Outlook

70 Years and Counting

The Lockheed C-130 Hercules first took flight in the early 1950s when the U.S. Air Force asked Lockheed for a versatile, go-anywhere transport that could haul troops and cargo into rough, short airstrips. Lockheed engineers, led by Kelly Johnson and Willis Hawkins, answered the call with a four-engine turboprop that was sturdy, powerful, and exceptionally nimble. The first prototype flew on August 23, 1954, from Burbank to Edwards Air Force Base. Production quickly followed, with operational C-130A deliveries beginning in 1956—marking the start of what would become one of the longest-running and most successful military aircraft production programs in history.

1956 of course marked another landmark in aviation history, the birth a modest backshell and cable company next door in Glendale, California, called Glenair. And would it surprise you to know that 70 years later we are still supplying parts and interconnect assemblies for the C-130? We like to remind folks that we never obsolete a product. In fact, we take the opposite approach by both continuing to supply legacy backshell components and cables, even as we invent the industry's most innovative, next-generation interconnect solutions—solutions that meet the demand for higher speeds, lighter weights, and more rugged environmental performance.

As long-in-the-tooth military aircraft like the C-130, B-52, and others undergo their periodic upgrades, Glenair has evolved to become the go-to supplier for the interconnect wire, cable, contacts, and connectors they need. From fiber optic flight control assemblies to rugged wheel-well conduit systems, Glenair delivers—by every measure—the highest quality and fastest delivery in the military / defense and aerospace industries.

2026 marks our 70th anniversary, a business journey that has seen our enterprise graduate from a specialized supplier of cable clamps, backshells, dust caps, and other connector accessories, to the caliber of company the U.S. Air Force—and others the world over—rely on as a trusted partner to supply all their interconnect requirements. And boy do we have it all. For those of you who have not seen it, I recommend you take a look at our *70th Anniversary A-to-Z Guide to Glenair Interconnect Innovations* to understand what I mean by "all."

Returning to the issue of trust, I can tell you from long experience that trust is not something you are entitled to as a business. You have to earn it with reliable service, top-quality products, and fair and honest dealing. I know I speak for the entire Glenair team when I say with pride, that this is exactly how we have earned and kept the trust of our customers over these past 70 years. And, that we look forward to keeping up the good work for the next 70 years to come.

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Publisher
Christopher J. Toomey

Managing Editor
Marcus Kaufman

Art Director/Editor
Mike Borgsdorf

Graphic Designer
George Ramirez

Editors
Ryan O'Shea
Greg Wiegand

Technical Consultant
Jim Donaldson

Issue Contributors
Greg Cameron

Distribution
Terry White

To subscribe or unsubscribe, please contact Terry White: twhite@glenair.com

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On the cover: *Inside the cockpit of a B-52 Stratofortress. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Apryl Hall)*

GLENAIR, INC.
1211 AIR WAY
GLENDALE, CA 91201-2497
TEL: 818-247-6000
FAX: 818-500-9912
E-MAIL: sales@glenair.com
www.glenair.com