Dear Chinook and Sea Knight User:

In just a few weeks, a new century begins. It is truly remarkable to note that the history of Tandem Rotor helicopters already encompasses more than half of the 20th century, beginning with Frank Piasecki’s early experimental designs. Counting prototype flights, Sea Knights and Chinooks are about to start their sixth decade of service around the world. It is worth noting, however, that Frank Piasecki, the man who originated the Tandem Rotor design, is still with us, still involved in rotorcraft research and development. Perhaps we’re all younger than we think.

Preliminary development plans for the Chinook suggest that its service life will extend far beyond the 71-year milestone already implicit in the CH-47F modernization program. Production improvements to reduce cost and technology insertions to update the worldwide Chinook fleet mean continued manufacture for an aircraft that is already the longest-running production program in The Boeing Company. May we fly for a hundred years!

And may you and yours have a wonderful Holiday Season and a healthy, Happy New Year!

As always, send all correspondence to Jack Satterfield, Boeing Philadelphia, P.O. Box 16858, M/S P10-18, Philadelphia, PA 19142-0858. Ph: (610) 591-8399; Fax: (610) 591-2701, e-mail: john.r.satterfield@boeing.com

Good luck and good flying!

John Gilbride
Director - Aerospace Support – Philadelphia

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Joint Task Force ‘Sebaco’

For Nomads, “A Very Good Year!”

The year 2000 saw ‘The Nomads’ of Company G, 104th Aviation of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard participating in broader areas of operation.

In April, the National Guard Bureau requested Company G to support SOUTHCOM and USARSO with a short-notice mission to Nicaragua.

Company G would provide logistical airlift capabilities, casualty evacuation and emergency evacuation for 250 inter-service soldiers participating in an Operation New Horizons 2000 humanitarian mission, Joint Task Force-Sebaco.

On May 19, Company G prepared its soldiers, disassembled and deployed two CH-47D helicopters, necessary support equipment and personnel, loaded them onto a C-5 and C-141 at HIA (with support from the 193rd SOW) and shipped them to Soto Cano Airbase in Honduras.

The aircraft were reassembled and prepared for the mission in Sebaco, Nicaragua, by June 1. Over a five-month period, 80 soldiers rotated in-country and provided over 300 accident-free flight hours to JTF-Sebaco in Nicaragua.

While part of Company G was serving in Nicaragua, Pennsylvania’s and the nation’s missions continued. Company G assisted the western portion of the Commonwealth when floods threatened.

When fires ravaged the state of Texas, Company G provided flight engineer support for firefighting flights.

And when the Republican Party held its convention in Philadelphia, Company G was there to support and provide peace of mind. Just another year for the “Nomads!”

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A Chinook with wings? Nope, it’s just a CH-47D from Co. G/104 Avn., in front of a big C-5 Galaxy during transport to Soto Cano, Honduras. ‘Nomads’ participating in the exercise posed on the Galaxy’s ramp (inset).
West African Hostage Rescue - Part Deux

‘They Only Went and Did It Twice’

by Patrick Allen,
Defence Helicopters

As reported in Tandem Notes-Vol. 7
No. 2, “RAF HC Mk2 Chinooks
Handle Rescue On Final Sierra
Leone Mission,” they went and did it
again!

On Sunday, Sept. 10, three RAF
Chinooks deployed a raiding party of 150
British paratroopers who, after a fierce fire
fight, successfully rescued seven UK
hostages held by the rebel gang, The West
Side Boys.

The three Chinooks self-deployed the 3,000
miles back to Sierra Leone from their home base at RAF
Odiham, 40 miles west of London on
Sunday, August 27, routing via Portugal,
Tenerife in the Canary Islands and then to
Dakar in West Africa to prepare for the
hostage rescue mission.

The rescue mission was complex, risky and meticulously planned. This
resulted in a simultaneous, two-pronged
assault at first light, with the Chinooks
deploying the assault teams into two
locations, separated by a wide creek,
within the rebel group’s camp. Heavy
ground fire during the initial assault phase
killed a British paratrooper as he ran off
the rear ramp of one Chinook.

