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News Release

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Vertex Announces Transition Plan for Navy T-45 at Kingsville

MADISON, Miss. (August 8, 2003) – Vertex Aerospace announced today details of its transition plan for T-45 support at NAS Kingsville. Vertex will employ approximately 400 people in the program at Kingsville. On July 29, the \$85.7 million contract (\$450 million with options) was awarded to Vertex through competitive bidding. The program also involves T-45 support at NAS Meridian, Mississippi.

“Our number one priority is to have a smooth transition process that causes no disruption to our Navy customer and their flight training mission at Kingsville,” said Jay Ward, Vertex exec. vice president and COO. “We have met with Navy leadership on base as well as community leaders. Our management team is in place and we will soon begin pre-employment processing and other transition details.” Vertex will be responsible for Contractor Logistics Support and other services for the T-45 Training System. Support for the Ground Based Training System will be subcontracted to AAI.

Rick Marcantonio will serve as T-45 program manager for Vertex. He will have total program responsibilities at both Kingsville and Meridian. Reporting to Marcantonio will be T-45 Kingsville site manager Bill Hirko. Finally, Steve Hannifin, will serve as transition manager at Kingsville until all transition objectives are complete.

“By August 15, we will open our local transition office,” Ward said. “The information for applying for jobs will be well communicated to the current T-45 workforce. In fact, we are very impressed with the reputation of the current T-45 workforce and we want to make clear that in our pre-employment process, preferential consideration will be given to current T-45 workers.”

Rick Marcantonio is a retired U.S. Navy captain. He served as a Commanding Officer at NAS Corpus Christi as well as an Executive Assistant for the Chief of Naval Air Training (CNATRA).

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Bill Hirko is a retired U.S. Navy commander. He served as Chief Staff Officer for Training Wing 2 and he is an accomplished F/A-18 pilot. Hirko also has more than 1,000 hours piloting the T-45 Goshawk. He lives in Calallen with his wife and three children.

Steve Hannifin is a retired U.S. Navy captain. He served as Commodore of Training Wing 4 and as CNATRA Operations Officer. Hannifin has worked for five years with Vertex Aerospace as program manager for the Vertex aviation support program for the Drug Enforcement Administration in Ft. Worth and the T-39 Undergraduate Military Flight Officer Training System (UMFOTS) program as NAS Pensacola, Fla.

The 6,300 employees of Vertex oversee and manage more than 2,000 aircraft and other equipment at 323 locations worldwide, providing contract maintenance and training support for military, federal government and commercial customers. Vertex Aerospace LLC is a portfolio company of Veritas Capital, a New York-based equity-investment firm.