

# F-15 Eagle Recapitalization

Air National Guard



# NGAUS

Fiscal Year 2024 Requirements for the Air National Guard



## The Issue

Air National Guard F-15 Eagle aircraft continue to deteriorate and requires complete recapitalization with new aircraft in order to effectively support the readiness and lethality requirements of the National Defense Strategy.



A F-15C Eagle from the 144th Fighter Wing, California Air National Guard, takes off while participating in exercise Vigilant Shield.

## Background

The F-15 Eagle fighter aircraft has provided the backbone of the Air Force's air dominance mission for more than 40 years. This aircraft, combined with the F-22 Raptor fighter aircraft, is designed to defeat enemy aircraft in order to establish United States control of the airspace above combat zones.

The Air National Guard operates the older-model F-15C/D aircraft and 58% of the Total Air Force F-15C/D fleet. Air National Guard F-15 units deploy in support of overseas contingency operations and provide nearly half of the aircraft required for the aerospace control alert (ACA) mission, a 24/7/365 mission which protects United States airspace.

Air National Guard F-15C/D aircraft are nearly 40 years old and would require significant funding for extensive modernization to remain mission-relevant beyond 2030. Recently, the Air Force decided to begin phasing out the F-15C/D in favor of a new fighter aircraft. While this decision impacts all F-15C/D units, including the Active Component and the Air National Guard, the Air Force has yet to decide which units will be replaced with the F-35A Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter or the F-15EX, the most modern version of the F-15.

Providing additional F-35A or F-15EX fighter aircraft to the Air National Guard within defense appropriations legislation is essential to ensure Air National Guard F-15 units continue to remain lethal and ready in support of the National Defense Strategy.

## Recommendation

### ANG Designation



Designate new fighter aircraft to the Air National Guard within defense appropriations legislation to replace the aging Air National Guard F-15C/D fleet

## States Impacted

- CA: Fresno, 144th Fighter Wing
- FL: Jacksonville, 125th Fighter Wing
- LA: New Orleans, 159th Fighter Wing
- MA: Westfield, 104th Fighter Wing
- OR: Klamath Falls, 173rd Fighter Wing  
Portland, 142nd Fighter Wing



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