

# KC-135 Training System (TS)

## Overview

CAE USA is the prime contractor for the United States Air Force's KC-135 Training System (TS). CAE USA has served as the Prime KC-135 TS contractor for over 13 years, having won the contract in December 2010 and again in December 2020. In this role CAE USA is responsible for comprehensive KC-135 aircrew training services, delivering initial qualification, requalification, continuation and upgrade training for KC-135 pilots and boom operators for the USAF as well as several international militaries. As the prime contractor, CAE USA provides program management, academic and simulator instruction, maintenance and logistics services, training device upgrades, and a Training Systems Support Center.



## Program background and history

The KC-135 Stratotanker is the USAF's primary aerial refueling aircraft. The USAF currently operates a fleet of more than 320 KC-135 tankers, which first entered service with the USAF in 1957. Despite its age, the KC-135 is expected to remain in service for several decades to come. The KC-135 TS program began in the early 1990's when the USAF outsourced its aircrew training to industry. Under the current KC-135 TS contract, CAE USA provides aircrew training services at 23 locations in the United States and internationally for more than 3,700 KC-135 pilots, co-pilots, and boom operators.



## KC-135 ATS training locations

CAE USA, along with its subcontract partners Delaware Resource Group (DRG) and Cardinal Point, provide on-site aircrew training services with a fleet of 19 KC-135 Operational Flight Trainers (OFTs) nine Boom Operator Weapon Systems Trainers (BOWST) at the following worldwide locations:

- Altus Air Force Base (AFB), Oklahoma, which is the formal training unit for the KC-135
- Scott AFB, Illinois
- Fairchild AFB, Washington
- MacDill AFB, Florida
- Grissom AFB, Indiana
- March Air Reserve Base (ARB), California
- Milwaukee Air National Guard Base (ANGB), Wisconsin
- Pittsburgh ANG Base, Pennsylvania
- Rickenbacker ANGB, Ohio
- Royal Air Force (RAF) Base Mildenhall, United Kingdom
- Kadena Air Base, Japan
- Hickam AFB, Hawaii
- Key Field, Meridian, Mississippi

Additionally, CAE operates and maintains 15 Boom Operator System Simulators (BOSS) at Air National Guard KC-135 bases across the United States.

## KC-135 OFT/BOWST/BOSS Upgrades

CAE USA continues to provide a wide range of upgrades to the KC-135 training device fleet to ensure concurrency and fidelity with the actual aircraft. These upgrades include a state-of-the-art high-definition visual system which provides aircrews with realistic visual fidelity, the first Training System to implement the Mobility Air Forces (MAF) new common visual database and visual system upgrade. Additionally, CAE USA is implementing a host of Cybersecurity and Obsolescence upgrades on KC-135 training devices, ensuring a secure and capable training environment.

CAE continues to upgrade its KC-135 training devices to allow aircrews access to the United States Air Force's Distributed Training Center Network (DTCN). This game changing capability allows aircrews the opportunity to conduct realistic air refueling/mobility/tactical training with other aircraft platforms over a secure network, saving the USAF millions of operations and maintenance dollars.



## Training Systems Support Centers (TSSC)

CAE USA operates and maintains two KC-135 Training Systems Support Centers (TSSC). One located at Altus AFB, OK, and the other at McGhee-Tyson ANGB, Knoxville TN. While operational maintenance of the training devices is handled at each of the KC-135 sites, CAE's TSSC staffs are responsible for maintaining the product baselines to ensure commonality and consistency across all KC-135 TS sites. The CAE staff at the TSSC provides the following services:

- Training device engineering support
- Instructional material support
- Configuration control and data management
- Maintenance data collection, logistics, and inventory control

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For more information contact us:

[milsim@cae.com](mailto:milsim@cae.com) [CAE Defense & Security](#) [@CAE\\_Defence](#) [cae.com/defense-security](http://cae.com/defense-security)

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