



PHOTO: A UK Royal Air Force Boeing C-17 lifts off from Basra in Iraq. IAN DANIELS/ROYAL AIR FORCE

UK C-17S LOG 50,000 HOURS

The UK Royal Air Force fleet of six C-17 Globemaster III airlifters surpassed 50,000 flying hours in late April, during a mission home from Afghanistan.

“The C-17 is a remarkable airlifter in every way imaginable, from mission readiness and reliability to its flexibility in being able to handle tough tasks,” said RAF Air Marshal Kevin Leeson, assistant chief of the defense staff for logistic operations. “I can’t imagine operating without them.”

“This accomplishment is a testament to the RAF and to the Boeing employees who build this reliable, durable aircraft and support our customers’ maintenance crews around the world, 24 hours a day,” said Jean Chamberlin, Boeing vice president and general manager, Global Mobility Systems.

The RAF received its first C-17s from Boeing in May 2001. The aircraft, assigned to 99 Squadron at RAF base Brize Norton near London, provide critical airlift capability for the Joint Rapid Reaction Force. Brize Norton is RAF headquarters for strategic air transport and air-to-air refueling.

The RAF was the first international C-17 customer to utilize a unique “Virtual Fleet” concept developed by the U.S. Air Force and Boeing. “The virtual fleet structure ensures cooperative support and spares to the RAF fleet no matter their geographic location,” said Gus Urzua, Boeing vice president and program manager for the C-17 Globemaster III Sustainment Partnership.

Currently, 202 C-17s are in service worldwide—14 with international customers. The U.S. Air Force, including active Guard and Reserve units, operates the remainder. International customers include the RAF, the Canadian Forces, the Royal Australian Air Force, Qatar, and the 12-member Strategic Airlift Capability consortium of NATO and Partnership for Peace nations. The United Arab Emirates announced in February that it will acquire four C-17s.

WIRELESS SYMPOSIUM BOLSTERS COLLABORATION ACROSS BOEING

A three-day symposium in Everett, Wash., recently drew together more than 200 Boeing researchers, designers and employees who use wireless equipment and systems to share how wireless technologies are being developed and utilized throughout Boeing.

The event was co-sponsored by Commercial Airplanes’ Onboard Wireless Systems Integration Group (OWSIG) and Boeing Information Technology, with support from Shared Services Group’s Frequency Management Services (FMS).

“The demand for wireless technologies and access to radio-frequency (RF) spectrum is expanding,” said Frank Whetten of OWSIG in Everett, who organized the event. “This dynamic underscores the need to be more integrated as a company as we work through these issues—from product development to operations.”

RF spectrum is a limited resource that is highly regulated by governments around the globe. Boeing coordinates authorizations for spectrum use to support programs and operations across the company in both commercial airplane and military platforms.

“This event supports our goal to implement a common strategy to acquire and manage spectrum for multiple purposes across Boeing,” said Audrey Allison, FMS director in Washington, D.C.

BOEING RECEIVES GLOBAL GREEN 100 AWARD

Boeing Information Technology was recognized by the Uptime Institute for its “outstanding commitment to energy efficiency in very large-scale enterprise computing and data center environments.”

Uptime presents the annual Global Green 100 award to Fortune 500 and Information Week 500 companies taking a visible, effective leadership position in the “greening” of enterprise computing.

The Boeing IT Computing and Network Operations (CNO) organization, which operates and maintains data centers across Boeing, launched the CNO Green IT Project in 2007. Its data center modernization program has significantly streamlined operations to reduce energy consumption.

Such environmental efforts are helping Boeing meet its aggressive goal of improving energy efficiency 25 percent by 2012.