

C-17 Program

- The C-17 is a vastly reliable aircraft that is the workhorse of the U.S. Air Force fleet and its production continues to be a vital part of the economy in Southern California and in 41 other states.
- The C-17 has been at the forefront of US military and humanitarian missions in all parts of the world.
- The C-17 program is an important economic driver with over 9,000 employees in Southern California and over 30,000 in 42 states nationally. The Boeing Company and its supplier partners on the program have an economic impact of \$2.9 billion in California and of \$7.9 billion nationally.
- Recent experience has demonstrated that the C-17 is critical to protecting our national interests. It is currently the only wide-body military aircraft that can land on short or unimproved airfields in the performance of its critical missions, delivering oversized cargo, equipment, and personnel to military and humanitarian missions across the globe.
- Why retire the C-5A now? It is old, unreliable, and expensive to fly and maintain, and we have a highly capable aircraft in production today that can replace it- the C-17. If this decision is delayed, the C-17 long –lead suppliers will start to shutdown next year and the production line will close 2010. There will not be a suitable replacement aircraft for another 30 years.
- The C-5A is the oldest strategic airlifter with an average age of 39 years. Lockheed built and delivered 60 C-5As between 1968 and 1975 with an initial wing life of 8,000 hours. Years later along with \$3B, Lockheed re-winged the C-5A extended the wing life to 30,000-hours. Although the USAF indicates it will fly the C-5A till 2040, the C-5A continues to limp along at its historical mission capable rate of 50% with no improvement in sight.