

CARGO STOL -- A prototype YC-15 short takeoff and landing (STOL) cargo jet begins its maiden flight from a Long Beach (California) airport. Under development for the U.S. Air Force by McDonnell Douglas, the craft is designed to operate from austere bases and fields as short as 600 meters. Cruise speed is Mach .7 or 800 kilometers per hour; maximum range is 4,800 kilometers, and maximum payload is 28,000 kilograms. External flaps lowered directly into the exhaust of the four engines increase the aerodynamic lift of the wings. (75-2258)

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