SB>1 DEFIANT Helicopter Completes Long-Endurance Flight To Nashville

The Lockheed Martin Sikorsky-Boeing SB>1 DEFIANT® helicopter flew 700 nautical miles from West Palm Beach, Florida to Nashville to give U.S. Army Aviators a first-hand look at this impressive aircraft. Photo courtesy Lockheed Martin Sikorsky-Boeing.

NASHVILLE March 31, 2022 — After three years of proving its transformational flight capabilities, the Lockheed Martin Sikorsky-Boeing SB>1 DEFIANT® helicopter arrived in Nashville this week to give U.S. Army Aviators a first-hand look at this impressive aircraft at the Army Aviation Association of America's annual summit.

Army aviators at the summit will be able to see how Team DEFIANT is revolutionizing Future Vertical Lift, one of the Army's top modernization priorities, with a focus on transforming the Future Long-Range Assault Aircraft program's capabilities, production and sustainment resulting in lower-life cycle costs. The result is DEFIANT X® a complete weapon system that builds on the handling qualities and capabilities proven by the team's technology demonstrator, SB>1 DEFIANT®.

"When Sikorsky and Boeing embarked on the DEFIANT journey, we were mission focused and thinking ahead to creating a holistic weapon system that would give America's Soldiers a strategic advantage to deter and defeat threats well into the 21st century," said Sikorsky President Paul Lemmo. "DEFIANT ensures our aviators are confident and prepared for what's ahead and gives them the agility to adapt to evolving threats."

“This monumental flight further proves the maturity of the DEFIANT design and that it is ready to support the Army’s future long-range assault missions,” said Mark Cherry, Boeing Vice President and General Manager of Vertical Lift. “Just as SB>1 DEFIANT flew safely over multiple states from Florida to Tennessee, DEFIANT X will safely fly and meet all of our customer’s objectives.”

Sikorsky’s Bill Fell and Boeing’s Ed Henderscheid piloted SB>1 DEFIANT’s momentous 700-nautical miles trip from West Palm Beach, Florida, to Nashville. This is the first time the helicopter has traveled outside of the state of Florida.

“On the trip from West Palm Beach to Nashville, DEFIANT used less than 50 percent of the engine power available and less than 50 percent of the propulsor torque,” Fell said. “There’s a lot more that this machine has to offer. This is the future of Army aviation.”

“DEFIANT behaved flawlessly. Fuel burn was at or even less than what we expected,” Henderscheid said. “This 700-nautical mile trip is the culmination of three years of hard work on this program.”

Also this week, Team DEFIANT announced the newest members of its team:

- ATI, Cudahy, Wisconsin: gearbox forgings
- Collins Aerospace, Windsor Locks, Connecticut: Perigon™ flight control and vehicle management computer; and Colorado Springs, Colorado: aircraft seats
- Elbit Systems of America, Fort Worth, Texas: mission system computer
- Parker Aerospace, Irvine, California: flight controls; and Kalamazoo, Michigan: hydraulic pumps and modules
- Magnaghi Aeronautica, Medford, New York: landing gear
- Marotta Controls, Boonton, New Jersey: electrical power system components

The team previously announced that Honeywell will provide its new HTS7500 turboshaft engine to power DEFIANT X.

For more information, visit www.lockheedmartin.com/defiantx, view our Team Defiant videos on YouTube and watch our video series about how DEFIANT delivers the edge at https://www.lockheedmartin.com/delivering-the-edge.

About Sikorsky and Boeing
Together, Sikorsky and Boeing have built 90 percent of the U.S. Army’s current military rotorcraft and have totaled more than 15 million flight hours. We’re the team that has brought forward iconic military rotorcraft including: Black Hawk, Chinook and Apache. The iconic UH-60 Black Hawk has proven itself to be the premiere assault platform in the world and DEFIANT X® will bring the next level of capability that the Future Long-Range Assault Aircraft requires.

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