

Air National Guard A-10 Thunderbolt Modernization

Fiscal Year 2021 Fact Sheet



NGAUS



The Issue

Air National Guard A-10 aircraft make up a significant percentage of the Total Air Force fighter fleet. The A-10 Thunderbolt, a close air support aircraft, deploys in support of overseas contingency operations and perform domestic emergency response missions. However, the A-10 platform requires modernization and technology enhancements to continue to maintain readiness and lethality in the future.

◀ An A-10 Thunderbolt from the 124th Operations Support Flight out of Gowen Field in Idaho.

Background

The Air National Guard provides 40% of the Air Force's total A-10 force and have been a near continuous presence since 2002, participating in operations ENDURING FREEDOM, IRAQI FREEDOM and INHERENT RESOLVE. The A-10 was designed for close air support of ground forces and built to attack tanks, armored vehicles, and other ground targets with little air defenses.

The A-10 has proven its ability to minimize collateral damage with precision munitions and its 30MM cannon, which is immune to electronic warfare. However, the three most pressing needs for the Air National Guard A-10 fleet include high resolutions display and increased helmet mounted cueing system (HMCS) accuracy, improved self-protection and counter-measure systems, and upgraded communications systems.

The High Resolutions Display and Increased Helmet Mounted Cueing System (HMCS) Accuracy is projected to:

- Advanced Targeting Pod with color video, high resolution feeds to improve Positive ID, intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, and battle tracking capabilities
- Reduces time to acquire targets, allows pilots to quickly and accurately identify friendly forces

Improved self-protection and counter-measure systems are critical electronic suite modernizations and are projected to keep pace with surface-to-air threat technology advancement and proliferation (includes upgrades to Electronic Attack Pods).

Finally, upgraded communications systems, which function during contested, degraded, or operationally-limited environments, are projected to:

- Include satellite communication, 3-D audio, enhanced Data Link
- Reduce risk of friendly fire incidents by providing constant updates on friendly positions

Continuing to provide funding for Air National Guard A-10 modernization will ensure its A-10 fleet continues to meet the dual mission of deploying in support of overseas contingency operations and providing rapid domestic emergency response.

Recommendation

ANG Designation



- Continue to provide funding for A-10 wing replacements within defense appropriations legislation
- Continue funding A-10 cockpit and communications system modernization within defense appropriations legislation

States Impacted

- ID: Boise, 124th Fighter Wing
- IN: Fort Wayne, 122nd Fighter Wing
- MD: Baltimore, 175th Wing
- MI: Selfridge, 127th Wing

Learn more at www.ngaus.org

NGAUS Contact **Priya Ghosh Ahola**
DEPUTY LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR & GENERAL COUNSEL
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS MANAGER, AIR PROGRAMS
priya.ghosh@ngaus.org

