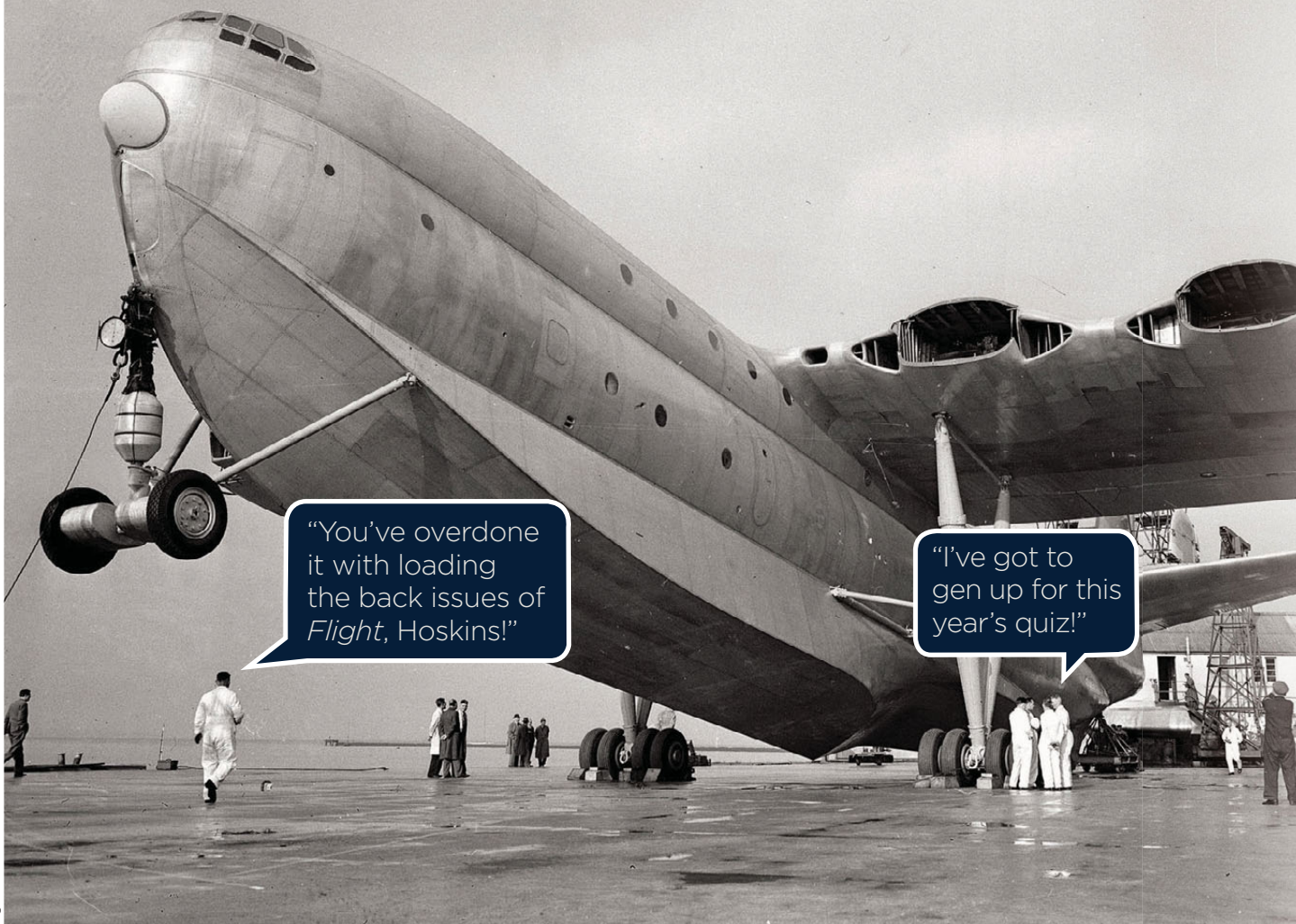


Plane sailing?



"You've overdone it with loading the back issues of *Flight*, Hoskins!"

"I've got to gen up for this year's quiz!"



As we near the worryingly rapid completion of yet another year, it's time for some welcome relief: the soothing challenge of our fiendish festive quiz.

