



# Tandem Notes

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**No. 4**

## Joint Task Force ‘Sebaco’ For Nomads, “A Very Good Year!”



**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). □

by **1LT Todd F. Smith,**  
**Training Officer, Co. G/104 Avn.,**  
**PANG**

**T**he year 2000 saw ‘The Nomads’ of Company G, 104<sup>th</sup> 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 193<sup>rd</sup> 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!” □

## Dear Chinook and Sea Knight User:

**I**n 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**

## 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, manufacturing 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 competencies of the Military Aerospace Support business are leveraged where and when they are needed.

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



COL Mitch Dockens, Corpus Christi Army Depot commander, signs the Partnering Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Richard Williams and John Gilbride (l. to r.) of The Boeing Company on Sept. 14. □

## From the Field...



An RAF HC Mk2 Chinook in Sierra Leone completes another mission as an Indian soldier, a member of the UN observer force, looks on. □ (Agence France photo)

## 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 Dutch TV program. □



A No. 298 Squadron RNLAF Chinook, one of seven modernized Dutch CH-47Ds, flies at home before deployment to Eritrea. □ (Patrick Allen photo)

## 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. □

## ‘Moonlight Sonata’ A-Go-Go

David Clemmer sent this dramatic shot of ‘Easy Money,’ the newly restored ACH-47A Armed Chinook, last of four Vietnam-era ‘Guns A Go Go’s.

‘Easy Money’ currently is on display at the Army Aviation Program Executive Office, Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, AL. □



## Boeing Staffers Visit CHI



Boeing and Columbia Helicopters, Inc., executives pose in a CHI maintenance hangar during a recent visit. CHI President Mike Fahey is on the airstair in front and John Gilbride, director, Aerospace Support for Boeing Rotorcraft (in white shirt) in front of Fahey. CHI owns and operates eight Boeing 234 Commercial Chinooks as well as 15 KV-107s, the Sea Knight’s commercial predecessor. □

## 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. □



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**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. □

Top left: a gunner's view of the base. Top right: Phrog's eye view of Phrog. Bottom left: Lt. Gen. Victor "Brute" Krulak, father of the recent Commandant, inspects a .50-cal. M2 mount. Bottom right: YT-06 on a mission. Center: HMM-164 Vietnam-era squadron patch. □

