



Congratulazioni: Italian C-130J fleet reaches 75K landmark

The Italian Air Force recently celebrated a major operational milestone: reaching 75,000 flight hours with its fleet of Lockheed Martin C-130J Super Hercules transport aircraft — a feat equal to approximately 900 trips around the equator.

The Italian Air Force's 46th Air Brigade operates a total of 22 Super Hercules, which began service in 2000. During the past eight years, Italy has significantly contributed to the development of tactics for the "J" and has flown its fleet in both combat and humanitarian missions.

To commemorate this landmark event, the Italian Air Force hosted a special ceremony on Oct. 15 in Pisa, Italy. On hand for the celebration was Ross Reynolds, Lockheed Martin's vice president for C-130 Programs.

Speaking to guests and reporters, Reynolds praised the 46th Air Brigade for its accomplishments.

"Seventy-five thousand flight hours is a tremendous achievement. From your unrelenting missions out of Herat in support of allied troops in Afghanistan, to the Ridare la luce medical missions in Africa, you are truly the operator by which all other C-130J operators are measured," he said.

Reynolds presented the 46th with a large scale C-130J model that will stand in the entrance to the National Training Centre in Pisa. The centre is used to train C-130J aircrew and maintainers and has, since 2004, provided over 800 hours of training and produces approximately 150 pilots per year.



Ross Reynolds, Lockheed Martin vice president for C-130 Programs, at the Italian Air Force 75,000 flight hour celebration in Pisa, Italy.

J View

Each month *J News* offers an individual's perspective of the C-130J program.

"Having the good fortune to be part of a great C-130J team and to have participated in the program's successes over the years has been a remarkable experience for me. Working in Master Scheduling affords a unique opportunity to interface with all of the organizations required to successfully plan, sell and execute programs. It is particularly rewarding to see our hard work and commitment result in significant increases in planned aircraft production and modifications into the future."

*Rick Kienel
Master Planner/Scheduler
C-130 Master Scheduling*



Qatar to receive four C-130J Super Hercules aircraft

The State of Qatar signed a \$393.6 million contract with Lockheed Martin in early October for the purchase of four C-130J Super Hercules airlifters plus training and spares with deliveries to begin in 2011. Qatar's new C-130Js will be the longer fuselage or "stretched" variant of the C-130J.

Since this is Qatar's first experience with C-130s, the package being provided by Lockheed Martin is a complete solution. It includes: four aircraft, training of aircrew and maintenance technicians, spares, ground support and test equipment, servicing carts, forklifts, loading vehicles, cargo pallets, and a team of technical specialists that will be based in Qatar during an initial support period.

"This acquisition of a fleet of C-130Js will provide our country with a highly flexible airlift capability," said Brig. Gen. Ahmad Ibrahim Al Malki, chairman of the Qatar Emiri

Air Force Airlift Evaluation Committee. "No other aircraft can do what a C-130J can do and we are proud to join the many, many countries around the world that operate the world's most successful airlifter."

"We are extremely proud to be selected to provide the world's most advanced tactical mobility aircraft to meet Qatar's operational airlift needs," said Jim Jamerson, president, Middle East/Africa Region, Lockheed Martin Corporation. "The C-130J Super Hercules will equip the Qatari Emiri Air Force with proven, modern and effective tactical and strategic airlift to support a wide range of Qatar's national requirements."

Qatar joins the rapidly growing number of nations with C-130J fleets including Australia, Canada, Denmark, India, Italy, Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States.

HOC '08 focuses on global partnerships, sustainment

More than 700 representatives of the 35 nations that fly variants of C-130 aircraft met in late October for the 20th annual Hercules Operators Conference (HOC), hosted by Lockheed Martin in Atlanta.

The four-day conference (Oct. 27–31) provided opportunities for the global C-130 Hercules community to address sustainment capabilities and concepts with the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM), its subcontractors and suppliers with a primary goal of further enhancing the readiness of C-130s operated worldwide.

Conference discussions included briefings and information sessions covering all sustainment and maintenance aspects of L-100 and C-130 aircraft, as well as supply-chain logistics, aircraft propulsion support and performance-based logistics (PBL).

Lockheed Martin embraces the PBL concept and has a number of award-winning examples of successful partnerships. Customers using the OEM for maintenance and logistics express that they have absolute faith in the advice and support provided by the field support representatives deployed to support their aircraft with a single point of contact to address their needs.

"Lockheed Martin supports its customers with technically advanced sustainment concepts leveraged by our engineering know-how and partnerships with our customers," said Rob Weiss, executive vice president, Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Global Sustainment. "Our customers who fly the C-130 and all our products can depend on us to provide the kind of tailored sustainment solutions they need to keep their aircraft flying."

Attendees at the 2008 Hercules Operator's Conference included pilots, maintainers and crew chiefs who operate and sustain all versions and models of the aircraft throughout the United States and around the world.



The 2008 HOC included tours of Lockheed Martin's Marietta plant. Here, HOC attendees tour the plant's wind tunnel.

Four Harriers performing air-to-air combat drills get fill-up from Okinawa-based KC-130J

Article courtesy of Lance Cpl. Stefanie C. Pupkiewicz

A KC-130J Hercules with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, flew an aerial refueling mission with four AV-8B Harriers in early October 2008.

The Harriers, from Marine Attack Squadron 223, MAG-14, 2nd MAW, currently are attached to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit's air combat element stationed at the Marine Corps Air Station Futenma in Okinawa, Japan.

"The AV-8B pilots were running air-to-air combat drills before the refueling with the KC-130J took place. The drills were part of the 31st MEU's preparation for Talon Vision in the Philippines. Several aerial refueling missions are flown every week by VMGR-152, but they are usually with fixed-wing units from Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni", said Staff Sgt. William Riley, a loadmaster with VMGR-152.

"The KC-130J can carry up to 60,000 pounds of fuel. On this three-hour mission, the plane had 38,000 pounds of fuel to give at 18,000 feet", said Lt. Col. Paul Patrick, pilot and commanding officer of VMGR-152.

Once the KC-130J reached the meeting point, the Hercules circled, waiting for the Harriers to arrive. When the Harriers arrived alongside the Hercules, the hoses emerged from the underside of the wings.

Each hose was equipped with a basket-like end called a drogue that stretched 85 feet from the KC-130J to the fuel intake probes

mounted on the Harriers. The probe entered the drogue and, once properly situated, the fuel transmission began.

After refueling, the Harriers returned to their combat drills and the Hercules headed back to Futenma, ready to continue the squadron's mission of providing aerial refuel and assault support.



An AV-8B Harrier pilot with Marine Attack Squadron 223, Marine Aircraft Group 14, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, currently attached to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit air combat element, inserts his jet's probe into a drogue, a stabilization device fitted on a KC-130J Hercules' refueling hose, during a mission with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152, MAG-36, 1st MAW, Oct. 8. (Photo by Lance Cpl. Stefanie C. Pupkiewicz)

There is no substitute for a good cup of tea



A Royal Air Force C-130J crew enjoying a well-earned cup of tea on an airfield somewhere in the Middle East. Tea was provided by the UK's Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA). (Crown Copyright)



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