Lockheed Martin's Third C-5M Super Galaxy Test Aircraft Flown For The First Time

The third fully modernized Lockheed Martin C-5M Super Galaxy test aircraft made its first flight today from Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga. This is the third of three test aircraft that are being used to test and demonstrate the improved reliability, maintainability and availability of this strategic airlift workhorse.

"This new C-5M was previously an A-model," said George Shultz, Vice President, Lockheed Martin C-5 Modernization program. "C-5A-models have about 70% of their useful structural life remaining and have been validated as structurally sound for decades to come by the Air Force Fleet Viability Board. These aircraft are operated by the National Guard and Air Force Reserve, and through modernization we will improve their availability and overall reliability while reducing total ownership costs by about $38 billion dollars."

The C-5 modernization program is being implemented in two phases -- the avionics modernization program (AMP) and the reliability enhancement and re- engining program (RERP). The AMP adds a new, modern cockpit that includes a digital all-weather flight control system and autopilot, a new communications suite, flat panel displays, and enhanced navigation safety equipment to ease crew workload and enhance situational awareness. C-5 aircraft which have completed the AMP update have logged more than 8,000 hours with the new system, many of which were flown in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The centerpiece of the C-5 modernization program is the installation of the General Electric CF6-80C2 commercial propulsion system on the aircraft. The GE propulsion system has accumulated more than 300 million flight hours on more than 229 commercial and military customers, including the 747, 767 and Air Force One. This propulsion system is more fuel efficient and reliable than the legacy system and it complies with international noise reduction regulations. The engine delivers higher performance which means improved survivability when operating in hostile environments and improved range and payload on all missions.

The C-5 has been the backbone of strategic airlift in every military engagement through Operation Iraqi Freedom. The C-5M will serve the nation in that same capacity through 2040. It is the only aircraft capable of carrying 100 percent of certified air-transportable cargo and includes a dedicated passenger compartment enabling commanders to have troops and their equipment arrive in an area of operation simultaneously when national security concerns demand fast force closure.

Headquartered in Bethesda, Md., Lockheed Martin employs about 140,000 people worldwide and is principally engaged in the research, design, development, manufacture, integration and sustainment of advanced technology systems, products and services. The corporation reported 2006 sales of $39.6 billion.

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