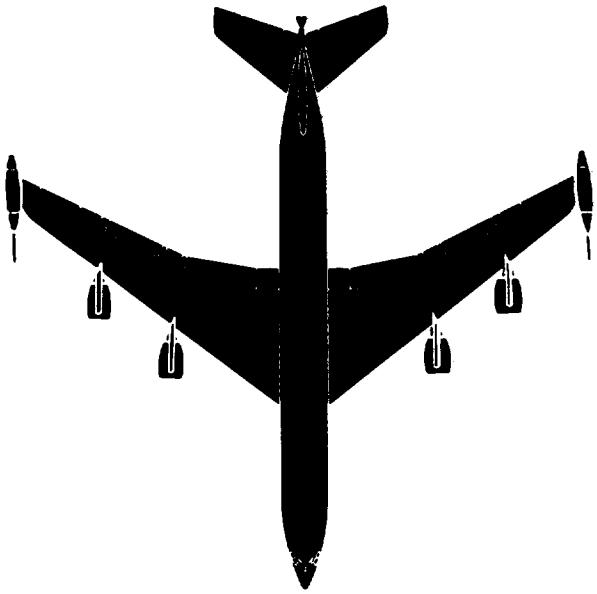
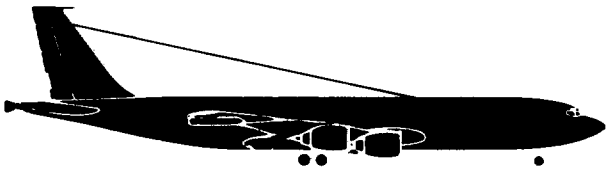
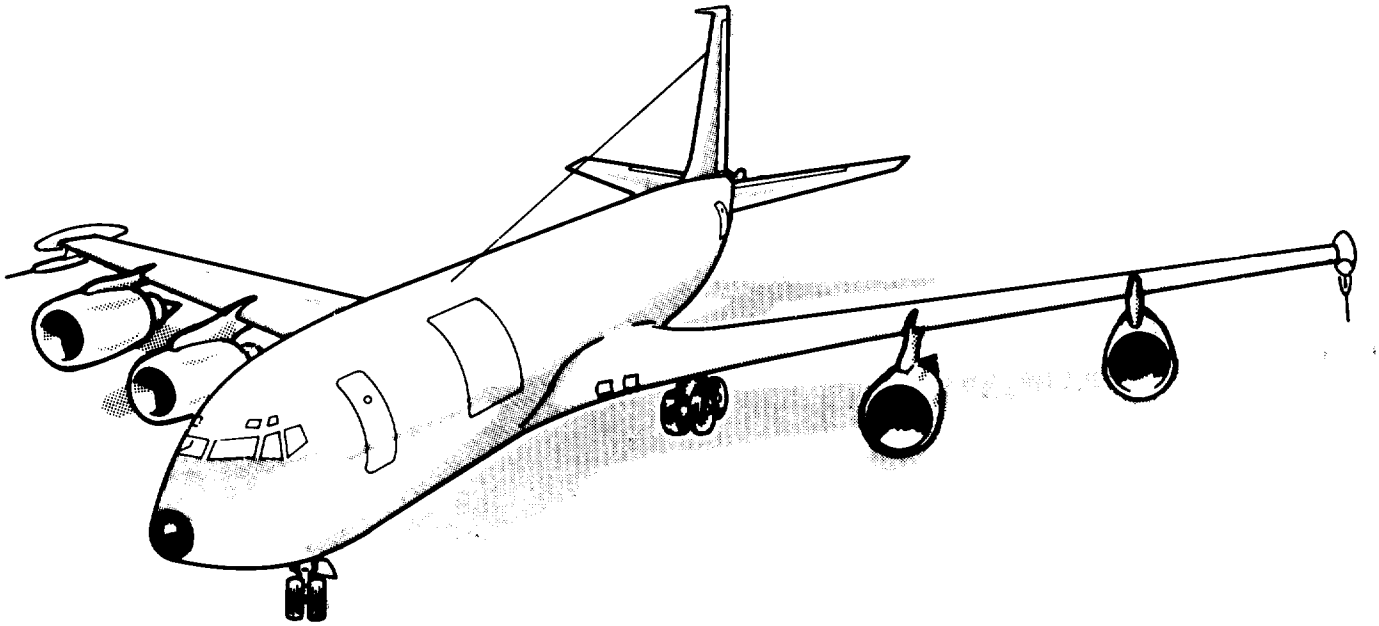
E-6A







E-6A TACAMO

Mission and Description:

The E-6A TACAMO will replace the EC-130 in providing connectivity between the National Command Authority and fleet ballistic missile submarines and other elements of the Strategic Reserve Force. The E-6A is a land-based strategic communcations platform derived from the E-3A, Peacekeeper.

Characteristics:

Length:	152 ft. 11 in.
Height:	42 ft. 5 in.
Wing Span:	148 ft. 4 in.
Weight:	167,187 lbs (empty) 342,000 lbs (gross)
Speed:	450 knots
Ceiling:	42,000 ft.
Power plant:	4 CFM-56-2A-2 (lbs. thrust each)
Crew:	−13 plus 5 trainees

Contractors:

Aircraft	Boeing Aerospace Corp.
Engines	General Electric & SNECMA

Commentary:

The E-6A role is vital to the ballistic submarine nuclear force. Currently, there are two major communications systems which serve this fleet. The primary system is land-based and is vunerable in time of attack. TACAMO is the second system, and it would become prime should the land-based network be knocked out.

The E-6A is a derivative of the Air Force E-3 AWACS air frame but will contain the Navy's airborne very low frequency communications system (AVLF). This airframe is already hardened against electromagnetic, thermal and blast effects and gamma and neutron radiation. Its electric generation system already is large enough to accommodate the system electronics.