



Flights of hope

Boeing rotorcraft, military transports and commercial jetliners answer the call for help when global disasters strike

It might be a lone U.S. Air Force C-17 dropping replacement engine parts to a British fishing boat adrift in pack ice near Antarctica, or a fleet of the huge cargo lifters, operated by various nations and NATO, ferrying supplies to Haiti after a devastating earthquake there.

Perhaps it's a Boeing commercial jetliner loaded with food, medicine and other aid for victims of an earthquake in China, or Chinook helicopters evacuating displaced people from flood-ravaged Pakistan, or a V-22 Osprey utilizing its unique vertical landing

PHOTOS: (Above) A U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III airdrops pallets of water and food to the town of Mirebalais, Haiti, following a 7.0-magnitude earthquake that struck the country in January. **U.S. AIR FORCE (Insets, from left)** Master Sgt. Douglas Brook and Tech. Sgt. Nicholas Wentworth of the U.S. Air Force Special Operations Command, who also are certified emergency medical technicians, perform on-scene medical care in Haiti after the quake. **U.S. AIR FORCE** Passengers on board a Canadian Forces C-17 are readied for takeoff for an evacuation flight from hard-hit Port au Prince, Haiti. **CANADA'S AIR FORCE** U.S. Army Sgt. Kristopher Perkins, a CH-47 Chinook crew chief, comforts a child whose family is being flown to higher ground following flooding in Pakistan's Swat Valley in August. **U.S. ARMY**

and high-speed cruise capabilities to quickly get help where roads and runways don't exist or have been damaged.

Whether it's a small emergency in the ocean or a disaster that affects tens of thousands on land, when the call for help and assistance goes out, Boeing aircraft operated by customers and countries from around the globe become "flights of hope" as they perform vital relief and humanitarian missions. ■



PHOTOS: (Left) U.S. marines and sailors head for a pickup by a Bell Boeing V-22 Osprey. They assessed living conditions, water sources and medical needs in Grand Saline, Haiti, soon after January's 7.0-magnitude earthquake hit. U.S. MARINE CORPS

(Insets, from left) Relief supplies carried by this U.S. Army Chinook helicopter are quickly unloaded following severe flooding in Pakistan's Swat Valley in August. U.S. ARMY A shipment of relief supplies is loaded into a just-delivered Emirates 777-300ER (Extended Range) in Everett, Wash., in August, en route to flood victims in Pakistan. GAIL HANUSA/BOEING A convertible model of Boeing's 737-based business jet, designed to easily change from passenger to cargo missions, is loaded with relief supplies for a flight to Santiago, Chile, following an earthquake there in February. NIC GROENEVELD-MEIJER/BOEING

