

Afghan Fleet of G.222 Reach Flight-Hour Milestone, Take Delivery of 6th and 7th Aircraft

WASHINGTON, D.C. – September 7, 2010 – Alenia North America, a subsidiary of Alenia Aeronautica (A Finmeccanica Company), announced today that the Afghan fleet of G.222s has logged over 1,000 flight hours. The G.222 is being used by the Afghanistan Air Force (AAF) to provide airlift transport capability to the country and its air force.

“The G.222 achieving 1,000 flight hours is a great milestone for this program,” said Joe Reheiser, Vice President of Air Mobility Programs at Alenia North America. “This aircraft has proven time and again that it is ideally suited to the Afghan terrain. We are confident that the fleet will prove to be an asset to the Afghanistan Air Force.”

The AAF have taken delivery of the first seven G.222 aircraft since September 2009, with the 6th and 7th aircraft delivered in the last days. One of these two aircraft is the VIP aircraft which will support Presidential and VIP airlift. The other has remained in Alenia’s Capodichino facility near Naples, Italy, for USAF Air Advisor Training. Over the course of three years, 18 G.222 aircraft will be refurbished and modernized to a standard configuration.

The United States Air Force, through the Combined Air Power Transition Force (CAPTF) in Afghanistan is rebuilding the AAF and the G.222 serves as a cornerstone of this nascent air force. The aircraft is also being used for the training of United States Air Force Air Advisors at the Alenia Aeronautica Capodichino facility in Naples, Italy.

About the G.222 AAF Program

In 2008, Alenia North America was awarded a contract by the United States Air Force to supply 18 refurbished G.222 aircraft for the Afghanistan Air Force (AAF). The 18 refurbished aircraft will be used by the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan. They will be transferred by the Combined Air Power Transition Force in Kabul to the reconstructed AAF.

The G.222 will serve as the backbone of the AAF and will significantly expand their ability to provide humanitarian aid and security to the Afghan population throughout the country.

Alenia North America, as prime contractor, is responsible for program management while the aircraft are being refurbished and modernized by its parent company Alenia Aeronautica in its Capodichino facility near Naples, Italy. Logistical support in Afghanistan will be carried out by L-3 Vertex Aerospace.

Alenia North America is a subsidiary of Alenia Aeronautica (a Finmeccanica Company). Its mission is to further expand the industrial and commercial presence of the Alenia Group in North America. Alenia North America Inc. is headquartered in Washington, D.C. with offices in Seattle, Washington; Long Beach, California; Fort Worth, Texas; and Smyrna, Georgia. Alenia North America - Canada, a subsidiary wholly owned by Alenia North America, has offices in Ottawa, Canada. Alenia North America is also a shareholder in several joint venture companies located in the United States. Global Aeronautica, a joint venture with The Boeing Company, located in North Charleston, South Carolina, performs significant integration and sub-assembly work for the Boeing 787 program. Global Military Aircraft Systems (GMAS), a joint venture with L-3 Communications Integrated Systems, is responsible for system engineering integration, avionics upgrades, training and logistics support for the C-27J Joint Cargo Aircraft, and headquartered in Madison, Mississippi. The C-27J is the world leader in the twin engine military tactical aircraft market and has been sold to the U.S., Italy, Greece, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Romania and Morocco. Other Alenia North America products include the C-27/G.222 tactical transport aircraft and the T-100 Integrated Training System, (the U.S. variant of the M-346 produced by the sister company Alenia Aermacchi, controlled by Alenia Aeronautica) currently competing in the U.S. market.