



## **150TH C-130J DELIVERED**

Lockheed Martin has delivered the 150th C-130J Super Hercules. The milestone aircraft was the eighth and final C-130J assigned to the 146th Airlift Wing, the California Air National Guard unit at Channel Islands Air National Guard Base near Oxnard. The aircraft was accepted and flown to California by Brig. Gen. Darren W. McDew, vice commander of 18th Air Force at Scott AFB, Ill.

“The C-130J is an evolutionary leap in airlift technology compared to legacy C-130s,” McDew said during the acceptance ceremony in Marietta. “This aircraft offers flexibility through greater range and payload for commanders as well as advanced situational awareness for aircrews. As the Air Force looks for ways to accomplish the mission more efficiently, the C-130J is a key contributor to that goal.”

The 146th Airlift Wing has just returned from a 20-month deployment to Iraq where their Super Hercules aircraft were used as part of a C-130J joint force deployment for high tempo intra-theater operations. During the deployment, four C-130Js were flown on 5,444 sorties totaling 10,750 flight hours, and the aircraft delivered 12,681 tons of cargo and carried 70,350 passengers.

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## **THE EIGHTH FOR RHODE ISLAND “COMPLETES THE FLEET”**

This month saw the delivery of the eighth C-130J Super Hercules for the 143rd Airlift Wing, the Air National Guard Unit based at Quonset State Airport, Rhode Island. This is the last C-130J currently on order for R.I. Brig. Gen. Scott Wuesthoff, vice commander, Tanker Airlift Control Center, Scott AFB, Ill., accepted the new aircraft in Marietta.

“I am absolutely delighted and honored to deliver this superb aircraft to the Total Force mobility fleet. The recapitalization of the C-130 fleet is essential and this represents a great step in the right direction”, said Wuesthoff. “Every J model that’s added to the mobility arsenal provides us greater range, speed and flexibility as we support the nation’s warfighters.”



*A formation of six Rhode Island C-130J Super Hercules approaches the coast during the “Completes the Fleet” ceremony.*

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## ITALY'S 46TH AIR BRIGADE RECOGNIZED FOR INTERNATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Translated from the *Aeronautica Militare* web site



*The Flight Awards, organized by Flight International magazine, the most prestigious European aeronautics industry publication, were held on Monday, 18 June, featuring the award given to the 46th Air Brigade located in Pisa, Italy.*

On Monday, 18 June, in the beautiful setting of the Pavillon d'Armenonville at the Le Bourget exhibition center in Paris, the Flight Awards, organized by *Flight International* magazine, the industry's most prestigious publication in Europe, were held, with guests including all of the most important authorities in the world of aeronautics. The evening included the award presented to the 46th Air Brigade, Pisa, in the category "Air Transport Defence Person/Team" for the thousands of hours flown throughout the world to bring aid to people in need, including to places that can only be reached with craft like the C-130J, thereby showing a level of true excellence in the field of humanitarian aid aeronautics.

The international missions of the 46th Air Brigade, mentioned during the awards ceremony, include post-disaster missions to Southeast Asia following the tsunami that hit the region, to Africa, and to the U.S. after Hurricane Katrina, as well as to Iraq and Afghanistan. The award was also given in recognition of the excellent synergy of the C-130J, produced by Lockheed Martin, and the professionalism of the people who make up the 46th Air Brigade.

Receiving the award was Brig. Gen. Vitantonio Cormio, commander of the 46th Air Brigade in Pisa, and the captain of the C-130J, Alessandro Amatiello. Lt. Gen. Daniele Tei, commander of the air squadron, was also in attendance, representing the Air Force Chief of Defense.

## C-130J DELIVERY TO AIR MOBILITY COMMAND CONTINUES USAF AIRLIFT RECAPITALIZATION

The second C-130J Super Hercules to an Air Mobility Command active duty combat delivery unit has been delivered. After accepting the new C-130J Maj. Gen. James Hawkins, commander 18th Air Force, Scott Air Force Base, Ill, flew the aircraft to Little Rock AFB where it will operate as part of the 463rd Airlift Group.

