

KC-135 Aircrew Training System (ATS)



Overview

CAE USA is the prime contractor for the United States Air Force's KC-135 Aircrew Training System (ATS). CAE USA won the contract in December 2010 and is responsible for comprehensive KC-135 aircrew training services until 2020. The KC-135 ATS program delivers initial qualification, requalification, continuation and upgrade training for KC-135 aircrews, including pilots, navigators and boom operators for the USAF as well as several international militaries. As the prime contractor, CAE USA provides program management, academic and simulator instruction, maintenance and logistics services, training device upgrades, and a Training Systems Support Center.

Program background and history

The KC-135 Stratotanker is the USAF's primary aerial refueling aircraft. The USAF currently operates a fleet of more than 400 KC-135 tankers, which first entered service with the USAF in 1957. Despite its age, the KC-135 is expected to remain in service for several decades to come. The KC-135 ATS program began in the early 1990's when the USAF outsourced its aircrew training to industry. Under the current KC-135 ATS program, CAE USA provides aircrew training services at 12 locations in the United States and internationally for more than 3,700 KC-135 pilots, co-pilots, navigators and boom operators.

KC-135 ATS training locations

CAE USA, along with its subcontract partners Delaware Resource Group (DRG) and Cardinal Point, is providing on-site aircrew training services with a fleet of 19 KC-135 operational flight trainers (OFTs) and nine Boom Operator Weapon Systems Trainers (BOWST) at the following worldwide locations:

- Altus Air Force Base (AFB), Oklahoma, which is the formal training unit for the KC-135
- Scott AFB, Illinois
- Fairchild AFB, Washington
- MacDill AFB, Florida
- Grissom AFB, Indiana
- March Air Reserve Base (ARB), California
- Milwaukee Air National Guard Base (ANGB), Wisconsin
- Pittsburgh ANG Base, Pennsylvania
- Rickenbacker ANGB, Ohio
- Royal Air Force (RAF) Base Mildenhall, United Kingdom
- Kadena Air Base, Japan
- Hickam AFB, Hawaii



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KC-135 OFT upgrades

CAE USA continues to provide a wide range of upgrades to the KC-135 OFTs to ensure concurrency and fidelity with the actual aircraft. These upgrades include a state-of-the-art high-definition visual system which provides aircrews with realistic visual fidelity. Additionally, the input/output system was upgraded and the KC-135 was the first Aircrew Training System to incorporate the Lateral Maneuvering Motion (LM2) system that significantly enhances the pilots "seat of the pants" realism and feel in the simulator.

Currently, CAE is modifying the KC-135 training devices to allow aircrews access to the United States Air Force's Distributed Training Center Network (DTCN). This game changing capability will allow aircrews the opportunity to conduct realistic air refueling training with other aircraft platforms over a secure network saving the USAF millions of operations and maintenance dollars.

Training Systems Support Center (TSSC)

CAE USA operates and maintains the KC-135 Training Systems Support Center (TSSC) at Altus AFB. While operational maintenance of the training devices is handled at each of the KC-135 sites, CAE's staff at the TSSC is responsible for maintaining the product baselines to ensure commonality and consistency across all KC-135 ATS sites. The CAE staff at the TSSC provides the following services:

- Aircrew training device support
- Instructional material support
- Configuration control and data management
- Maintenance data collection and inventory control

The TSSC is currently managing several modifications to the KC-135 training devices, including the KC-135 OFTs and the Boom Operator Weapon System Trainer (BOWST). These training devices, along with new instructional material, will ensure KC-135 aircrews are training with material that is concurrent with the KC-135 functional baseline.



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