

Brady and Weldon announce award of contract to Boeing for production of Chinooks (11/22/03)

Contract
Will Benefit
Delaware County

WASHINGTON DC -- Congressman Robert A. Bob Brady (D-PA), a member of the House Armed Services Committee joined with Congressman Curt Weldon (R-PA), vice-chairman of the committee, to announce that the U.S. Army has approved the acquisition of seven new CH-47F Chinook helicopters.

November 20, 2003 Congress approved \$389 million in supplemental Iraqi Freedom Funds for Defense Department programs. Boeing Integrated Defense Systems will be awarded the contract and the company will produce the helicopters at the Boeing Army Rotorcraft manufacturing facility in suburban Philadelphia. Delivery of the first new Chinooks is scheduled for mid 2006.

Congressman Brady said, "Our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan are in critical need of well manufactured and modern aircraft to carry out their mission. I am pleased that the efforts of Congressman Weldon and I, as members of the Armed Services Committee, have resulted in more work for the region. The Boeing-Vertol workforce is the best in the world. They are an integral part of America's security," said Congressman Brady.

"This is a big win for our military, for our region and for Boeing," said Congressman Weldon. "When America calls our troops into to service, Congress is obligated to replace old, worn out equipment. This award represents a commitment to that promise."

"In the 1990's, our troops were sent all over the globe at an unprecedented rate. Unfortunately, these deployments weren't paid for by Congress and the individual services were forced to foot the bill by raiding their equipment acquisition accounts," noted Weldon. "This contract represents a portion of our rebuilding effort, and I am happy that Delaware County will play a significant role in that effort."

Congressman Brady noted that Chinooks have proven to be essential to the Iraqi war effort, homeland security and humanitarian military support missions. "Manufactured right here in our area, they are utilized by American allies

throughout the world. The award illustrates the confidence the military has in Boeing and its workforce," Congressman Brady added.

In addition to new Chinook production, Boeing will remanufacture three additional MH-47G Special Operations Chinooks for the Special Operations Command. The new aircraft will replace recent U.S. Army operational losses, and the additional MH-47Gs will replace MH-53G Special Operations helicopters.

The seven new helicopters represent the first production of Chinooks for the Army in a decade. They will supplement the Chinook Modernization Program, which will deliver the first of 300 remanufactured CH-47F's by late 2004.

The U.S. Army has utilized the Chinook 1962, serving as the Army's "prime mover" for heavy lift, troop and equipment transport in every conflict since the Vietnam War. Most recently, Army and Special Operations Chinooks carried out essential combat and combat support missions in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.