## Viking wins US Army contract for Twin Otters



king Air Limited based in Victoria, BC, has won a \$14.3 million contract to supply three new DHC-6 Twin Otter Series 400 aircraft to the U.S. Army Golden Knights parachute team, bringing firm and optioned aircraft orders over 40. Viking announced early last year the re-launch of the Twin Otter production program after having acquired the production rights from Bombardier (de Havilland the original builder of the aircraft was acquired by Bombardier).

The Golden Knights, established in 1959 as the official U.S. Army Parachute Team, becomes the 9th operator to purchase Viking's new Twin Otters. They will replace the team's existing fleet of two Twin Otter Series 300 (UV-18 in Army designation), purchased new by the US Army from de Havilland Canada in 1979; and one Pilatus Porter.

"Our two original Twin Otters have been serving the US Army since 1979, first in the remote tundra of Alaska as ski planes, and since 1997 with the Golden Knights parachute team, providing flawless support for

thousands of demonstration, competition and tandem jumps", says Green Beret Lieutenant Colonel Tony Dill, Golden Knights' Commander. "This is a superb aircraft, with a lifetime of service to the US Military and nearly 10,000 hours and 18,000 landings with the Golden Knights. It provides an efficient jump platform; short time to climb; and the capacity to accommodate 16 jumpers at the same time. We are confident that our new airplanes will provide outstanding support to the US Army for years to come."

Delivery of the first new aircraft will take place in 2010, with the remaining two delivered in 2011.

"Being awarded this contract is great news for us; it confirms our belief in the performance and qualities of the Twin Otter", says David Curtis, president of Viking. "We are glad it has been chosen once again by the Golden Knights, as we believe that this aircraft and its enhanced performance are a true match for the team's competitive spirit and mission."

Stationed at the "Home of the Airborne", Fort Bragg, North Carolina, The Golden Knights are 90 soldiers that come from diverse backgrounds and have been trained in one of the 200 military occupational specialties the Army offers. Considered the most successful U.S. Department of Defense sports team, the Golden Knights perform aerial demonstrations for the public and in promotion of the Army's public relations and recruitment efforts; compete in national and international parachuting competitions; and test new parachuting equipment and techniques for improved operation and safety.

"As we approach the 50th Anniversary honoring the legacy of excellence for the members of the US Army parachute team, we are pleased to recognize the award of the new aircraft acquisition to Viking Air, and would like to recognize all those who assisted in the acquisition process, and particularly the Army's aviation experts at the Fixed Wing Product Office in Redstone Arsenal, Alabama."

"Our aircraft have also transported such icons as former President George H. W. Bush, actor Chuck Norris, golf legend Tiger Woods and the Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders - each made their first jump with the US Army from one of our Twin Otters."

Incorporated in 1970, Viking Air Limited has established itself in the aviation community as a highquality aerospace manufacturer and an aircraft modification, sales, leasing and repair facility.

Viking owns the Type Certificates for the de Havilland Canada DHC-1 Chipmunk, DHC-2 Beaver, DHC-2T Turbo Beaver, DHC-3 Otter, DHC-4 Caribou, DHC-5 Buffalo, DHC-6 Twin Otter and DHC-7 DASH 7 and has been providing all product support functions for the fleet since May 2005. Viking is part of Westerkirk Capital Inc., a Canadian private investment firm with substantial holdings in the hospitality, aviation and real estate

## L-3 WESCAM SELECTED **FOR BOEING'S P-8A PROGRAM**



L-3 WESCAM, based in Burlington, Ontario has been selected by Boeing Integrated Defense Systems to supply the digital electro-optical and infrared (EO/IR) imaging sensors for the U.S. Navy's P-8A Poseidon program. The order includes four MX®-20 True HD (MX-20HD) EO/IR imaging turrets, with deliveries scheduled for mid-2008.

The MX-20HD will provide immediate situational awareness for broad-area maritime and littoral operation missions from the P-8A Poseidon. This latest generation of proven MX-20 technology will supply operators with improved longrange subject detection and identification capability, while providing positive geographical references and the ability to automatically locate, point, track and focus with unparalleled accuracy.

The imaging capability of the MX-20HD will enhance the U.S. Navy's overall mission capability, aiding in the detection of critical intel and fine details through the sharp colors, bold contrasts and cleaner images that WESCAM's 1080p HD technology delivers.

"L-3 WESCAM's participation in the Navy's P-8A Poseidon program is an example of how today's forces rely on advanced R&D investment to develop their mission capabilities," said Paul Jennison, L-3 WESCAM vice president, government sales and business development. "As naval missions intensify, front-line personnel need higher resolution EO/IR technology to perform their surveillance and observation tasks. WESCAM's HD technology leads the industry, offering true 1080p resolution and highly detailed intelligence when performing longer-range imaging tasks.

## **M & S COMPANY PRESAGIS** WINS LOCKHEED CONTRACT

Montreal-based Presagis, a provider of commercial-off-the shelf (COTS) modeling, simulation, and embedded display graphics software, and Concurrent a provider of time-critical Linux® operating systems and integrated computer solutions for missioncritical applications, have announced that Lockheed Martin has selected their integrated 3D software, Lyra<sup>TM</sup>, and image generator (IG) solution to upgrade two existing training systems for the U.S. Air Force Air Education and Training Command.

The contract calls for replacing existing proprietary hardware and software with COTS products and follows the successful installation and acceptance of two new trainers previously awarded in August, 2006. The upgraded F-16 flight cockpit simulators will be utilized at the Networked Training Center (NTC) facility, Luke Air Force Base in Arizona USA.

Luke Air Force Base purchased the integrated Presagis/Concurrent solution which includes eleven OTW (out the window) channels and 3 sensor (night vision goggles (NVG), infrared (IR)) channels for each cockpit trainer based on Presagis software solutions. The chosen ImaGen visual server multichannel configuration is powered by Concurrent's RedHawk™ real-time Linux®, compatible with Red Hat® Enterprise Linux 4.

## REVISED #s FOR **BOMBARDIER**

Bombardier has defence operations in Canada through its NATO Flying Training in Canada (NFTC) and Advanced Distributed Combat Training (ADCT) programs where it serves not only Canada's Air Force but also Air Force's from other nations.

In CDR's annual ranking of Canada's defence companies, Bombardier was ranked # 9. With over 19,000 employees Bombardier is an important international

