U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Cessna C-550 Citation

FACT SHEET

Cessna C-550 Citation aircraft are medium range, fixed-wing, all-weather tactical jets used by U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Air and Marine Operations (AMO) to intercept and track airborne drug smugglers, and to enforce airspace security over critical venues such as presidential inaugurations. AMO uses the Citation to perform missions such as aerial surveillance, intercept, detection, and monitoring. AMO has also deployed the Citation to Panama, Honduras, Colombia, Peru, Venezuela, Mexico, and Aruba to disrupt drug traffickers.

In the late 1970s, the Citation was employed as a high-speed interceptor and tracker. Today, AMO operates two versions of the C-550 Citation: the III and IIIB models.

Citations fly with a crew of three (pilot, copilot, and sensor operator), and have the ability to operate from remote landing strips. The Citation II was the first commercial aircraft fitted with fire-control radar from the U.S. Air Force's F-16 Falcon to be used for law enforcement.

Video recorders document suspect activities for evidentiary use.

Performance and Weights:

- **Maximum Speed**
  265 knots (304 mph)
- **Service Ceiling Altitude**
  43,000 feet
- **Range**
  1,000 nautical miles (1,150 miles)
- **Endurance**
  4 hours
- **Maximum Gross Weight**
  14,600 pounds

Features:

- AN/APG-66 (Lot III) and the Vixen 500 (Lot IIIB) Fire Control Radar, used to detect and track targets of interest.
- Infrared detection system, used to detect infrared radiation created by objects warmer or colder than ambient temperature.