

AROUND BOEING

BOEING TO EXPAND PRESENCE IN UNITED KINGDOM

Boeing said last month it will expand its presence in the United Kingdom by establishing a new facility in Bristol to support its growing defense business activities.

The new facility, part of the company's wholly owned subsidiary Boeing Defence UK Ltd., will focus on supporting Boeing's efforts on the Future Rapid Effect System program. FRES is intended to develop a new family of medium-weight, network-capable armored vehicles for the British Army.

Separately, Boeing and U.K. defense technology and security company QinetiQ said last month the companies will open a center for network demonstration and experimentation at QinetiQ's Cody Technology Park site in Farnborough, England. The center will offer customers the latest in modeling, simulation and analysis tools. The facility is scheduled to be operational by the end of this year.

TOTALACCESS OFFERS PHONE SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS

TotalAccess telephone service will be easier and faster to use, thanks to a new system that will be fully implemented this month.

Under the new "say it your way" system, callers use their own words to respond to the single question, "What can I help you with today?" By eliminating the need to wade through a list of menu options, the system routes calls more quickly and accurately to Boeing-provided Human Resources services. (However, once the new phone system connects callers to services hosted by partners outside of Boeing, such as Health & Insurance, Savings and Pension, callers will still have to select from their list of phone menu options.)

Implementation began last month with a small number of callers. All users will be on the new system by Aug. 8.

As always, to protect personal information, callers must use their TotalAccess password and BEMS ID (or Social Security number) every time they call.

3 BCA TEAMMATES TAKE LEADERSHIP SPOTS

Boeing Commercial Airplanes last month tapped three teammates to fill leadership positions.

- Barb O'Dell was named vice president of Commercial Airplanes Manufacturing & Quality. O'Dell, previously the director of Procurement Quality Assurance, reports to Jim Morris, vice president, Commercial Airplanes Engineering & Manufacturing. O'Dell is responsible for manufacturing and quality processes, resources and skills at production and delivery sites across Commercial Airplanes. She replaces Steve Westby, who was recently named vice president, 787 Manufacturing and Quality.

- Todd Zarfos was named vice pres-

ident, Commercial Airplanes Product Development. Previously chief production engineer on the 777 program, Zarfos is responsible for leading preliminary design of new and derivative airplanes and systems, and environmental performance strategy. He reports to Mike Cave, vice president of Airplane Programs, and to Morris.

- Joy Romero was named president of Boeing Canada Operations Ltd. and general manager of Boeing Winnipeg in Manitoba. She replaces Mark Ross, who earlier this year was named managing director of Boeing's Hawker de Havilland subsidiary in Australia. Romero, who most recently served as director of Boeing Salt Lake City, reports to Pat McKenna, vice president and general manager of Boeing Fabrication.

UNMANNED LITTLE BIRD FLIES WITHOUT SAFETY PILOT

The Unmanned Little Bird Demonstrator on June 30 completed its first unmanned flight without a safety pilot.

The milestone flight occurred at the U.S. Army's Yuma Proving Ground in Arizona and included a liftoff to a stabilized hover followed by a programmed 15-mile (24-kilometer) mission route that included six different waypoints. The vehicle had previously flown more than 250 hours as an unmanned aerial vehicle with a pilot on board who could take control of the aircraft if needed.

The demonstrator will help develop capabilities for the unmanned version of the A/MH-6M Little Bird rotorcraft. ■



JIM COLEY PHOTO

2,000 and counting

Southwest Airlines took delivery of a special 737-700 last month: the 2,000th Next-Generation 737 produced by Boeing. In honor of the milestone, the jetliner bears a commemorative decal near its nose. Currently more than 4,100 737s are in service around the world. Next-Generation 737s now account for almost half of the in-service 737 fleet.