Boeing in Kuwait

Today, the Middle East is one of the world’s fastest growing commercial airplane markets, and its countries’ defense needs are rapidly expanding. Boeing values its partnerships in the region and is committed to building on those relationships for mutual benefit into the future.

Boeing shares a long-standing relationship with Kuwait, which is home to Kuwait Airways and Jazeera Airways.

For more than 50 years, Boeing has partnered with Kuwait, providing aircraft to meet both the commercial and military needs of the country. Boeing is proud of these relationships and remains committed to a future of meeting the needs of commercial aviation while supporting the country’s defense requirements. The company currently has more than 45 employees based in Kuwait who are providing service support and training.

Boeing Commercial Airplanes

The Middle East is an important market for commercial aviation and one of the fastest growing areas in the world. The region is uniquely suited as a global transport hub, with 80 percent of the world’s population within an eight-hour flight. The expansion of air travel has assisted economic development within the region and improved economic and social ties as well.

Boeing’s history in Kuwait began in 1968 when the Kuwait Airways Company (KAC) took delivery of three 707 airliners. Since then, the airline has operated almost every type of commercial airplane produced by Boeing to provide Kuwait citizens with access to North America, Europe, Asia and India. In December 2014, Kuwait Airways finalized an order for 10 777-300ERs (Extended Range), the first of which was delivered in October 2016. The tenth aircraft, featuring four seating classes, was delivered on August 26, 2017. The 777’s unique combination of superior range, outstanding fuel efficiency and passenger-preferred comfort has created long-range success for carriers around the world.

Kuwait is also home to the Aviation Lease and Finance Company KSCC (ALAFCO), a global sharia-compliant commercial airplane leasing company. Founded in 1992 and co-owned by Kuwait Finance House and Kuwait Airways, ALAFCO provides commercial airplanes to regional carriers as well as airlines within Russia, Asia and India. ALAFCO has a portfolio of 28 Boeing aircraft and a backlog of 40 737 MAXs.
Boeing Defense, Space & Security

The Defense, Space & Security business unit of Boeing provides military aircraft, network and space systems, and services and support for Boeing and non-Boeing platforms to customers around the globe. The Defense, Space & Security presence in Kuwait can be traced back to 1974, when the Kuwaiti Air Force (KAF) ordered 36 A-4KU Skyhawks from Boeing-heritage company McDonnell Douglas.

Today, Defense, Space & Security offers its customers and partners a portfolio of products, systems, services and solutions, including products from Boeing Military Aircraft, Network & Space Systems, and Boeing Global Services.

Boeing has a long-term relationship with the KAF that spans more than 30 years. Defense, Space & Security products provided to Kuwait include AH-64D Apaches, F/A-18C/D Classic Hornets, C-17s, F/A-18 weapons tactics trainers and Harpoon Block IC missiles.

In February 2013, the U.S. government confirmed that a letter of offer and acceptance had been secured for one C-17 Globemaster III airlifter. This marked the first sale to Kuwait in a number of years (aside from sustainment contracts) and was a key milestone that signaled significant progress toward future sales in the country. The first C-17 was delivered to the Kuwaiti government in February 2014 in Long Beach, California, followed by the purchase of a second C-17, officially delivered on Nov. 6, 2014, in Kuwait.

Defense, Space & Security maintains a presence in Kuwait, with Apache support personnel, F/A-18 instructor pilots and C-17 field service engineers.

Boeing Capital Corporation

As a wholly owned Boeing subsidiary, Boeing Capital Corporation creates financing solutions for customers purchasing the company’s commercial airplane and defense products. As the company’s investment bank, it works closely with third-party financing sources that provide nearly all of the financing support required by Boeing customers. Boeing Capital also manages the company’s $3.5 billion portfolio of commercial jetliners.

Boeing Capital is continually strengthening its presence in the region, which is recognized as a high-growth area for commercial aviation with increasing demand for aviation financing. It regularly organizes events in the Middle East that are designed to engage the region's finance community, and its Middle East aircraft financier and investor conference has become an annual event.
In 2015, Boeing Capital appointed Ahsen Rajput to the position of deputy managing director for the Middle East, Africa and South Asia region. Rajput is based in Abu Dhabi and is Boeing Capital’s first local hire in the region.

Boeing Capital is continuing to explore opportunities for Islamic finance in the aviation sector and the possibility of including aircraft finance in the Islamic sukuk, or bond market, in which an aircraft finance portfolio would be secured by an instrument known as the Enhanced Equipment Trust Certificate.

**Industrial and Academic Partnerships**

As a company with a global footprint, Boeing sees growing aspirations for increased skills and technology development around the world, and Kuwait is no exception.

Boeing will continue establishing strong and enduring partnerships in the Middle East through human capital development programs as well as technology and knowledge transfers. The company is continuously exploring opportunities to reinforce its partnerships, with participation that will bring mutual and long-term benefits, while enhancing the region’s aviation sector.

Over the years, Boeing has also supported various education and training programs and initiatives across the Middle East. In Kuwait, Boeing funded a project involving advanced technology transfer and the provision of specialized aviation and engineering equipment to the Australian College of Kuwait in support of its aviation maintenance and electromechanical engineering programs.

**Global Corporate Citizenship**

Global Corporate Citizenship connects Boeing to community engagement through a portfolio of charitable and business investments and support.

Education is an important focus area for Boeing, and the company partners with community organizations around the globe to provide high-quality programs and opportunities for children, their families and education professionals. Education in the Middle East is an area of significant importance for Boeing, so the company seeks to support education in various forms, be it working with and mentoring young entrepreneurs or training the caregivers of the differently abled.

In 2010 and 2011, Boeing supported the Start Early program by Action Care. The program, aimed at caregivers of small children, including those with special needs, provides new methodologies and training to assist parents, teachers and caregivers on how to maximize a child’s potential and development before the years of formal education begin.

In 2012, Boeing brought the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Teacher Training by Arab Youth Venture Foundation program to Kuwait. As part of the program, a NASA educator was flown out to train teachers on how to make math and science more engaging and interesting to students. The program lasted for two days.
and featured projects, contests and activities using NASA content that can easily be applied in classrooms.

In 2013, Boeing supported INJAZ in creating Start Up, an entrepreneurship program to help students with viable business ideas get the guidance and seed money they need to create start-up businesses. The pilot program in Egypt was so successful that the program was rolled out to in Kuwait, Algeria, Morocco, Oman and Qatar. In December 2016, Boeing and INJAZ Al-Arab announced that their Start Up program has supported the establishment of 60 businesses by Arab youth across the Middle East, including 23 in 2016 alone.

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Contact:
Dana Salloum
Boeing International Corporation
+971-4-2134747
dana.i.salloum@boeing.com

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