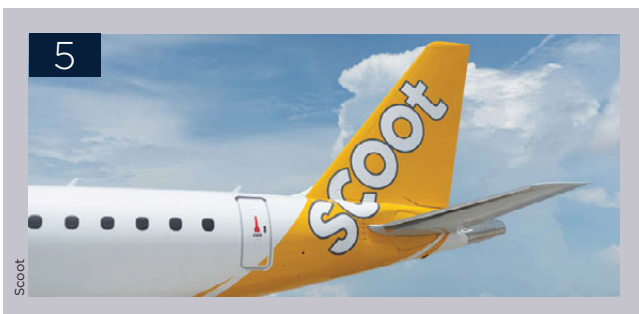
If you have meticulously read your issues of *Flight International*, you should be prepared for your annual check-ride through aviation's biggest stories, oddest occurrences and not-so general knowledge.

The FlightGlobal team has prepared 50 multiple-choice questions: your quest is to get at least 35 right and gain the revered status of 'Total Aviation Person'. Plus, can you identify the types in our picture puzzler (see p58-59)?

Uncle Roger has checked our work (and of course scored full marks) – you'll find his answers on p62. But any cheating and it'll be perimeter-watch duties until 2026!



- 1 Which airline was the first to introduce the Airbus A321XLR to revenue service?
A Aer Lingus
B Iberia
C United Airlines
D Wizz Air
- 2 Bangkok looks poised to confirm a new fighter buy. Which type has the Royal Thai Air Force announced a preference for?
A Lockheed Martin F-35A
B Dassault Aviation Rafale
C Lockheed Martin F-16V
D Saab Gripen E/F
- 3 Which air taxi developer filed for insolvency after it was denied a financial credit from the German government?
A Volocopter
B Beta Technologies
C Lilium
D Joby Aviation
- 4 Airbus Helicopters began flight tests of which new high-speed rotorcraft this year?
A Pacer
B Racer
C Tracer
D Debaser
- 5 Singapore-based low-cost carrier Scoot added a new aircraft type to its fleet in 2024. What was it?
A Comac C919
B Embraer E190-E2
C Embraer E195-E2
D Airbus A220
- 6 Which new helicopter development programme did the US Army cancel in February?
A Future Attack Reconnaissance Aircraft
B Future Armed Scout Program
C Future Armed Reconnaissance Aircraft
D Future Long-Range Assault Aircraft
- 7 The US government in September seized which country's president's aircraft because it was allegedly "illegally purchased"?
A Mexico
B Iran
C Cuba
D Venezuela
- 8 What name has the Polish air force adopted for its Lockheed Martin F-35A stealth fighters?
A Duch
B Husarz
C Harpia
D Dracarys
- 9 Which Canadian ultra-low-cost start-up carriers ceased operations during 2024?
A Canada Jetlines and Lynx Air
B Flair Airlines and Canada Jetlines
C Flair Airlines and Swoop
D Swoop and Lynx Air
- 10 What Asia-Pacific leisure destination hosted a new air show in 2024?
A Phuket
B Koh Samui
C Bali
D Da Nang



8



Lockheed Martin

11 Why doesn't the new US presidential helicopter – the Sikorsky VH-92A Patriot – land at the White House?

- A Scorches the grass
- B Too big
- C Too heavy
- D Not enough seats

12 What is the longest operating airline in the world never to have suffered a fatal aircraft accident or hull loss?

- A Iberia
- B Singapore Airlines
- C Etihad Airways
- D Hawaiian Airlines

14 Which new Chinese combat aircraft made its debut at November's Zhuhai air show?

- A Chengdu J-20
- B AVIC/Shenyang J-35A
- C Harbin H-20
- D Chengdu JF-17 Block III

15 Which Lufthansa Group airline posted the largest earnings margin in 2023?

- A Lufthansa
- B Austrian Airlines
- C Brussels Airlines
- D Swiss International Air Lines

