



US Air Force Acquires Used Jumbo Jets Amid Needs

Description

The US Air Force (USAF) has begun purchasing Boeing 747s from German airline Lufthansa. This move may seem surprising, considering the USAF has a substantial fleet. However, the acquisition is critical for transitioning to new presidential aircraft, known as VC-25B, which are modified versions of the Boeing 747-8. These are expected to be in service by mid-2028, replacing the older VC-25A jets that have been operational since 1990.

The introduction of the VC-25B poses challenges. It features new systems, more advanced avionics, and upgraded engines, all of which will require special maintenance. Training crews to manage these differences is necessary, but it is complicated by the fact that these aircraft are not yet operational. Additionally, the USAF must ensure a steady supply of spare parts for future maintenance, which is why acquiring jets from Lufthansa is essential.

The Boeing 747 has played a significant role in commercial aviation, but its production ceased in December 2022, with only 39 passenger models remaining in service by 2025. The future of the new presidential jet is at risk due to this decline. The USAF's \$400 million investment in two passenger 747-8s from Lufthansa addresses this issue, ensuring they can sustain the new aircraft's operations effectively.

Current plans highlight the need for tactical training and support strategies for the VC-25B, given the aging fleet and its unique challenges. The USAF's decision underscores the importance of securing the future of its aerial capabilities, even while new fighter jet developments continue.

Vocabulary List:

1. **acquisition** //,æk.wə'zɪʃ.ən// (noun): getting or buying something to use or own
2. **avionics** //,eɪvi'ænɪks// (noun): electronic systems used to control aircraft
3. **transitioning** //træn'zɪʃənɪŋ// (verb): moving from one situation or thing to another
4. **maintenance** //'meɪn.tənəns// (noun): work to keep something in good condition
5. **investment** //ɪn'vest.mənt// (noun): money spent to get a future benefit
6. **sustain** //sə'steɪn// (verb): keep something going over a long time

Comprehension Questions



Multiple Choice

1. What type of aircraft is the VC-25B?
 - Option: Boeing 777
 - Option: Boeing 747-8
 - Option: Airbus A380
 - Option: Boeing 787
2. When does the USAF expect the VC-25B to be in service?
 - Option: 2025
 - Option: 2028
 - Option: 2030
 - Option: 2026
3. What is the investment amount made by the USAF for acquiring Boeing 747-8s?
 - Option: \$200 million
 - Option: \$400 million
 - Option: \$600 million
 - Option: \$800 million
4. Which airline is the USAF purchasing Boeing 747s from?
 - Option: Delta Airlines
 - Option: American Airlines
 - Option: Lufthansa
 - Option: United Airlines
5. What challenges does VC-25B's introduction pose?
 - Option: New systems and maintenance
 - Option: Increased passenger capacity
 - Option: Reduced operational costs
 - Option: Enhanced training protocols
6. What type of training is emphasized for the VC-25B?
 - Option: Pilot training only
 - Option: Technical training only
 - Option: Tactical training and support
 - Option: Customer service training



True-False

7. The USAF's acquisition is aimed at replacing the older VC-25A jets.
8. Production of the Boeing 747 ceased in January 2023.
9. There are 39 passenger models of the Boeing 747 expected to remain in service by 2025.
10. Training crews for the VC-25B is straightforward and easy.
11. The VC-25B will feature upgraded engines and more advanced avionics.
12. The USAF's decision to acquire new jets is unrelated to its aerial capabilities.

Gap-Fill

13. The USAF is transitioning to new presidential aircraft known as VC-25B, which are _____ versions of the Boeing 747-8.
14. The older VC-25A jets have been operational since _____.
15. The Boeing 747 production ceased in _____.
16. The USAF's investment in two passenger 747-8s is estimated at _____ million.
17. The USAF must ensure a steady supply of spare parts for future _____.
18. Current plans highlight the need for _____ training and support strategies for the VC-25B.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Boeing 747-8 2. 2028 3. \$400 million 4. Lufthansa 5. New systems and maintenance 6. Tactical training and support

True-False: 7. True 8. False 9. True 10. False 11. True 12. False

Gap-Fill: 13. modified 14. 1990 15. December 2022 16. 400 17. maintenance 18. tactical



Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What is the opposite of 'faltered'?
 - Option: stagnated
 - Option: paused
 - Option: surged
 - Option: declined
2. Which term best describes the ability to recover quickly from difficulties?
 - Option: vulnerability
 - Option: resilience
 - Option: apathy
 - Option: indifference
3. Which of the following is synonymous with 'sentiment'?
 - Option: feeling
 - Option: fact
 - Option: observation
 - Option: data
4. What does 'acquisition' typically refer to in business?
 - Option: merger
 - Option: investment
 - Option: sale
 - Option: purchase
5. What is the result of a substance being 'liquefied'?
 - Option: frozen
 - Option: compressed
 - Option: turned into liquid
 - Option: expanded
6. What could cause 'disruptions' in a supply chain?
 - Option: smooth operations
 - Option: external events
 - Option: budgeting
 - Option: planning
7. What is the primary purpose of 'maintenance'?



- Option: repair
- Option: installation
- Option: purchase
- Option: disposal

8. Which phrase best describes 'mobility'?

- Option: fixed position
- Option: ability to move
- Option: static nature
- Option: inflexibility

9. What does it mean when there is a 'surge' in demand?

- Option: decrease
- Option: stability
- Option: increase
- Option: collapse

10. What does 'initiative' often refer to in a project?

- Option: passiveness
- Option: proactivity
- Option: reaction
- Option: indifference

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Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. A wise _____ in the market can yield great returns.
12. After much negotiation, both parties are finally _____ their differences.
13. The market is experiencing a _____ after a long period of growth.
14. She had an _____ performance that impressed the judges.
15. To improve efficiency, companies often _____ their resources.
16. The _____ of concert tickets can sometimes lead to inflated prices.
17. Sales have _____ since the launch of the new product line.
18. Production had to be _____ due to the unexpected circumstances.



19. The company is _____ to a more sustainable business model.

20. This antique could _____ a high price at the auction.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. Her ambitious goals inspired the whole team to strive for excellence.
22. The volume of transactions increased significantly during the holiday season.
23. The technology sector is known for its rapid advancements and innovations.
24. Depreciation is an important factor to consider when assessing asset values.
25. Many travelers were stranded at the airport due to the snowstorm.
26. The new initiative aims to promote healthy living among employees.
27. The acquisition of the smaller company expanded their market reach.
28. There was a surge in interest for eco-friendly products last year.
29. Regular maintenance of equipment ensures its longevity and reliability.
30. The liquefied gas is stored under pressure for safe transportation.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. surged 2. resilience 3. feeling 4. purchase 5. turned into liquid 6. external events 7. repair 8. ability to move 9. increase 10. proactivity

Gap-Fill: 11. investment 12. settling 13. correction 14. outstanding 15. consolidate 16. resale 17. surged 18. ceased 19. transitioning 20. fetch

Matching sentence: 1. ambitious 2. volume 3. sector 4. depreciation 5. stranded 6. initiative 7. acquisition 8. surge 9. maintenance 10. liquefied

CATEGORY

- 1. Business - LEVEL5

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