

TED WHITESIDE PHOTO



### Japan's first tanker makes first flight

Boeing test pilots in December took the first KC-767 Tanker slated for the Japan Air Self-Defense Force on its initial flight. The aircraft lifted off from McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita, Kan., next to the Boeing Integrated Defense Systems Wichita facility, and flew for three hours and 30 minutes. "This first flight represents an enormous step in meeting Japan's strategic self-defense needs," said Maj. Kenji Nagatomo, Japan on-site Tanker program liaison. The aircraft, scheduled for delivery in early 2007 will be Japan's first aerial-refueling platform and is the first of the JASDF's four KC-767 Tankers.

# AROUND BOEING

## FUTURE COMBAT SYSTEMS BECOMING A PRESENT REALITY

Despite the word Future in its name, Future Combat Systems isn't a dream or a far-fetched idea but is swiftly becoming reality.

As of 2004 the program's objective was to provide the U.S. Army with equipment, vehicles and technology in 2014 as a key part of the Army's modernization program. All of that changed in 2004 when the Army decided that the soldiers weren't getting the technology fast enough and asked Boeing and its One Team Partners to accelerate its delivery schedule, providing technology as it matures to the current Army. The \$6.1 billion restructure requires that selected increments of technology will be delivered in four phases called Spin Outs. The first phase is on target for delivery in 2008.

The first step in meeting the 2008 delivery date was the establishment in January of the Evaluation Brigade Combat Team (EBCT) in El Paso, Texas. The Texas site was chosen for its proximity to Fort Bliss, Texas, and White Sands Missile Range, N.M., where the testing will take place. This is a huge investment for the Army that focuses on soldiers testing equipment during early development and returning feedback directly to engineers.

What's it like to work on the first Spin Out? "We're not just working on this first phase; we're living it every day," said Charlie Williams, Spin Out 1 program manager. "What FCS has done is set new standards not just for FCS but also for the United States.

We have to get technology to the soldier as quickly as it becomes available. It's a huge step to get capability now to the Army's current force. It's never been done before."

In Spin Out 1, FCS is giving the soldier revolutionary situational awareness for the first time with the sensors, Intelligent Munitions System protection, and the ability to take out targets at a long range. Soldiers will be able to sit in their vehicles and have improved battlefield situational awareness via their displays. For the first time FCS will be giving the current U.S. forces—Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines—up-to-date information from the battlefield in real time and the ability to coordinate and exploit that information.

At the same time FCS delivers Spin Out 1 it will be working concurrently on three other Spin Outs and the final delivery.

—Laurie Allison

## ALSO AROUND BOEING:

The Space and Intelligence Systems division of Integrated Defense Systems received a California Awards for Performance Excellence Gold Level award. The award, sponsored by the California Council for Excellence, recognizes outstanding continuous improvement in U.S. organizations and is based on the Baldrige National Quality Program criteria for performance excellence. S&IS joins only three other companies in the large manufacturing business category to receive a Gold Level award in the program's history. ■



The second Dreamlifter, a specially modified 747-400 designed to carry large components of the new 787 Dreamliner airplane, rolled out of the hangar Jan. 7 in Taipei, Taiwan. The Dreamlifter plays a major role in the production of the Dreamliner by ferrying large parts of 787s from program partners around the world to the 787's final assembly site in Everett, Wash. Evergreen Aviation Technologies Corporation will modify a total of three Dreamlifters at its facility in Taiwan. Last month, the Dreamlifter successfully delivered major assemblies from Nagoya, Japan, to Charleston, S.C.

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