13



NTSB

16 What was the founder of the de Havilland company's first name?

- A Daniel
- B Geoffrey
- C Allan
- D Lloyd

17 Grob Aircraft France launched a secretly-flown new trainer in June – what is it called?

- A Cognac
- B G120TPX
- C TPX Cobra
- D Jonzac

16



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11

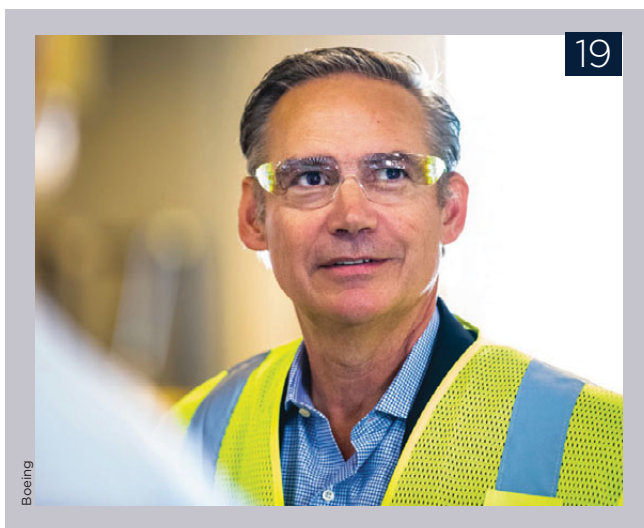
US Marine Corps

13 Which US airline's Boeing 737 Max 9 suffered the blow-out of a door-plug during a flight between Portland and San Francisco in the opening days of 2024?

- A Alaska Airlines
- B United Airlines
- C Spirit Airlines
- D Avelo Airlines

- 18** What has been the best-selling light business jet for each of the past 12 years, according to GAMA figures?
- A Cessna Citation CJ3
 - B Embraer Phenom 300
 - C Honda Aircraft HondaJet
 - D Pilatus PC-24

- 19** Which company previously employed new Boeing boss Kelly Ortberg as its chief executive?
- A Lockheed Martin
 - B Northrop Grumman
 - C Spirit AeroSystems
 - D Collins Aerospace



- 24** Which Middle Eastern carrier is looking to purchase a stake in Virgin Australia?
- A Qatar Airways
 - B Emirates
 - C Gulf Air
 - D Saudia

- 25** Which was the first electric aircraft to receive a type rating and is being used for commercial operations?
- A Cessna Skyhawk
 - B Heart Aerospace ES-30
 - C Pipistrel Velis Electro
 - D Piper Archer

- 26** Which European company has been in a dispute with Triumph over the due diligence process after acquiring its Stuart, Florida plant two years ago?
- A Latecoere
 - B Daher
 - C Pilatus
 - D Saab

- 27** Which Latin American airline filed for bankruptcy in 2024?
- A Avianca
 - B Aeromexico
 - C LATAM Airlines Group
 - D Gol

- 28** Who was the first licensed woman pilot in the USA?
- A Amelia Earhart
 - B Bessie Coleman
 - C Harriet Quimby
 - D Sally Ride

- 20** Which of these types did not have the 50th anniversary of its first flight during 2024?
- A BAE Systems Hawk
 - B Boeing AH-64 Apache
 - C Panavia Tornado
 - D Sikorsky UH-60 Black Hawk

- 21** Which aircraft type does start-up carrier Global Airlines plan to launch operations with in 2025?
- A Airbus A321neo
 - B Boeing 737 Max 8
 - C Airbus A380
 - D Boeing 777-300ER

- 22** What is the name of the aerodynamic drag-reducing film that Lufthansa Technik developed with BASF and is installing on long-haul fleets to save fuel and reduce emissions?
- A Aeroshark
 - B Dragsave
 - C Softslip
 - D Luftyaire

- 23** Which company developed and flew the Model 437 demonstrator?
- A Boeing
 - B General Atomics Aeronautical Systems
 - C Lockheed Martin
 - D Northrop Grumman





Hermeus

29 Which country first mandated cockpit voice recorders on civil aircraft?

- A Australia in 1960
- B USA in 1953
- C UK in 1947
- D Germany in 1963

30 What is the name of the vehicle that US developer Hermeus will use to target the SR-71 Blackbird's Mach 3.3 speed record?

