loading ramp, the C-17 can carry large combat equipment and troops or humanitarian aid across international distances directly to small austere airfields anywhere in the world.

With a payload of 164,900 pounds, the C-17 can take off from a 7,000-foot airfield, fly 2,400 nautical miles, and land on a small, austere airfield of 3,000 feet or less. The C-17 is equipped with an externally blown flap system that allows a steep, low-speed final approach and low-landing speeds for routine short-field landings.

Customers:

Worldwide, Boeing has delivered 241 C-17s as of February 2012. Boeing's program of record with the U.S. Air Force is to design, build and deliver 223 C-17s. Boeing will deliver C-17s to India and other international countries in 2013 and 2014. To date, Boeing has delivered 216 C-17s to the U.S. Air Force. There are also 25 C-17s in service with six international customers.

In March 2012, the Royal Australian Air Force announced a Letter of Acceptance to procure a sixth C-17. February 2012, the Royal Air Force announced its intention to procure an eighth C-17 to add to the UK fleet. In June 2011, India's Ministry of Defence signed an agreement with the U.S. government to acquire 10 C-17s that will be delivered in 2013 and 2014. The United Arab Emirates Air Force and Air Defence received its first four C-17s in 2011, and will receive two more in 2012. The RAAF has five and the Royal Canadian Air Force has four C-17s. The 12-nation Strategic Airlift Capability consortium of NATO and Partnership for Peace nations received three C-17s in 2009. Qatar, the first Middle East customer to order C-17s, received two C-17s in 2009 and holds options for two more.

Deployment:

- 216 Aircraft at 12 bases (USAF)
- 7 Aircraft at RAF Brize Norton (UK)
- 5 Aircraft at RAAF Base Amberley (Australia)
- 4 Aircraft at RCAF Trenton (Canada)
- 3 Strategic Airlift Capability Aircraft at Pápa AB (Hungary)
- 2 Aircraft at Al Udeid Air Base (Qatar)
- 4 Aircraft at Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates)



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General Characteristics:

Length:	174 feet (53.04 m)
Height at Tail:	55.1 feet (16.79 m)
Wing Span to Wingtips:	169.8 feet (51.74 m)
Maximum Payload:	164,900 lbs. (74,797 kg)
At 4,000 nautical miles:	100,300 lbs. (45,495 kg)
Range with Payload:	
160,000 pounds:	2,420 nautical miles
40,000 pounds (paratroop):	5,610 nautical miles
Cruise Speed:	0.74 – 0.77 Mach
Takeoff Field Length (Max Gross Weight):	7,740 ft. (2,359.15 m)
Landing Field Length:	
160,000 lbs of Cargo:	3,000 ft. (914.40 m)

A cockpit crew of two and one loadmaster operate the C-17, which can be refueled in flight. This cost-effective flight crew complement is made possible through the use of an advanced digital avionics system and advanced cargo systems. In the cargo compartment, the C-17 can carry Army wheeled vehicles in two side-by-side rows. Three combat-ready Stryker infantry-fighting vehicles comprise one deployment load. Similarly, the Army's newest main battle tank, the M-1, can be carried.

The four engines are Pratt & Whitney PW2040 series turbofans, designated as F117-PW-100 by the Air Force, each producing 40,440 pounds of thrust. The engines are equipped with directed-flow thrust reversers capable of deployment in flight. On the ground, a fully loaded aircraft using thrust reversers can back up a 2 percent slope.

Background:

On Dec. 10, 2010, the worldwide C-17 fleet surpassed the 2 million flight-hours milestone. The U.S. Air Force declared the first C-17 squadron operational in January 1995, following first flight in 1991. C-17s have been involved in numerous contingency operations, including flying troops and equipment to Operation Joint Endeavor to support peacekeeping in Bosnia, Allied Force Operation in Kosovo, Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

During flight-testing at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., C-17s set 33 world records – more than any other airlifter in history – including payload to altitude, time-to-climb and short-takeoff-and-landing marks in which the C-17 took off in less than 1,400 feet, carried a payload of 44,000 pounds to altitude and landed in less than 1,400 feet.



Backgrounder

Miscellaneous:

U.S. Air Force C-17s are based at Charleston Air Force Base, S.C.; Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.; the Air National Guard Base at Jackson, Miss.; McGuire Air Force Base, N.J.; March Air Reserve Base, Calif.; Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii; Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska; Altus Air Force Base, Okla., Dover Air Force Base, Del.; Travis Air Force Base, Calif.; Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio; and Stewart Air National Guard Base, N.Y. The RAF C-17s are based at Brize Norton in the United Kingdom. The Royal Australian Air Force C-17 unit is based at Amberley, in Queensland, Australia. Canadian C-17s are based at Royal Canadian Air Force Base, Trenton, Ontario. The 12-nation Strategic Airlift Capability C-17 fleet is based at Pápa Air Base, Hungary. Qatar's C-17s are assigned to Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. The United Arab Emirates' C-17s are stationed at Abu Dhabi.

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