



LOCATION

National Harbor, MD

DATE OF WORK

October 2018

PROJECT

B-0378

*Air Force One Replica
Transportation.*



At the end of September, after 10 months planning, HLI began the transportation of an Air Force One B747 replica, the official aircraft of the President of the United States of America, from Quonset State Airport, Rhode Island, to National Harbor Exhibition Center, Maryland.

Prior to the transport of the aircraft, HLI assessed all bridges along the proposed route to ensure that there was sufficient horizontal and vertical clearance for the barge, loaded with the 19.2 m high B747. HLI positioned roll-on ramps on the barge using a 250-tonne capacity crane. This allowed for the aircraft to be driven on and secured. Along the route, the plane's wings extended 70 ft (21.3 m) beyond the width of the barge on both the port and starboard sides.

Great care had to be taken to illuminate the wings at night, and when maneuvering around other barges or structures. Lighting was placed on the wings tips, and multiple support tugs were used to maintain visibility.

Upon arrival at the unloading location, an assist crane positioned barge ramps on land, to support the discharge operation. The ramps were 14 m wide to accommodate the rear landing gear. A prime mover truck was then reversed onto the barge and attached to the front landing gear, hold back-winchs were also attached to the rear undercarriages to control the B747, during discharge operations. The prime mover then drove off the barge with the aircraft, and placed it at the National Harbor Exhibition Center, in Maryland.

