



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## News Release

Contact:

Chris Blount

(601) 607-6411

Email: [cblount@vertexae.com](mailto:cblount@vertexae.com)Website: [vertexaerospace.com](http://vertexaerospace.com)

### **Vertex Wins Navy T-45 Contract Valued at \$450 Million**

MADISON, Miss. (July 29, 2003) – Vertex Aerospace (*formerly Raytheon Aerospace*) has been awarded a one-year, \$85.7 million contract to provide Contractor Logistics Support for approximately 200 U.S. Navy T-45 aircraft at Naval Air Station (NAS) Meridian, Miss., and NAS Kingsville, Texas. With the exercise of four, one-year option periods, the total value of the contract is \$450 million. (*In the 28-year history of the company, 100% of government contract option periods have been exercised.*)

Vertex will employ approximately 700 personnel with responsibility for all aircraft maintenance, parts supply management, engineering services and total systems maintenance management of the T-45 fleet. The company will also support Carrier Qualification Detachments and other land-based detachments, as well as support for all Ground Based Training System (simulators) at each site. The T-45 is used to train Flight Students in the Undergraduate Jet Pilot Training Program as well as train prospective Instructors Under Training. The contract was awarded by Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) at NAS Patuxent River, Md.

“This is a landmark achievement for Vertex,” said Dan Grafton, President & CEO. “We currently support all U.S. Navy aircraft used for primary pilot training, both fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters,” he said. “T-45 jet pilot training is a natural and exciting evolution for our company.”

“Because we’re a Mississippi-based company, we are particularly thrilled to add close to three hundred Mississippi workers to our company supporting the T-45 at NAS Meridian,” Grafton said. Prior to today’s announcement, Vertex employed approximately 500 in Mississippi, mostly at the Madison home office with a small contingent at Keesler AFB (C21 support) and Columbus AFB (T1A Jayhawk support).

“This contract award is very good news for Mississippi workers at Vertex Aerospace and it will certainly have a positive impact in our state,” said Senator Trent Lott, R-Miss. “The T-45

--more--

program is a key component of our Navy's pilot training apparatus, and the basic foundation for NAS Meridian's asset base.

"Having these aircraft maintained by the highly-skilled men and women of a Mississippi-based company like Vertex will ensure that our men and women in uniform are continually supported by the highest quality of maintenance and logistics technicians, and that our aviator training program remains at peak performance, ready for the missions ahead and the new challenges posed by the War on Terrorism," Lott said

Vertex Aerospace recently changed names from Raytheon Aerospace. The company began in 1976 as Beech Aerospace Services, Inc. (BASI) and has a long history supporting Navy pilot-training aircraft. Its customers include the U.S. Department of Defense (all branches), U.S. Customs (now part of Dept. of Homeland Security), Drug Enforcement Administration and NASA.

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.