



Backgrounder

The Boeing Company
2201 Seal Beach Blvd.
Seal Beach, CA 90740
www.boeing.com

Boeing Support of Presidential Airplanes Dates Back 60 Years

The Boeing Company has been supporting the airplane travel needs of U.S. presidents for more than 60 years. The association began with Franklin D. Roosevelt who celebrated his 61st birthday on board a Boeing 314 Clipper in 1943, as he was heading to the Casablanca conference.

History of support

Roosevelt also was the first to have a dedicated presidential airplane, a Douglas C-54 that was nicknamed *Sacred Cow*. President Harry Truman used a Douglas VC-118 (DC-6) named *Independence* after his Missouri hometown.

President Dwight Eisenhower introduced jets into the presidential fleet with the Boeing 707-120. The aircraft were bought off the shelf and given the designation VC-137A. The first of three VC-137As flew on April 7 1959.

In 1961, the first purpose-built presidential aircraft was ordered from Boeing. Based on the intercontinental 707-320B, the aircraft was designated VC-137C and given the serial number 26000. Industrial Designer Ramond Loewy created the distinctive exterior blue paint scheme that identifies the aircraft today.

SAM 27000 history

Ten years later a second VC-137C was ordered. That airplane rolled out of the Boeing Renton, Wash., factory on July 10, 1972, and made its maiden flight on July 31, 1972. The airplane was delivered to the U.S. Air Force on August 9, 1972, and given the tail number and call sign SAM 27000.

SAM 27000's first flight as Air Force One took place February 9, 1973, when President Richard Nixon traveled from Andrews AFB to San Clemente, Calif. The Airplane went on to serve presidents Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter, but it was President Ronald Reagan who used it most.

It was the plane that carried Reagan to Berlin in 1987 where, in a historic speech near the Brandenburg Gate, he urged Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev to destroy the Berlin wall that separated East and West Germany with the challenge: "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall."

SAM 27000 continued to serve the office of the President until 1989 when Boeing delivered a VC-25A (747-200) to take over the duties as "Air Force One."

After that, SAM 27000 served as a VIP transport for government and foreign officials until it was retired in 2001. Before SAM 27000 followed Ronald Reagan to California in retirement, it was given one more ceremonial flight as Air Force One when President George W. Bush became the seventh president to fly on SAM 27000.

#

The Boeing Company:

The Boeing Company, the world's largest aerospace firm, has about 32,000 employees in California and is the state's largest manufacturer. Most of these employees are based in Southern California and work for Boeing Integrated Defense Systems in Los Angeles, Orange and Ventura counties. California is home to the second-largest concentration of Boeing employees outside of Washington state, representing one-fifth of the company's worldwide workforce.

Boeing and its employees make significant contributions to California's state and local economies. In 2004, Boeing paid a total of \$2.46 billion in wages and more than \$224 million in state and local taxes and fees. Companies in the region that benefit from Boeing operations include small businesses, local distributors and minority-owned businesses. They provide products and services in support of Boeing's government and commercial programs. Last year, Boeing

purchased \$6.4 billion in goods and services from 8,000 supplier and vendor partners in California.

The Reagan Foundation:

The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that sustains the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum, the Center for Public Affairs and the Presidential Learning Center. Located in Simi Valley, California, the Library houses more than 55 million pages of government documents and personal papers and the Museum is home to more than 100,000 artifacts chronicling the life and legacy of America's 40th President. On October 24, 2005, a new addition opens, the Air Force One Pavilion, permanently displaying the Boeing 707 Ronald Reagan used during his eight years in office.

Boeing contacts:

Andy Trincia, 562-797-4303
andrew.trincia@boeing.com

Amanda Landers, 703-465-3612
amanda.m.landiers@boeing.com

Reagan Library contact:

Melissa Giller, (805) 522-2977
mgiller@reaganfoundation.org