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It was a wonderful weekend for the Air Force, as the newest addition to the fleet, the CC-177 Globemaster III finally came home. The aircraft made an appearance in Abbotsford, B. C., before flying onward to its home base in Trenton, Ont. We bring you two first hand accounts of the celebrations in Abbotsford and Trenton.

Abbotsford début

By Lt(N) Petra Smith and Krista Hannivan

More than 60,000 aviation enthusiasts witnessed the inaugural appearance of the CC-177 Globemaster III on Canadian soil at the 45th Annual Abbotsford International Air Show in British Columbia, a premier aviation event in Canada.

During the patriotic and spirited ceremony, the Honourable Gordon O'Connor, Minister of National Defence, the Honourable Josée Verner, Minister of International Cooperation, and Lieutenant-General Angus Watt, Chief of Air Staff, welcomed the arrival of Canada's first CC-177 Globemaster III strategic airlift.

"This is Canada's first strategic airlift capability aircraft, and not only is it great in size and great in strength, but great in significance," said Minister O'Connor. "With this aircraft, our Canadian Forces will now be able to move critical capabilities to the places where they are needed, at the time they are needed."



On behalf of Boeing, the Commander of 8 Wing presents a model CC-177 to LGen Angus Watt, Chief of the Air Staff, in Trenton. (Photo: MCpl Halina Folfas, 8 Wing Trenton)



The CC-177 arrives in Abbotsford. (Photo: Capt Christine Bazarin)

The normal noise of the air show was silenced as the spectators' attention was captured in this important milestone in Canadian Forces history.

The theme of the event was overwhelmingly patriotic with the Canadian Forces SkyHawks Parachute Team jumping in the Canadian flag. Air show spectators photographed the celebrated aircraft - now designated the CC-77 Globemaster III in Canada's Air Force - with the Canadian Air Force flag ceremonially flying from the top of the cockpit.

"I am proud to see the Canadian flag on our new C-17 Globemaster III," said Lieutenant-General Watt. "The C-17 is not just a new aircraft - it is a new capability. This represents the beginning of a new era for airlift capabilities for the Canadian Forces."

With an approximate range of 2,400 nautical miles, an ability to land on unpaved short runways (about 2,400 metres with maximum payload) and a cargo area about 27 metres long, five metres wide and four metres high, the CC-177 Globemaster III is an unprecedented capability to support both domestic and international operations. Generators, water purification equipment, medical equipment and or food supplies are examples of some of the life-saving cargo that strategic airlift can deliver to Canadians, or to those in need around the world, in emergency situations. The Canadian Forces Disaster

Assistance Response Team (DART), for example, will use strategic lift to great advantage by deploying troops and equipment faster to alleviate suffering in those parts of the world afflicted by crisis due to natural disasters

At about 1:30 p.m., the CC-177 took off from the Abbotsford International Airport en-route to its home base of Trenton, Ont., giving spectators a thrilling, first-hand view of the impressive aircraft in flight.

Trenton Homecoming

By Jenn Gearey

The 12th of August was a glorious day at 8 Wing Trenton, Ontario, with the Canadian flag, Canadian Forces flag and Air Force flag snapping in the sunny breeze, and the newly arrived CC-177 front and centre.

During the CC-177's homecoming celebration yesterday, it was difficult for anyone to take their eyes off the new aircraft dubbed 'Large and In-Charge' due to its size and its ability to give Canada the independence of having its own strategic airlift.

"It's a great day for the Air Force," said Chief of the Air Staff (CAS), Lieutenant-General Angus Watt. "As Commander of the Air Command, there's nothing I like to do better than welcome new aircraft. And this is a special day for Canadians because the C-17 is quite an



The CC-177 in Trenton. (Photo: Cpl Tom Parker, 8 Wing Trenton)

aircraft!

"I'm sure I'm preaching to the converted when I say that air mobility has always been an important capability for the Canadian Forces both at home and abroad-given the vast size of our country. The demand always exceeds the supply.

"The C-17 is more than an airplane, it's a brand new capability," he continued. "In the Canadian Forces we hear talk about transformation and a lot has been accomplished. What you see here is transformation in action. This is transformation you can see, transformation that you can touch, transformation you can feel. And having flown in the aircraft yesterday, it's transformation you can smell-it smells like a new car!"



Major Jean Maisonneuve pilots Canada's first CC-177 Globemaster III from Abbotsford to 8 Wing Trenton. (Photo: WO Serge Peters)

The CC-177s will provide the Canadian Forces with quick reaction time, flexibility to fly almost anywhere in the world, and ability to aid tremendously with humanitarian disaster relief-making the Canadian Forces a leader on an international scale.

"We purchased this aircraft not just for the Air Force, but also for the Canadian Forces. It's a Canadian aircraft for all our interests that will provide support for at least 30 years - probably longer knowing the Canadian Air Force! You can imagine all the thousands of passengers and millions of tons of cargo it will carry in that time."

LGen Watt thanked Colonel Joe Breen, the U.S. attaché to Canada, for his help in helping see the Globemaster project to its completion.

"I couldn't be happier welcoming the latest aircraft to 8 Wing," said Colonel Mike Hood, Commander of 8 Wing. "As the air mobility hub and nexus of expeditionary capability in the Canadian Forces I think

Trenton is the most appropriate home for the long list of aircraft that have graced this tarmac...

"It's a real honour for 8 Wing to be chosen as the home of the Globemaster and I humbly say that I can't think of a better place for it. If there were ever a group of dedicated, talented and professional people that could meet the challenge of introducing and operating a new fleet of aircraft while keeping a pace of operations in support of missions in Afghanistan, this is the place.

"Today is proof positive of Air Force transformation and renewal. I think all of us at 8 Wing can be proud that we're part of an institution that values our contributions and is willing to ensure that the men and women of the Air Force have the best equipment available to execute our missions."

This is the first CC-177 to be delivered to 429 Transport Squadron, with the second expected in the fall and the last two in spring 2008.

To read more about the CC-177 during the months leading up to its homecoming, visit the Air Force website's [CC-177 News subsite](#).

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