

Joint Cargo Aircraft (JCA)

INVESTMENT COMPONENT

Modernization

Recapitalization

Maintenance

MISSION

To transport time-sensitive/mission-critical supplies and key personnel over operational and tactical distances to forward-deployed forces in remote and austere locations. To provide routine and combat aerial sustainment to the Joint Force.

DESCRIPTION

The Joint Cargo Aircraft (JCA) is a fixed-wing, multipurpose cargo aircraft for today's diverse missions. It provides the Army and Air Force with a mid-range, multifunctional, and interoperable aircraft able to perform: logistical resupply, casualty evacuation, troop movement, airdrop operations, humanitarian assistance, and missions in support of Homeland Security.

Extremely maneuverable and versatile, the JCA has a high power-to-weight ratio, and the ability to perform fighter-aircraft-like 3.0g-force maneuvers, enabling it to make tight turns, and climb and descend quickly. JCA features the following

performance: 2,300 nautical miles with over 13,227 pounds (6,000 kilograms) of payload, 3,200 nautical miles ferry flight, and 325 knots true airspeed maximum cruise speed. JCA has a state-of-the-art suite of standard off-the-shelf military equipment integrated with military standard digital data bus architecture. It is powered by two Rolls-Royce E 2100D2 engines capable of up to 4,637 shaft horsepower each, and equipped with full authority digital electronic control. The strong propulsion system allows for access to a wide range of airfields; enabling landings on short, unprepared strips, and in hot weather and high-altitude conditions, all while transporting heavy loads.

JCA has a full suite of navigation aids: a Night Vision Imaging System (NVIS) compatible cockpit, NVIS-compatible internal and external lighting, and can operate in all weather conditions, day and night. JCA is capable of varying the cargo floor height and continuously adjusting altitude, ensuring easy loading and unloading of large-volume high-density payloads without ground

support equipment and easy drive in/out of vehicles, enabling their immediate operability.

SYSTEM INTERDEPENDENCIES

None

PROGRAM STATUS

- **1QFY09:** Delivery of JCA 1 and 2
- **1QFY09:** Began production qualification testing
- **2QFY09:** Seven aircraft ordered
- **3QFY09:** Resource Management Decision (RMD) 802 directed the transfer of mission and program to Air Force

PROJECTED ACTIVITIES

- **1QFY10:** Begin implementation of RMD 802
- **2QFY10:** Complete production qualification testing
- **2QFY10:** Multi-service operational test and evaluation
- **2QFY10:** Air Force order 8 aircraft
- **2QFY10:** Complete transfer of program to Air Force IAW RMD 802"
- **1QFY11:** Full-rate production decision

ACQUISITION PHASE

Technology Development

Engineering & Manufacturing Development

Production & Deployment

Operations & Support



Joint Cargo Aircraft

FOREIGN MILITARY SALES

None

CONTRACTORS

L-3 Communications Integrated Systems,
L.P. (Greenville, TX)
Alenia Aeronautica (Rome, Italy)

