

AROUND BOEING

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO



A Boeing F-15E Eagle drops five MK-84 Joint Direct Attack Munitions over the U.S. Navy's China Lake test range near Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. Boeing recently marked 100 straight months of delivering JDAMs on time and on cost.

3,000 JDAMS, 100 STRAIGHT MONTHS

The Boeing Weapons facility in St. Charles, Mo.—a model of Lean innovation—recently celebrated 100 consecutive months of delivering Joint Direct Attack Munitions on time and on cost to the U.S. Air Force, Navy and 16 international customers.

The JDAM is a guidance tail kit that converts existing unguided free-fall bombs into accurate, “smart” munitions. Known as the world’s most accurate bomb, JDAM is a weapon that the Air Force and Navy have used extensively in global combat operations.

The Weapons plant—which to date has delivered more than 160,000 JDAM tail kits—received the highest score in last year’s Lean Manufacturing Assessment, a Boeing-sponsored external audit of the implementation of Lean philosophies and techniques. The state-of-the-art facility is a “visual factory”: Everything in the construction of the JDAM kits can be seen at a glance, inventory is kept to a minimum, and problems are identified and resolved quickly.

Boeing’s Weapons program has won numerous awards, including the Missouri Quality Award and the Shingo Prize for Excellence in Manufacturing. The Missouri Quality Award is the official state recognition for excellence in quality leadership and is modeled after the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. The Shingo Prize recognizes companies in the United States, Canada and Mexico that achieve world-class manufacturing status.

Although Lean implementation is a key element in Boeing’s delivery of as many as 30,000 JDAMs in a month, the 250 employees there know Lean is not an end in itself, and prizes and milestones aren’t the end goal.

“We all have the warfighters on our minds,” said JDAM Contract lead Marcia Whitehouse. “This 100-month milestone reflects all the hard work that’s ultimately for them.”

—Marguerite Ozburn

ALSO AROUND BOEING

- **Boeing PART Page turns 10 years old.** The PART Page site recently celebrated its 10th anniversary of facilitating the day-to-day working relationship between the world’s airlines and Boeing’s Material Management organization. The secure site allows customers to place orders for spare parts, view part prices, check inventory, track the status of their orders and request price quotes. Since its introduction in October 1996, the PART (Part Analysis and Requirements Tracking) Page has received more than \$4 billion in orders. Today, the PART Page receives more than one million requests per month and serves 1,160 customers around the world.

The site does more than help Boeing serve its customers better. Boeing also benefits from the PART Page with fewer phone calls and e-mails, resulting in greater productivity.

- **Australian Hornet upgrade program celebrates milestone.** The Boeing Australia team recently celebrated a significant Hornet Upgrade Program milestone by delivering the 300th aircraft serviced in its hangar at Royal Australian Air Force base Williamtown.

The first aircraft was delivered to Williamtown for modification on Sept. 5, 2000. Since then, the team has handed back to the RAAF an average of more than four aircraft per month. ■



GAIL HANUSA PHOTO

Renovated Everett Delivery Center opens

Hundreds of employees and airline customers gathered recently in Everett, Wash., to celebrate the opening of the Everett Delivery Center (left). The new facility includes 4,400 square feet (410 square meters) of new construction and more than 15,000 square feet (1,400 square meters) of remodeled space. It features a new glass facade, second-floor observation deck, two customer lounges, 27 customer offices and eight high-tech conference rooms. In addition to the renovated Delivery Center, eight crew shelters on the Everett flight line are being upgraded with new furniture, paint and carpeting, kitchenettes, and flat-screen monitors to communicate airplane schedule information. The Everett Delivery Center and flight line upgrades are part of larger Boeing Production System and Lean+ efforts to reduce costs, shorten lead times and improve quality to increase customer satisfaction.

Scenes from all around

A quick look at recent Boeing milestones

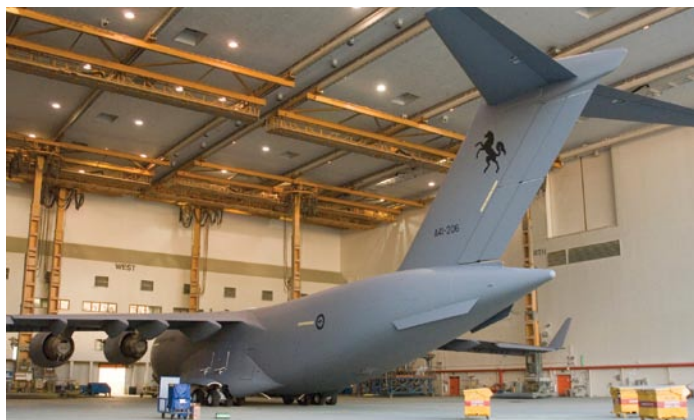
➤ SINGAPORE FINALIZES 787-9 ORDER

Boeing and Singapore Airlines said last month that the airline had ordered 20 Boeing 787-9 Dreamliners, with purchase rights for 20 additional airplanes. The carrier originally announced the selection of and intent to purchase the 787-9 in June. With this order, 33 airline customers have ordered a total of 422 airplanes in the 787 family.



BOEING IMAGE

KEN GRAEB PHOTO



^^ AUSTRALIA'S FIRST C-17 NEARS FIRST FLIGHT

The first Boeing C-17 Globemaster III for the Royal Australian Air Force rolled out of the company's paint hangar last month in Long Beach, Calif., and is being prepared for its first flight. The airplane is scheduled to arrive at RAAF Base Amberley, its home base, in December; Boeing is scheduled to deliver three more C-17s to the RAAF by 2008.

MIKE GOETTINGS PHOTO



JIM COLEY PHOTO

^^ RYANAIR ORDERS 32 MORE 737-800S

Ryanair has ordered another 32 Next-Generation 737-800 airplanes, Boeing and the Dublin-based airline said in late September. Deliveries for this order are scheduled to begin in 2008. To date, Ryanair has ordered 281 737-800s. Ryanair, whose fleet is made up solely of 737-800s, is the largest European operator of 737s and operates one of the youngest fleets in Europe.

<< NEW LIGHT HELICOPTER TAKES TO AIR

Boeing's newly designed A/MH-6X light-turbine helicopter made its first flight in late September. The A/MH-6X lifted off at the Boeing Rotorcraft Systems facility in Mesa, Ariz., and flew as a piloted aircraft for about 14 minutes before landing safely. The aircraft combines the performance of the A/MH-6M Mission Enhanced Little Bird with the unmanned aerial vehicle technologies of the Unmanned Little Bird Demonstrator.