



C-130J has très magnifique showing at 2009 PAS

Not one, but two C-130Js were at this year's Paris Air Show, defining exactly why the C-130J is the proven airlifter of choice worldwide.

C-130Js from the Channel Islands Air National Guard (Calif.) and Little Rock Air Force Base (Ark.) supported Lockheed Martin staff at the air show, which took place June 15-21 at Le Bourget Airport.

The Channel Island aircraft was on static display and open for tours, while the Little Rock aircraft, flown by a Lockheed Martin team, flew demonstration, customer and media flights.

The historic air show was an ideal venue to showcase the C-130J's proven capabilities in design, production, multi-mission flexibility, operations, reliability and sustainability, and multirole capabilities. European air forces have long relied on the powerful C-130 for airlift needs, especially so with the J model.

"While we've had a long-time C-130 Hercules presence in Europe with the United Kingdom, Italy and Denmark, the recent arrival of the first C-130J at Ramstein Air Base in Germany gives us another valuable opportunity to show Europe the amazing abilities of this aircraft," said Ross Reynolds, Lockheed Martin vice president, C-130 programs. "One day, these C-130Js are involved in humanitarian missions. The next, they are deploying to a combat theater. Europe is seeing first-hand just how essential this plane is for air forces worldwide every day."

More and more air forces worldwide are lining up to take advantage of the C-130J's unique mix of agility and performance to deploy troops, transport supplies and provide disaster and humanitarian relief to the most remote and austere areas of the world.



Above: A C-130J from the Channel Islands (Calif.) National Guard was one of two C-130Js at the 2009 Paris Air Show, which took place from June 15-21 at Le Bourget Airport. The Channel Islands aircraft was on static display, while a C-130J from Little Rock Air Force Base (Ark.) flew demonstration flights. Below: Reporters enjoyed a press briefing at the air show in the most appropriate venue: a C-130J cargo hold. Photos by Lockheed Martin.

Sultanate of Oman joins C-130J family

Lockheed Martin signed a contract with the Sultanate of Oman for a C-130J Super Hercules in early June. The aircraft, to be delivered in mid-2012, is the longer C-130J-30 configuration.

Oman currently operates a fleet of three C-130Hs purchased in the early 1980s. The new C-130J will be used to further support Omani operations where its ability to operate out of remote austere airstrips will be invaluable.

C-130s commemorate D-Day 65th anniversary

Article courtesy of Ramstein Air Base Public Affairs

More than 70 Ramstein airmen were part of the weeklong festivities celebrating the 65th Anniversary of D-Day in Normandy, France, June 4 to 7, 2009.

Though the Air Force as we know it today was not around in 1944, airpower certainly played a key role in the events that led to the liberation of France. After all, the first invaders of Normandy, on June 6, 1944, did not arrive by sea during the day, but by air at night.

In fact, the units that provided that airpower 65 years ago have a direct lineage to both of the wings at Ramstein. The 435th Troop Carrier Group and 37th Troop Carrier Squadron were responsible for the C-47 Skytrains who dropped thousands of U.S. paratroopers of the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions in Normandy.

“We will never forget the courageous acts of heroism displayed here,” said Brig. Gen. Michael Callan, 17th Air Force vice commander and guest speaker for the ceremony held in Picauville, France, June 5.

The ceremony paid tribute to the C-47 aircrews and paratroopers who crashed near the town on June 6, 1944. This year, a C-47 model was added to the memorial site.

To pay tribute to this lineage and the historic liberation of France overall, Airmen from Ramstein contributed to the nearly 30 ceremonies that took place during the week, with a major role in events held at Chef du Pont, Picauville, Caretan, and Mont Saint Michel, culminating with an airborne drop June 7 near Sainte Mere Eglise.

“It is really an honor to come back here,” said Master Sgt. Alan Arceneaux, 37th Airlift Squadron flight engineer. “This squadron has so much history with D-Day and so little is known about it. The 37th TCS actually coordinated a lot of the drops that day.”

Whether talking to veterans, standing in formation, escorting media or performing flyovers, Team Ramstein ensured airpower remained a key element during the events.

On Sunday, more than 300 U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force, British and German paratroopers jumped out of U.S. Air Force C-130s, and French and German C-160s to commemorate the historic airdrop made so long ago.

“Jumping onto (the) ‘Iron Mike’ Drop Zone is a humbling experience, especially when you reflect on what happened there 65 years ago,” said Col. Timothy Brown, 86th Contingency Response Group commander, who was one of eight Ramstein Airmen to jump during the ceremony June 7. “Our conditions Sunday weren’t ideal, but at least it was daytime, and we weren’t being shot at. I’m in awe of what they did in 1944. We owe our freedom today to that generation of brave Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines.”



A Ramstein C-130 drops U.S. Army soldiers over Saint Mere Eglise June 7 as part of a re-enactment of the D-Day paratrooper jump that took place 65 years ago over the same area. (Photo courtesy of U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Cecilio Ricardo.)

On June 6, 1944, 160,000 Allied troops landed along a 50-mile stretch of heavily-fortified French coastline to fight Hitler’s forces on the beaches of Normandy. That day, more than 9,000 Allied Soldiers were killed or wounded, but more than 100,000 Soldiers began the march across Europe.

“We are walking through the pages of history here,” said Lt. Col. Mark August, 37th Airlift Squadron commander, who took part in the week’s events. “There are two pages here, one that was written 65-years-ago, and one being written today.”

In the Airborne Museum in the small town of Saint Mere Eglise, there is a picture of one of the original 37th TCS airplanes, August said.

“The other page of history is this is the last time the C-130Es from the 37th AS will be fulfilling this mission,” he added. “Next time we come we will be flying the Super Hercules exclusively.”

Regardless of the model though, the sound of cargo aircraft flying overhead reflects the sound of freedom to the residents of Normandy.

“Hearing the sound of the aircraft is very special to me,” said Andre Chauvin, an 80-year-old Normandy resident who, along with his 10 other siblings, helped provide medical care to 12 U.S. servicemembers who crashed in a C-47 nearly 100 yards from his house in 1944.

Chauvin, now a resident of Cherbourg, France, comes to the Picauville ceremony every year to honor those who died that day, and those who fought to liberate the town. This year he met the granddaughter of one of the 12 who he helped avoid capture from the occupying forces, and it brought tears to his eyes.

“I’ll never forget that day,” he said.

Oh, Canada!



The cargo floor of the first Canadian CC-130J has officially hit the C-130J production line at Lockheed Martin in Marietta, Ga. The floor, which was built at Lockheed Martin's subassembly plant in Meridian, Miss., was delivered to Marietta this month. Scheduled for delivery in the summer of 2010, this bird has a few more steps to go through before it starts to look like a J. Photos by John Rossino.

J View

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

"It has been a true pleasure being a part of the C-130J Production and Field Service teams. I have been afforded the opportunity to experience the customer's point of view of a brand new C-130J, and 10 years later get to see the same customer have the same level of enthusiasm they had when the aircraft was first delivered. Being a part of the Lockheed Martin team that manufactured the aircraft, provided training and onsite support to the customer makes me proud of our company's commitment to excellence. Getting the opportunity to experience the C-130J in real world missions and represent Lockheed Martin on a daily basis is priceless, and I have the best job in the world."

Scott Brinegar
Lockheed Martin C-130J Field Service Representative
Keesler Air Force Base (Miss.)



Photo by Damien Guarnieri.



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