- A Quarterhorse
- B Packhorse
- C Racehorse
- D Hyperhorse

31 Which former Boeing company was re-acquired by the US airframer for \$8.3 billion?

- A Lockheed Martin
- B Raytheon
- C Spirit AeroSystems
- D General Dynamics

32 Which developer expects its delayed Denali aircraft to secure certification in 2025?

- A Honda Aircraft
- B Beechcraft
- C Tecnam
- D Piper Aircraft

33 Saudi Arabian operator THC unveiled agreements for almost 300 new rotorcraft in February, but what does the acronym stand for?

- A Trauma Hospital Carrier
- B Technical Help Capability
- C Terrain Hotspot Command
- D The Helicopter Company

34 Which Central Asian country has emerged as a buyer for the Sino/Pakistani JF-17 fighter?

- A Kazakhstan
- B Azerbaijan
- C Turkmenistan
- D Kyrgyzstan

35 When was the first issue of *Flight* published?

- A 1909
- B 1912
- C 1914
- D 1919

33



Airbus Helicopters



39

39 Which one of these business jets is not powered by Rolls-Royce Pearl engines?

- A Bombardier Global 6500
- B Bombardier Global 7500
- C Dassault Aviation Falcon 10X
- D Gulfstream G700

40 Which military rotorcraft type will the UK's planned New Medium Helicopter be a replacement for?

- A Leonardo Helicopters AW101 Merlin
- B Boeing CH-47 Chinook
- C Airbus Helicopters Puma HC2
- D Leonardo Helicopters Wildcat

41 Which nation recently certified its second aircraft carrier for flight operations, following trials with US Marine Corps F-35Bs?

- A Japan
- B France
- C Italy
- D Singapore

42 Which air taxi company flew demonstration flights at the 2024 Paris Olympics?

- A Lilium
- B Volocopter
- C Vertical Aerospace
- D EHang

43 The US Air Force officially released the first in-flight photos of which in-development combat aircraft?

- A Lockheed Martin SR-72 Blackstar
- B Lockheed Martin F-119 Nightshade
- C Boeing MQ-28 Ghost Bat
- D Northrop Grumman B-21 Raider

44 Poland received, and began building, the first of which rotorcraft type in June?

- A Airbus Helicopters H225M
- B Sikorsky S-70M
- C Leonardo Helicopters AW149
- D Bell 525

36 NATO marked its 75th anniversary - which of these nations was among the alliance's 12 founding members?

- A Germany
- B Iceland
- C Spain
- D Turkey

37 Which US start-up airline's chief executive abruptly left his post in July?

- A Rob McKinney, New Pacific Airlines
- B Andrew Levy, Avelo Airlines
- C David Neeleemann, Breeze Airways
- D Jude Bricker, Sun Country Airlines

38 Where was 2024's ALTA Airline Leaders' Forum held?

- A Lima, Peru
- B Buenos Aires, Argentina
- C Cancun, Mexico
- D Nassau, Bahamas

45



How Hwee Young/EPA-EFE/Shutterstock

49



Spirit AeroSystems

41



US Marine Corps

45 Who is the launch customer for the high-altitude variant of Comac's C919?

- A TransNusa Airlines
- B Suparna Airlines
- C China Eastern Airlines
- D Tibet Airlines

46 Which two "off-the-beaten path" cities will United Airlines serve in 2025?

- A Bristol, the UK and Antofagasta, Chile
- B Monrovia, Liberia and Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei
- C Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia and Nuuk, Greenland
- D Prizren, Kosovo and Yangon, Myanmar

47 In July, a global technology outage caused delays and cancellations of thousands of flights worldwide. Which company was responsible?

- A CrowdStrike
- B Nvidia
- C Apple
- D Google

48 What is the name of a new charter air service for long-haul dog-plus-human transport, launched in May?

- A Flying Fidos
- B Bark Air
- C Pampered Pooches
- D LuxeDog Airlines

49 Airbus is to take over Spirit AeroSystems' Belfast aerostructures plant, but who previously owned the former Short Brothers business?

