

# Tandem Notes

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— Phrog Phorum —

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## Australia adds Chinooks to fleet

C Squadron of the Australian Defence Force's (ADF) 5<sup>th</sup> Aviation Regiment, based at Townsville, took delivery of two new Boeing CH-47D Chinook helicopters in an acceptance and transition ceremony on March 27.

Major General Peter Abigail, ADF land commander, presided over the ceremony attended by Kenneth R. Peacock, chairman, Boeing Australia, Ltd., and other ADF and company officials.

The Chinooks, officially delivered to the ADF in February after delivery and modification in Australia, join four other CH-47Ds in service since 1995 with the 5<sup>th</sup> Aviation Regiment. The Regiment transports troops, fuel and heavy equipment in support of ground force operations and has handled a variety of humanitarian and civil relief missions for the ADF and the United Nations in the Southwest Pacific region.

The Boeing Chinook is the world's most

reliable and effective heavy-lift helicopter. Tandem rotor configuration provides exceptional lift in "high-hot" conditions, with useful loads up to 11,350 kgs. (25,000 lbs.), and excellent controllability in conditions that curtail conventional helicopter flight.

The Australian CH-47Ds are equipped with triple cargo hooks, modularized hydraulics and an improved electrical system. Large external and internal load capabilities and high airspeeds allow the Chinook to do the work of three utility helicopters and give it among the lowest cost-per-ton-nautical-mile profiles available.

The Boeing Company develops and produces military rotorcraft for customers worldwide. Among its products are the CH-47 Chinook, the AH-64D Apache, the RAH-66 Comanche and the V-22 Osprey. Boeing has been established in Australia for over 60 years, and is a major supplier of commercial and military aircraft to the nation.

## U.S. Army benefits from On Condition Maintenance



Photo Courtesy of SSG Ralph Wood, U.S. Army, DCM

Over the last six months, the On Condition Maintenance (OCM) Team, consisting of Boeing and Defense Management Center Chinook Operations and Support personnel, has worked tirelessly to identify and work through part

shortages and deliver two OCM aircraft to close out the program.

Working together, the OCM Team got the job done and as a result of this tremendous effort, the U.S. Army has two more aircraft for its fleet.

## Dear Chinook and Sea Knight User

Before the end of March, the first CH-47F prototype will be moved out of the paint shop and into the flight test hangar. We will hold a formal rollout for this new aircraft in mid-May, and are planning first flight as scheduled in late June.

Despite the budget constraints facing our defense establishment, we fully expect that the new F-model modernization program will move ahead as planned, and we are hoping to execute a contract for Low-Rate Initial Production in May. While we may not ramp up F-model production as quickly as we would like, we are confident that at least 300 Chinooks will go through our factory for another round of modification and improvements.

In addition to the F-model program, plans are quickly firming up for a similar upgrade to the Special Operations Chinook fleet, probably to be designated the MH-47G.

But the plans don't end there. As the Army focuses more on the proposed Future Transport Rotorcraft (FTR) program requirements, it is increasingly clear that the FTR will not supplant the Chinook fleet. On the contrary, Chinooks may very well continue their combat support mission to complement the FTR, a prospect that could call for new Chinook production and continued CH-47 operations that span more than a century!

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## From the field...Big Windy provides escort for HMX-1

As the last bastion of U.S. Army Chinook helicopters stationed in Europe, F/159 Aviation Regiment "Big Windy" has been the president's and Helicopter Marine Squadron One's unit of choice to support the President of the United States (POTUS), Vice-President of the United States (V-POTUS) and Secretary of Defense visitations throughout the European theater. Most recently, five Big Windy Chinooks self-deployed from Giebelstadt, Germany to support former President Clinton's visit to Ireland, Northern Ireland and London before the Christmas holidays.

The flexibility and versatility of the Chinook proved its worth again during this great event that took the company to two different support sites located in London and Dublin. The one-day deployment to Dublin was made possible with expert aircrews, superb planning and the new Robertson ERFs II loaded internally to provide maximum range. It also saved time for fuel stops.