"The C-130 in general has been a true workhorse. The J-model provides so much more capability, especially in dealing with the high altitude and hot temperatures our crews encounter in Iraq and Afghanistan" said Hawkins during the delivery ceremony. "What the C-130J will do for air mobility is incredible. One C-130J does the work of three C-130Es. So this recapitalization effort will yield big dividends as we continue to support the Global War on Terror."

The 463rd, which operates a fleet of 13 C-130Es and 14 C-130Hs, is currently scheduled to receive at least 16 C-130Js.

## OKINAWA SQUADRON RECEIVES FIRST SUPER HERCULES

By Lance Cpl. Corey A. Blodgett, MCB Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan.

Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152 received its first KC-130J Super Hercules June 4 as the high-tech airplane touched down on the runway here. Over the next 18 months, nine new aircraft will replace the older KC-130 models,



*Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152's new KC-130J sits in front of the first KC-130 bought by the Marine Corps in 1961*

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most of which date back to the early 1960s, said Lt. Col. Dwight C. Neeley, the commanding officer of VMGR-152. In fact, one of the aircraft to be replaced was the first KC-130 purchased by the Marine Corps and is the oldest in the Navy and Marine Corps inventory, he said.

“I’m beyond excited,” he said. “We’ve worked very hard well over a year to try and make (the conversion) possible,” he said. “The engines, propellers and avionics systems are so much more advanced. It allows us to fly these planes a lot more than we can the planes that are 40 years old.”

Maintaining the aged KC-130s was becoming time-consuming and costly, according to Lt. Col. John M. Peck, the executive officer of VMGR-152.

“It costs a lot more to maintain and keep the old KC-130s running where they should be,” Peck said. “The (KC-130Js) are a lot easier to maintain and will definitely save (the Marine Corps) money.”

Along with saving the Marine Corps money, the new fuel efficient model’s capabilities far surpass those of the old KC-130s, Neeley explained. The new aircraft has a carrying capacity of 21.7 tons,

max cruise speed of 408 mph and max un-refueled range of 2,739 miles with an 18-ton payload.

The new planes feature state-of-the-art avionics equipment and a computerized cockpit with head-up display that provide pilots with an extraordinary amount of information, said Maj. Kenneth L. Asbridge, a pilot on the new KC-130J.

“There’s so much information at the pilot’s fingertips, I can’t even begin to explain,” Asbridge said. “In the old plane, we were literally flying by the seat of our pants. Now we are monitoring computers and everything is very exact.”

He also said the plane is much faster because the new six-blade propellers, which provide up to 25 percent more horsepower, and the air-to-air refueling system boasts a fuel flow rate double that of its predecessor.

Even with all the advanced technology, Asbridge said that sometimes just the feel of a plane is important and the KC-130J definitely passed that test. “The old one handles like an old Cadillac, but this one is like a sports car,” he said.



**Birds of a Feather: Flying the J-model in Formation**

*Flying over the Mississippi Sound, a C-130J-30 trails a WC-130J in formation flight. Both aircraft are assigned to the 493rd Wing at Kessler AFB, Miss. The C-130J-30 is used for all manner of airlift and is assigned to the 815th Airlift Squadron while the primary mission for the WC-130J, assigned to the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, is hurricane reconnaissance. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Tech.Sgt. James B. Pritchett)*



*Two of the Air Force’s newest airlifters, the C-130J-30, fly in formation during a training mission. Flown by citizen airmen of the 815th Airlift Squadron, the C-130J-30 aircraft make formation flying easier for aircrews promoting efficiency even in adverse conditions due to the head-up displays which allow pilots to view essential flight information while never taking their eyes off the outside environment. These aircraft are assigned to Air Force Reserve Command’s 403rd Wing. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Maj. Chad Gibson)*