- A BAE Systems
- B GKN
- C Bombardier
- D Rolls-Royce

50 The Japan Air Self-Defense Force has a major fighter upgrade programme under way. Which aircraft is involved?

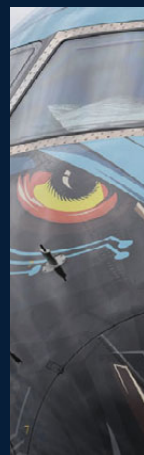
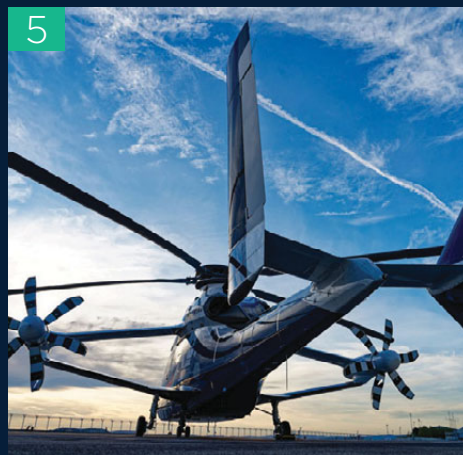
- A Lockheed Martin F-35A
- B Mitsubishi F-2
- C McDonnell Douglas F-4
- D Mitsubishi F-15J

47	Delta	1354	3975	7:16 AM	B74	Delayed 10:34 AM
	United	2642		8:15 AM	C9	Delayed 10:45 AM
	Delta	1444	6599	9:40 AM	B72	Delayed 12:30 PM
	Delta	1400	4373	12:26 PM	B74	Cancelled
	United	1940	1370	12:42 PM	C25	Delayed 2:00 PM
	United	381		8:24 AM	C27	Delayed 11:45 AM
	United	545		1:10 PM	D1	Delayed 2:20 PM
	United	641	2022	8:37 AM	D11	Delayed 12:00 PM
	United	2060	2033	12:35 PM	D3	Delayed 1:40 PM

Michael Reynolds/EPA-EFE/Shutterstock

Identify the type

In our annual challenge to your recognition skills, work out which 15 aircraft are on show: minus their give-away markings





