

BOEING C-135 STRATOLIFTER / KC-135 STRATOTANKER

C / KC-135 SERVICE

Manufacturer: The Boeing Airplane Co., Seattle, Washington, USA
(In 1961, became The Boeing Co.)

Models: 367-80, 717, 739

Designations: C-135, KC-135

Names: Stratolifter (C-135), Stratotanker (KC-135)

First official flight: Model 367-80 15 Jul 1954
KC-135A 31 Aug 1956
Factory production period: 1956 – 1965
Primary service period: 1957 – present
Last official flight: - -

C / KC-135 VARIANTS

1956	Model 717-100A	KC-135A	29		
1957	Model 717-146	KC-135A	68		
1958	Model 717-148	KC-135A	635	732	Total: 732
1961	Model 717-157	C-135A	15		
1962	Model 717-158	C-135B	30		
1963	Model 717-164	C-135F	12		
1964	Model 717-166	KC-135B	17		Total: 074
1965	Model 739-700	RC-135A	4		
1964	Model 739-445B	RC-135B	10		Total: 014
					<u>Total: 820</u>

C / KC-135 PRODUCTION

KC-135A

4-engined, tanker / cargo transport, side loading door, refuelling boom. First 582 airframes with short tail, all later modified to tall tail.

produced 1956 – 1964

Boeing Renton, Washington (BN)

55-3118 / 55-3146 17234 / 17262

56-3591 / 56-3658 17340 / 17407

57-1418 / 57-1514 17489 / 17585

57-2589 / 57-2609 17725 / 17745

58-0001 / 58-0130 17746 / 17875

59-1443 / 59-1523 17931 / 18011

- 2 to FAA as civil N96 and N98.

60-0313 / 60-0368 18088 / 18143

61-0261 / 61-0325 18168 / 18232

62-3497 / 62-3580	18480 / 18563		
63-7976 / 63-8045	18593 / 18662		
63-8871 / 63-8888	18719 / 18736		
64-14828 / 64-14840	18768 / 18780	732	Total: 732
<i>57 additional airframes cancelled.</i>			
C-135A			
<i>As KC-135A, cargo / passenger transport only, no refuelling boom. 3 KC-135A (60-0356, 60-0357, 60-0362) factory converted as C-135A "falsies" with short tail and refuelling equipment. produced 1961</i>			
Boeing Renton, Washington (BN)			
60-0369 / 60-0378	18144 / 18153		
61-0326 / 61-0330	18233 / 18237	15	Total: 015
C-135B			
<i>As C-135A, turbofan engines, wider stabilizers. produced 1961 – 1962</i>			
Boeing Renton, Washington (BN)			
61-0331, 61-0332	18238, 18239		
61-2662, 61-2663	18292, 18333		
61-2664 / 61-2674	18340 / 18350		
62-4125 / 62-4139	18465 / 18479	30	Total: 030
C-135F			
<i>As KC-135A, "F" for France tankers. produced 1963 – 1964</i>			
Boeing Renton, Washington (BN)			
63-8470 / 63-8475	18679 / 18684		
(France) 93-CA / 93-CF			
63-12735 / 63-12740	18695 / 18700	12	Total: 012
(France) 93-CG / 93-CL			
KC-135B			
<i>As KC-135A, turbofan engine upgrade, provision for use as airborne command posts. produced 1963 – 1964</i>			
Boeing Renton, Washington (BN)			
62-3581 / 62-3585	18564 / 18568		
63-8046 / 63-8052	18663 / 18669		
63-8053 / 63-8057	18701 / 18705	17	Total: 017
RC-135A			
<i>As KC-135A, photo reconn. version, no refuelling boom. produced 1965</i>			
Boeing Renton, Washington (BN)			
63-8058 / 63-8061	18670 / 18673	4	Total: 004
<i>5 additional airframes cancelled.</i>			

RC-135B

As C-135B, ELINT version,
no refuelling boom.

produced 1964 – 1965

Boeing Renton, Washington (BN)