Two of the company's CH-47Ds remained after refueling in Mildenhall, England to support former President Clinton's visit to London, while the remaining three lifted off for Dublin. Crossing both the English Channel and the Irish Sea in winter required the crews and maintenance package personnel to wear



(Clockwise l. to r.) Members of the Dublin Team on the morning before the redeployment at the Dublin International Airport; Big Windy in formation over the snowcapped highlands of Wales; Big Windy crossing the Irish Sea. Photos and story provided by Maj. Keith Meeker.

the over-water Mustang flight suits just in case of a malfunction. Maintenance rates remained high and the mission was highly successful and unique.

In addition to the CH-47, the mixed crews and airframes included MH-53Gs from the 21st SOG, VH-60 from HMX-1 and RAF Pumas based out of Northern Ireland. The Dublin mission was made

even more exciting since it was executed at night under night vision goggles and included an airborne link made with the RAF who escorted the seven-ship formation into the town of Dundalk and then into Northern Ireland and Belfast. The Big Windy crews received accolades and commemorative plaques from the commander of HMX-1.

### Boeing 234 Chinook appears on cable, in children's book

One of Oregon's most unique companies was currently in the spotlight, both on cable television and in a new children's book.

Columbia Helicopters, a leader in heavy-lift helicopter operations appeared in a segment of "Monster Machines" on The Learning Channel on Feb. 7 and 10.

The segment featured several of the company's huge helicopters, including a Boeing 234 Chinook, working on a selective logging operation in California.

One of Columbia's Boeing 234 Chinook helicopters is also featured in a book from DK Publishing.

The Chinook, one of the world's largest helicopters, is highlighted on a two-page spread in "The Big Book of Airplanes."



### Chinook gives X-40A a lift

On March 14, a U.S. Army CH-47 Chinook helicopter assisted in the first of up to seven free-flight tests of the X-40A, an 85 percent scale version of NASA's X-37 technology demonstrator at the Dryden Flight Research Center at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif.

The X-40A was lifted to an altitude of 15,000 feet above ground level and released to glide to a runway landing, guided by on-board systems. The free-flight took approximately 74 seconds from release to landing.

NASA is using the X-40A, being developed by Boeing Phantom Works, to test the shape, guidance and other systems for the X-37. The X-37 eventually will be launched into space and returned autonomously to test technologies for reusable launch vehicles. The X-37 is planned to fly two orbital missions beginning in 2003.

## From the field...Delta Schooners conduct joint service training

Even though the CH-47 Chinook is a U.S. Army Helicopter and Company G 140th Aviation conducts the bulk of its training with soldiers, occasionally interservice operations are necessary. Such was the case this February.

Company B, 4th Landing Support Battalion (LSB) United States Marine Corps is preparing for duty overseas in Korea. As part of their preparation, the rigging and movement of tactical equipment is part of the certification process for overseas deployment. Normally, air movement is coordinated through the Pacific Air Fleet, USMC. Since air assets were committed to other exercises, the possibility of receiving air support looked dim. Coordination between Company B



LSB and the Army Aviation Support Facility, Stockton, Calif. determined that Delta Schooner CH-47 Chinooks were available to support the Marine Corps.

Since February is in the middle of the rainy season, low ceilings and visibility put the training in jeopardy. Both flight and slingload crews were pleasantly surprised to find blue, warm skies on the day of the operation. All training was completed without a hitch.

The Marines who participated were amazed at the opportunity to work under the Chinook. Captain Annika Moman complemented the members of Company G 140th Aviation Regiment for their

willingness to support Joint Service Training. Soldiers of Company G were impressed with the Marines' discipline and enthusiasm.

"This was valuable training and both units walked away with a great respect for the enthusiasm of the personnel," stated SSG Loran Martin, Delta Schooner slingload training supervisor. "It was the effectiveness and the versatility of the Chinook that brought us together. We need more training like this."

