

# The next chapter

## CH-47F Chinook rollout marks latest stage of helicopter's long history

By DONNA MCGINLEY

**B**oeing Rotorcraft Systems in Philadelphia rolled out the first of 452 new CH-47F Chinook heavy-transport helicopters early this summer in support of the Army Cargo Helicopter Modernization Program.

The CH-47—celebrating its 44th year of production this month—transports troops, supplies, weapons and other cargo in combat and features a newly designed, modernized airframe and an advanced digital cockpit. The airframe includes modern manufacturing techniques where single-piece machined components replace built-up sheet metal structures. The new components reduce operating and support costs while improving the structural integrity of the aircraft, extending the overall useful life of the Chinook.

A CH-47D Chinook flyover at the rollout ceremony highlighted the aircraft's lift capability by carrying a sling-loaded "Hum-

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—Jack Dougherty, Chinook director

vee" vehicle under the aircraft. Powered by two 4,868-horsepower Honeywell engines, the new CH-47F can reach speeds greater than 175 mph and transport payloads weighing more than 21,000 pounds. The aircraft has a mission radius of more than 400 miles (640 kilometers). Its unique tandem rotor configuration enables the Chinook to operate in conditions other helicopters can't.

"The CH-47F will give us an enhanced capability to conduct air assaults and deliver critical supplies to our soldiers as we prosecute this war on terrorism and remain on the offensive," said Col. Warren Phipps, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade commander for

the U.S. Army. "This is truly a great day for the Army, Army Aviation, and most of all our soldiers. This delivery marks the beginning of a long production run that is a keystone in Army Aviation's transformation."

Chinook director Jack Dougherty said few events have brought him more pleasure than this rollout, since it commemorates the start of a new chapter in the Chinook's long history. "I could not be more proud to be associated with this great aircraft," he said.

The new model Chinook will benefit soldiers in the battlefield. Its advanced avionics feature improved situational awareness for flight crews with an advanced digital map display and a data transfer system for storing preflight and mission data. Additionally, the Digital Advanced Flight Control system

replaces a legacy analog system.

"Chinooks are recognized around the world for their unique design, but more importantly for their capability to carry people and supplies into areas unreachable by other means," Dougherty said. "It is now the longest-running continuous production program in the history of The Boeing Company, outstripping every commercial jetliner and military aircraft the company has ever built."

Chinooks have been sold to 16 nations. The largest users are the U.S. Army and the United Kingdom's Royal Air Force. A commercial model, the Boeing 234 Chinook, is used worldwide for logging, construction, fighting forest fires and supporting petroleum exploration operations. ■

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FRED TROILO PHOTO



**Boeing employees in Philadelphia roll out to the flight ramp the first of 452 new CH-47F Chinook heavy-transport helicopters. The aircraft is part of the U.S. Army Cargo Helicopter Modernization Program.**