7



12



8



9



13



10



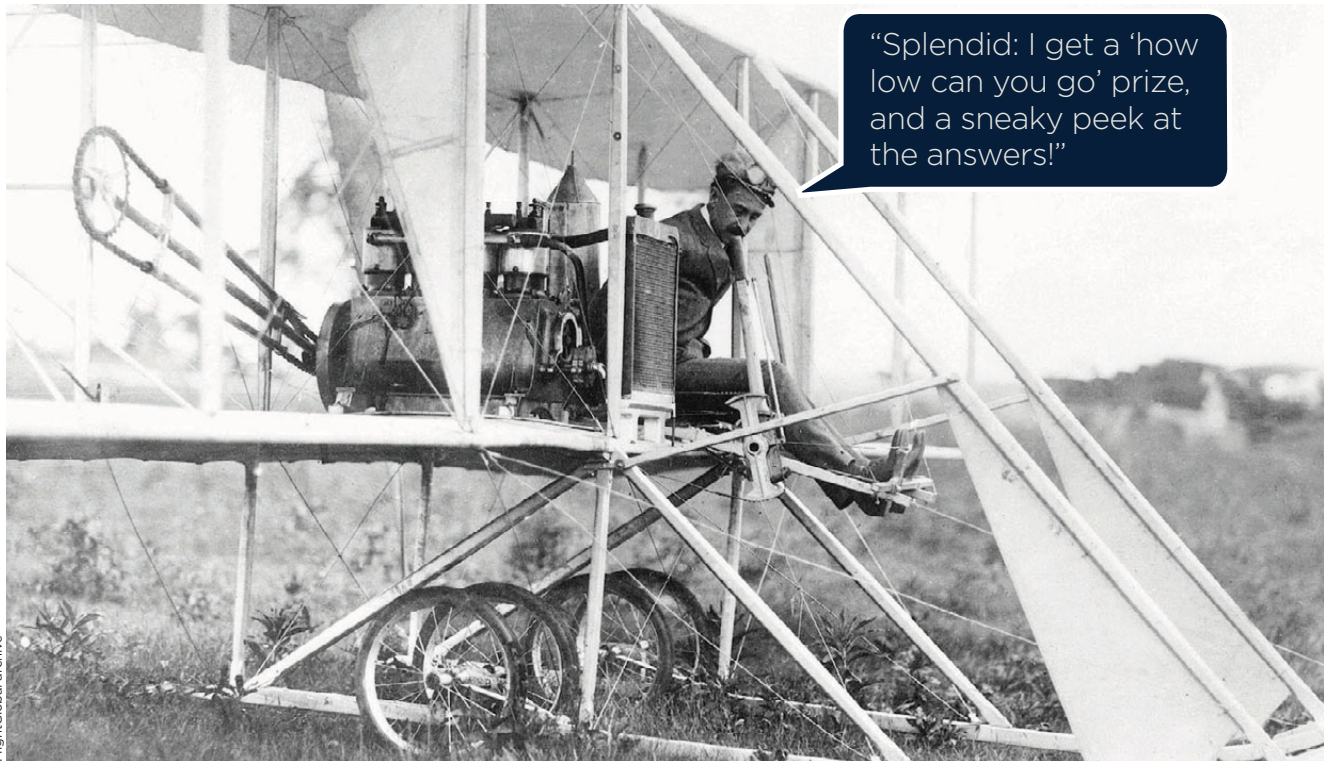
14



11



15



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FESTIVE QUIZ ANSWERS

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. B Iberia | 16. B Geoffrey | 36. B Iceland |
| 2. D Saab Gripen E/F | 17. C TPX Cobra | 37. A Rob McKinney - New Pacific Airlines |
| 3. C Lilium | 18. B Phenom 300 | 38. D Nassau, Bahamas |
| 4. B Racer | 19. D Collins Aerospace | 39. B Bombardier Global 7500 |
| 5. B Embraer E190-E2 | 20. B Boeing AH-64 Apache | 40. C Airbus Helicopters Puma HC2 |
| 6. A Future Attack Reconnaissance Aircraft | 21. C Airbus A380 | 41. A Japan |
| 7. D Venezuela | 22. A Aeroshark | 42. B Volocopter |
| 8. B Husarz | 23. D Northrop Grumman | 43. D Northrop Grumman B-21 Raider |
| 9. A Canada Jetlines and Lynx Air | 24. A Qatar Airways | 44. C Leonardo Helicopters AW149 |
| 10. C Bali | 25. C Pipistrel Velis Electro | 45. D Tibet Airlines |
| 11. A Scorches the grass | 26. B Daher | 46. C Ulaanbataar, Mongolia and Nuuk, Greenland |
| 12. D Hawaiian Airlines | 27. D Gol | 47. A CrowdStrike |
| 13. A Alaska Airlines | 28. C Harriet Quimby | 48. B Bark Air |
| 14. B AVIC/Shenyang J-35A | 29. A Australia in 1960 | 49. C Bombardier |
| 15. D Swiss International Air Lines | 30. A Quarterhorse | 50. D F-15J |
| | 31. C Spirit AeroSystems | |
| | 32. B Beechcraft | |
| | 33. D The Helicopter Company | |
| | 34. B Azerbaijan | |
| | 35. A 1909 | |

IDENTIFY THE TYPE

- Robinson Helicopter R44** Photo credit: Aero Friedrichshafen
- De Havilland DH86 Express** Photo credit: FlightGlobal archive
- Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird** Photo credit: US Air Force
- Airbus BelugaXL** Photo credit: AirTeamImages
- Airbus Helicopters Racer** Photo credit: Airbus Helicopters
- Joby Aviation Joby** Photo credit: Joby Aviation
- Bell X-15** Photo credit: NASA
- Embraer E195-E2** Photo credit: BillyPix
- Airbus Helicopters H225M** Photo credit: Airbus
- Boeing MQ-28 Ghost Bat** Photo credit: Boeing
- Boeing CH-47 Chinook** Photo credit: Crown Copyright
- Airbus Defence & Space A400M** Photo credit: Airbus
- Boeing 707** Photo credit: FlightGlobal archive
- Airbus A350** Photo credit: SIAE
- Changhe Z-10** Photo credit: BillyPix



US Air Force