Coordination for additional joint service training is currently being made.

*Photos and story provided by SFC Steve Robertson, SI*

## Yugoslavia RAF detachment heads home



Photo provided by David Billinge

Number 1310 Flight, with its Boeing Chinook HC Mk 2s, the UK Joint Helicopter Force (Palatine) detachment at Divulje Barracks has been withdrawn, effective Jan. 1.

It has been replaced by a Dutch force, which will continue the NATO commitment in the region.

The RAF's Support helicopters have been involved in supporting NATO peace-keeping operations in Bosnia and Croatia since the summer of 1995, operating out of Ploce and Zagreb, before the Chinook detachment at Split was established in November-December the same year.

Since then, the Divulje Barracks site has developed into a major helicopter base, with the Odiham-based Chinooks of 1310 Flight operating along side permanent Navy and Army squadron detachments.

## Phrog model takes flight



Christian Hoej, of Holbaek, Denmark, submitted several photos of his CH-46E Sea Knight radio controlled helicopter. Hoej is an avid model builder and aviation enthusiast who grew up building

models with his father. The 1/14 scale model took Hoej 150 hours to complete, primarily due to the complexity of the mechanics. He has been flying model helicopters for four years.

## CH-46s refurbished, repaired



A group of CH-46s rests at the Naval Aviation Depot (NADEP), located aboard the Marine Corps Air Station in Cherry Point, N.C. They are being prepared for extensive maintenance. NADEP Cherry Point is one of three major Navy industrial facilities specializing in depot level maintenance and world-wide engineering and logistics management for modern military weapon systems. NADEP's mission remains "Service to the Fleet."

## Chinook to make cameo in upcoming film



Photo by Royal Air Force

A Chinook HC Mk 2 from Squadron Number 18 based at RAF Odiham was photographed en route from Odiham to the Salisbury Training Area to take part in some flying sequences that were filmed

as part of the soon to be released film, "Tomb Raider." The action-adventure film stars Lara Croft, videogame diva, in her first feature-length film. The film hits the box office on June 15.

## USSOCOM exec hails CH-47

A vote of confidence can go a long way—especially when it comes from an important customer.

Harry Schulte, United States Special Operation Command (USSOCOM) Acquisition and Procurement executive, spoke to a few hundred Boeing Philadelphia employees on Feb. 8. He detailed USSOCOM's support of the CV-22 and Chinook and thanked everyone for their hard work and craftsmanship.

He explained that although he was impressed with the facilities, he was most impressed with the employees.

"Everyone I've talked to seems to have a can-do attitude," he said. "Your contributions to the success of Special Operations have nothing to do with your proximity to the target. What you do is as important as what the guys on the front line do. Everyone here is a part of SOCOM."

"From what I've seen, everyone takes their jobs very seriously," added Schulte. "SOCOM thanks you for your efforts."

Mike Anderson, site manager, summed up Boeing Philadelphia's relationship with Schulte the best.

"He buys stuff, and we make stuff," he said. "He's here to take a look at our products and see the many improvements we've made."

Although his role is not quite that simple, Schulte is responsible for fielding an adequate fleet for Army, Navy and Air Force Special Operations units. He cited the recent Kosovo engagement as an example of why SOCOM exists.

"Our Air Force Special Operations goes in to rescue downed pilots," he said. "The CV-22 is going to do that for us in the future."

He makes his decisions to buy aircraft just like most people do when they buy cars—he takes them for a ride.

"It's the most advanced helicopter in the world," he said of a recent ride in a CH-47E. "It's just beautiful. Special operations does special missions, so we need special aircraft."

Prior to his speech, Schulte toured several manufacturing areas, including the MH-47E refurbishing area, the Chinook 3P area and the V-22 production line.

"It's good news that they like our products," said Brian Concannon, a member of the Chinook final assembly team. "Our guys know how to build these aircraft."