Speed and the ability to get the
maximum amount of troopers on the
ground in the shortest possible time was
the essence on the plan. This the Chinooks
successfully achieved. Within 20 minutes,
the hostages were located and flown back
to safety by the Chinooks while the
ground teams continued to counter heavy
resistance from the West Side Boys.

The mission not only again
showed the Chinook’s capabilities to self-deploy rapidly over vast distances but also
to do the mission on arrival. After the
successful mission, the three Chinooks
self-deployed back to the UK.

CCAD and Boeing Sign Maintenance Partnership Agreement

The Corpus Christi Army Depot
(CCAD) and Boeing have formed a
partnership arrangement to reduce
support costs and increase readiness of the
U.S. Army’s fleet of AH-64 Apaches and
CH-47 Chinooks.

Areas identified for collaboration
include engineering services, manufactur-
ing technology, supply chain and
material management, reliability-based
analyses and configuration management.

Boeing will integrate these services with the day-to-day operations of the
Corpus Christi Army Depot using on-site
personnel, as well as serving as a “virtual
provider,” whereby the global competen-
cies of the Military Aerospace Support
business are leveraged where and when
they are needed.

“This partnership between the
Army and Boeing fully complements the
imminent signing of the CH-47F Low-
Rate Initial Production program,” said
Col. Mitch Dockens, commander of the
Corpus Christi Army Depot. “This pro-
gram will be heavily involved in our Re-
capitalization Program providing for re-
build and remanufacture of major com-
ponents to a zero time condition.”

CHI Chinook on Learning Channel in February

Columbia Helicopters, Inc.’s,
Tandem Rotor aircraft have
always been attention-grabbers,
and soon CHI will be on nationwide TV.

In February, The Learning
Channel will feature the company and one
of its Boeing 234 Commercial Chinooks
on a program aptly titled, “Monster
Lifters.”

The show will cover a Chinook
crew as it conducts logging operations in
California. Keep an eye out for local
program listing.

Also, if you happen to visit the
Netherlands in the spring, you may get to
watch a CHI Chinook handle an Oregon
stream restoration project, aired on a
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Dutch Chinooks to Eritrea
by Patrick Allen,
Defence Helicopters

After discussions within the Dutch Parliament, the Royal Netherlands Air Force (RNLAF), No. 289 Squadron, based at Soesterberg with a fleet of 13 Boeing CH-47D Chinooks, has deployed to Eritrea, Ethiopia, in support of the United Nations, along with a number of Royal Dutch Marines.

The deployment began in December and coincides with the deployment of the RNLAF No. 300 Squadron, also based at Soesterberg and operating the Eurocopter AS532U2.

The Dutch operate one of the most advanced Chinooks with a full digital glass cockpit. The Squadron has recently seen service in Kosovo. Operating in Eritrea will be challenging, combining extreme temperatures and high-altitude operations in the mountains over long distances.

The deployment involves four CH-47Ds along with 150 personnel operating for the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) to monitor the cease-fire between the two countries.

The Chinooks will support a Dutch force of over 1,100 soldiers and marines. The Chinooks will be based at Asmara, the Eritrean capital, and four Dutch AH-64D Apaches from 302 Squadron will provide force protection.

RAF Chinooks Brought Flood Relief to Storm-Inundated Britain

RAF aircraft and personnel have been at the heart of the relief effort against some of the worst floods to affect Britain in years.

One of the worst-hit areas was Yorkshire, where much of the RAF effort was concentrated. Two Chinooks from Odiham first scrambled on Nov. 7 manned by three 18 Squadron crews.

Operating out of Leconfield and forward bases for several days, the Chinooks were heavily involved in airlifting tons of sandbags and other flood defence equipment to the Selby area.

Flying night and day, the Chinooks also used superstore car parks to rig up vital loads, working closely with personnel from the Odiham-based Joint Helicopter Support Unit.
Phrog Phorum

Vol. 7  Fourth Quarter  No. 4

Vietnam Memories

Phrogs Went to War and They Did Go, Uh Huh

These photos illustrated a December 1966 article in Leatherneck Magazine written by GySgt Tom Bartlett. HMM-164 was the first Phrog squadron in Vietnam, based at Marble Mountain airstrip near the South China Sea. The article is on HMM-164’s web site.