

Swapping spanners for sponges on C-17 wash

Buckets, sponges and detergent aren't the usual tools used by the Boeing Defence Australia team at Royal Australian Air Force Base Amberley. Each month, team members from across the site sign up to help wash the RAAF's fleet of four C-17 aircraft, supporting Boeing's C-17 Globemaster III Sustainment Partnership.

The wash team, wearing gumboots and wet-weather clothes, spends eight hours and uses approximately 6,600 gallons (24,980 liters) of collected rainwater cleaning each aircraft every 180 days, or after operational deployment as required. More than just a cosmetic requirement, the washes help maintain the aircraft's correct weight and balance and prevent corrosion.

– Karinne N. Cilento

PHOTO: Boeing Defence Australia employees including Bruce Madsen (left of aircraft, in white overalls), Howard Bell (foreground left), Paul Woodward, Dave Clarke (on elevated platform with brush) and Al Hutcheson help keep the Royal Australian Air Force's C-17 fleet clean with regular washes. JOHN DIEFENBACH/BOEING



Loud and clear

Boeing Defence Australia's Vigilare program recently marked two milestones, conducting the system's first secure live voice transmission to an offshore location at the Northern Region Operations Center at Royal Australian Air Force Base Tindal, in Northern Australia, and successfully receiving the first radar and flight plan data from defense and civilian systems around Australia. The successful tests demonstrate the configuration of the installed Vigilare system on site is robust and working correctly, said Lee Davis, deputy program manager, Vigilare.

As one of the most advanced ground-based air defense systems in the world, Vigilare will enable the Australian Defence Force to conduct surveillance and battlespace management over continental Australia and its coastline by fusing data from a number of sensors and sources. These include Boeing products such as the Wedgetail Airborne Early Warning and Control aircraft, F/A-18A/B+ Hornets and Super Hornets.

– Emily Scarfe



PHOTO: Ready to make the Vigilare system's first secure voice call to an offshore location from the Northern Region Operations Center at Royal Australian Air Force Base Tindal are (front, from left) Tony Burt and Paul Mula; (back, from left) Chris Kolokas, Phil Johnson, Jerome Hediger, Sidesh Ranchhod, Neil Staines and Anthony Ranieri. ALARIC WILLI/BOEING