



C-17A Globemaster III

The Boeing C-17A Globemaster III is a high-wing, four-engine, heavy-transport military aircraft which can carry oversized cargo up to 74,797kg.

The massive, sturdy, long-haul aircraft can also tackle distance and destinations in unpredictable conditions – enabling the rapid deployment of troops, supplies, combat vehicles, equipment and helicopters anywhere in the world.

In the early 2000s, the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) began searching for a heavy-transport aircraft that could provide it with a strategic airlift capability. Their hunt was instigated after the Australian Defence Force (ADF) identified shortcomings in the RAAF's ability to transport the increasingly large and heavy vehicles and equipment used by the Australian Army.

The Boeing C-17A Globemaster III was identified for its capacity to provide the RAAF with an unprecedented logistics backbone for ADF operations overseas.

In July 2006, the Australian Government awarded Boeing a contract to deliver four C-17s and signed a separate contract to join the global virtual fleet C-17 sustainment program, with the RAAF's C-17s to maintain common configuration and receive the same sustainment support as the United States Air Force (USAF) fleet.

The RAAF received its first aircraft in December 2006. Based at the strategic transport No. 36 Squadron at RAAF Base Amberley, the first

four C-17s entered service between November 2006 and January 2008, with the second pair being delivered ahead of schedule.

The RAAF also acquired a C-17 flight simulator at Amberley, which entered service in January 2010. The simulator is used to train aircrew and medical staff around the globe, as well as to develop and trial new cargo-carrying techniques.

Two more C-17s were ordered in 2011, the sixth being delivered to the RAAF in November 2012. Finally, another two C-17s were ordered in October 2014, with the final aircraft delivered in November 2015.

Boeing currently delivers sustainment services to the RAAF fleet and trains all pilots, loadmasters and maintenance technicians using synthetic training devices and on-aircraft training. And under the Globemaster Integrated Sustainment Program, Boeing provides program management, field services, engineering, aircraft maintenance and modifications services.

Today, RAAF No. 36 Squadron continues to operate eight C-17s, which have supported ADF operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and other locations in the Middle East, as well as training exercises in Australia and the U.S.

Known affectionately as the RAAF's largest "workhorse", the aircraft have also transported supplies and personnel as part of relief efforts following natural disasters in Australia, Japan, New Zealand and several other countries.

TECHNICAL DATA: Boeing C-17A Globemaster III

Power plant	Four Pratt & Whitney F-117-PW-100 turbofans
Span	51.75m (169 feet)
Length	53m (174 feet)
Height	16.8m (55 feet)
Empty weight	128,140kg (282,500 pounds)
Loaded weight	265,352kg (585,000 pounds)
Maximum speed	829kph (515 mph)
Range	10,390km (6,456 miles) with paratroopers
Service ceiling	13,716m (45,000 feet)
Armament	NIL