63-9792

18706

64-14841 / 64-14849

18781 / 18789

10 **Total: 010**

Total: 820

C / KC-135 CONVERSIONS & TRANSFERS

USAF

KC-135A Relay

	7	KC-135A, 1966-1973, "Combat Lighting" mission radio relay conversions for use in the SEA theatre of operations.
GKC-135A	1+	KC-135A, conversions for ground instructional duties.
JKC-135A	5+	KC-135A, temporary conversions for test work.
NKC-135A	21	KC-135A, permanent conversions for electronic warfare tests. 2 to US Navy, no BuNo. assigned. 1 to NASA as N930NA.
(NKC-135E)	21	NKC-135A, redesignation after engine upgrade.
NC-135A	3	C-135A, 1964, permanent conversions to monitor nuclear weapons tests.
(GNC-135A)	1	NC-135A, conversions for ground instructional duties.
VC-135A	5	4 KC-135A / 1 C-135A, VIP transports, originally VKC-135A as tankers.
C-135B T/RIA	4	C-135B, Telemetry-Range Instrumented Aircraft, nose extension.
VC-135B	5	C-135B, VIP transports.
WC-135B	11	C-135B, 1965, weather reconnaissance conversions.
(OC-135B)	3	WC-135B, 1993, "Open Skies" Treaty mission conversions to observe foreign military strength.
(TC-135B)	1	WC-135B, 1993, trainer for OC-135B.
(C-135C)	3	WC-135A, conversions as transports, engine upgrade.
WC-135C	1	EC-135C, 1999, temporary conversion as stand-in for the WC-135W.
KC-135D	4	RC-135A, 1972, tanker conversions.
C-135E	3	C-135A, engine upgrades for combat support.
KC-135E	161	KC-135A, 1982, engine / avionics upgrade.
C-135N	4	EC-135N, general support duties, nose radome retained.
KC-135Q	56	KC-135A, 1966, tanker upgrade (JP-7 fuel) for the SR-71 Blackbird.
(KC-135T)	56	KC-135Q, 1995, engine / avionics upgrade similar to KC-135R.
KC-135R	5	KC-135A, conversions with fuselage long fence antennae. Later redesignated as RC-135R.
KC-135R	432	KC-135A, 1984, CFM56 engine upgrade, various improvements. 7 to France, 4 to Singapore, 9 to Turkey. Original designation was KC-135ER.
TC-135S	1	EC-135B, 1984, trainer for RC-135S crews.
TC-135W	3	C-135B, 1987, trainers for RC-135W crews.
WC-135W	2	C-135B, "Constant Phoenix" mission collecting atmospheric samples from nuclear weapons detonations.
(NC-135W)	1	WC-135W, 2001, permanent conversion for test duties.

USAF – Reconnaissance Conversions

RC-135C	10	RC-135B, 1963, upgraded equipment for use by SAC.
(RC-135U)	3	RC-135C, 1971, "Combat Sent" mission, ELINT duties.

(RC-135V)	8	7 RC-135C / 1 RC-135U, 1973, "Rivet Joint" ELINT mission duties. HBR engine upgrade in 1999.
RC-135D	4	1 KC-135A / 3 C-135A, 1962, "Rivet Brass" mission, SLAR antennas.
RC-135E	1	C-135B, "Rivet Amber" mission, various avionic and airframe upgrades.
RC-135M	6	C-135B, 1967, "Rivet Card / Rivet Quick" missions, electronic reconn. conversions.
(RC-135W)	11	RC-135M / +2 others, 1980, redesignation after subtle modifications for "Rivet Joint" ELINT missions, HBR engine upgrade in 1999. 3 KC-135R to RAF in 2013 with new s/n: ZZ664 / ZZ666.
RC-135S	4	1 KC-135A / 3 C-135B, "Rivet Ball / Cobra Ball" mission conversions for tracking foreign or hostile missile launches.
RC-135T	1	KC-135R, 1971-1985, conversion for command support and training.
RC-135X	1	EC-135B, "Cobra Eye" mission conversion for missile re-entry surveillance.

USAF – Electronics Conversions

EC-135A	11	KC-135A, 1965, flying command posts, radio-relay conversions.
EC-135B	2	C-135B T/RIA, 1978, conversions with radome nose and large antennae.
EC-135C	14	KC-135B, 1965, redesignation as SAC flying command posts.
EC-135G	4	KC-135A, 1965, radio-relay and airborne launch control centers.
EC-135H	5	KC-135A, 1968, airborne command posts.
EC-135J	3	KC-135B, 1965, airborne command posts for Pacific theatre.
EC-135K	3	KC-135A, airborne command posts for fighter support.
EC-135L	8	KC-135A, 1965, Post-Attack Command / Control aircraft.
EC-135N	8	C-135A, 1967, Apollo Range Instrumentation Aircraft (ARIA), used during Apollo moon landings, conversions by Douglas Aircraft Co., California.
(EC-135E)	2	EC-135N, 1981, engine upgrade, used in general test duties.
EC-135P	5	KC-135A, conversions as aerial command posts.
EC-135Y	1	NKC-135A, 1984, single command post modification.

Foreign Conversions

C-135FR	11	C-135F, 1984, CFM56 engine upgrade for French aircraft.
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