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ASTOR TRAINING PROGRAMME COMMENCES

WADDINGTON (18th January, 2005) - - - Training for the UK's ASTOR (Airborne Stand-Off Radar) System has now commenced at RAF Waddington in Lincolnshire.

Managed by the programme's prime contractor, Raytheon Systems Limited (RSL), the first of two Joint Test Team courses are now underway. This marks the beginning of the ASTOR through life training programme that will support the work up to Full Operational Capability and beyond.

ASTOR is a dual-service programme and the initial courses are being attended by RAF and Army personnel from Number 5 (AC) Squadron which was re-formed last year specifically to operate ASTOR. This current training programme, which also involves a number of civilian instructors, is in preparation for UK Integration and Operational Tests scheduled to begin later this year.

Rob Crook, RSL's Director of ASTOR, said, "The commencement of training is a major milestone in this programme. RSL has been responsible for establishing and building the entire ASTOR complex at Waddington, including both the Squadron headquarters as well as the sophisticated training facility itself. This was achieved on schedule last year and, following the completion of installation and proving of the training systems and simulators, we have now been able to commence the first course for students."

The training, developed and provided by RSL, caters for both mission and maintenance crews and makes use of an integrated suite of operational and synthetic training equipment capable of providing both individual and crew training to complement theory lessons. As part of the ASTOR prime contract RSL has to provide Contractor Logistic Support (CLS), including the Training Support Service, for 10 years.

As well as classrooms, offices and student rest facilities the complex includes a Training Equipment Hall and a range of advanced training aids including a Fixed Base Flight Crew Trainer, Rear Crew Trainer, Ground Station Crew Trainer, a Target Generator and Radar Simulator, and a Mission Interface Simulator.

At its peak the facility will be able to handle 40 students at any one time.

RSL, the UK-based subsidiary of Raytheon Company, employs over 1500 people. The company is a prime contractor and major supplier to the UK Ministry of Defence and is involved in numerous, high priority programmes for the US Department of Defense. RSL designs, develops and manufactures a range of high technology defence and commercial electronics.

Raytheon Company (NYSE: RTN), with 2003 sales of \$18.1 billion, is an industry leader in defence and government electronics, space, information technology, technical services, and business and special mission aircraft. With headquarters in Waltham, Massachusetts, Raytheon employs 78,000 people worldwide.

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