

A-10 Thunderbolt Modernization

Air National Guard



NGAUS

Fiscal Year 2023 Requirements for the Air National Guard



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-10C with the 124th Fighter Wing, Idaho Air National Guard

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).

Recommendation

Defense Appropriations



- Continue annually designating C-130J aircraft to the Air National Guard within defense appropriations legislation
- Continue funding for C-130H avionics modernization, engine upgrades, and propeller replacements within defense appropriations legislation.

Continued



Learn more at ngaus.org

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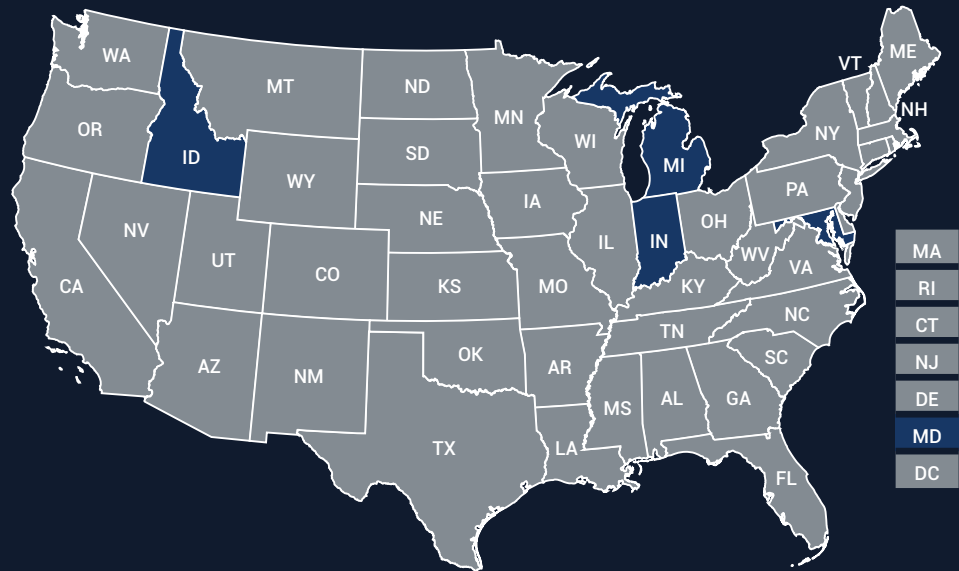
Finally, upgraded communications systems, which function during contested, degraded, or operationally-limited environments, are projected to:

- 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.

Air National Guard A-10 States & Units

ID: 124th FW, Boise
IN: 122nd FW, Fort Wayne
MD: 175th W, Baltimore
MI: 127th W, Selfridge



States Impacted



Learn more at
www.ngaus.org

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