

A-10 Thunderbolt Modernization

Air National Guard



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Fiscal Year 2024 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 performs domestic emergency response missions. To meet evolving battlespace challenges, the A-10 requires modernization and technology enhancements to provide combatant commanders viable options for employment while maintaining readiness and lethality against America's adversaries.

◀ An A-10C Thunderbolt II assigned to the 104th Fighter Squadron, Maryland Air National Guard, performs a show of force during the Swift Response 22 exercise at the Krivolak Military Training Center in North Macedonia, May 11, 2022.

Background

The Air National Guard provides 40% of the Air Force's total A-10 force and have seen a near continuous deployment presence since 2002. The A-10 was designed for a ground attack role providing close air support (CAS) to friendly ground forces. While the A-10 continues to excel at CAS, its missions have evolved with the changing battlespace—the aircraft also performs lead roles in combat search and rescue, forward air control, and air interdiction. The A-10 has a proven ability to bring massive firepower to the battlespace with scalable weapons effects while executing from moderate standoff distances.

The A-10 requires modernization to enable its continuing role in contingency operations. The three most pressing needs for the Air National Guard A-10 fleet include the carriage and integration of advanced weapons, an automated, digital electronic warfare suite, and a digital high-definition targeting pod interface, display, and recording.

Carrying and integrating advanced weapons on the A-10 is projected to:

- Provide combatant commanders flexibility to use standoff weapons from the A-10, bringing addi-

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Recommendation

Defense Appropriations



- 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



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- tional firepower mass to the battlespace while reducing risk for 5th and 6th generation assets
- Give combat planners unrealized options for weapons ferry enabling more efficient transfers among distributed bases in an agile combat employment scenario

The improved, automated digital electronic warfare suite is a critical hardware modernization project-
ed to keep pace with modern surface-to-air threat proliferation. The hardware includes an updated
radar warning receiver, an improved missile warning system, and modern electronic attack capability.
These upgrades give the pilot a greater understanding of the battlespace increasing both the lethality
and survivability of the platform.

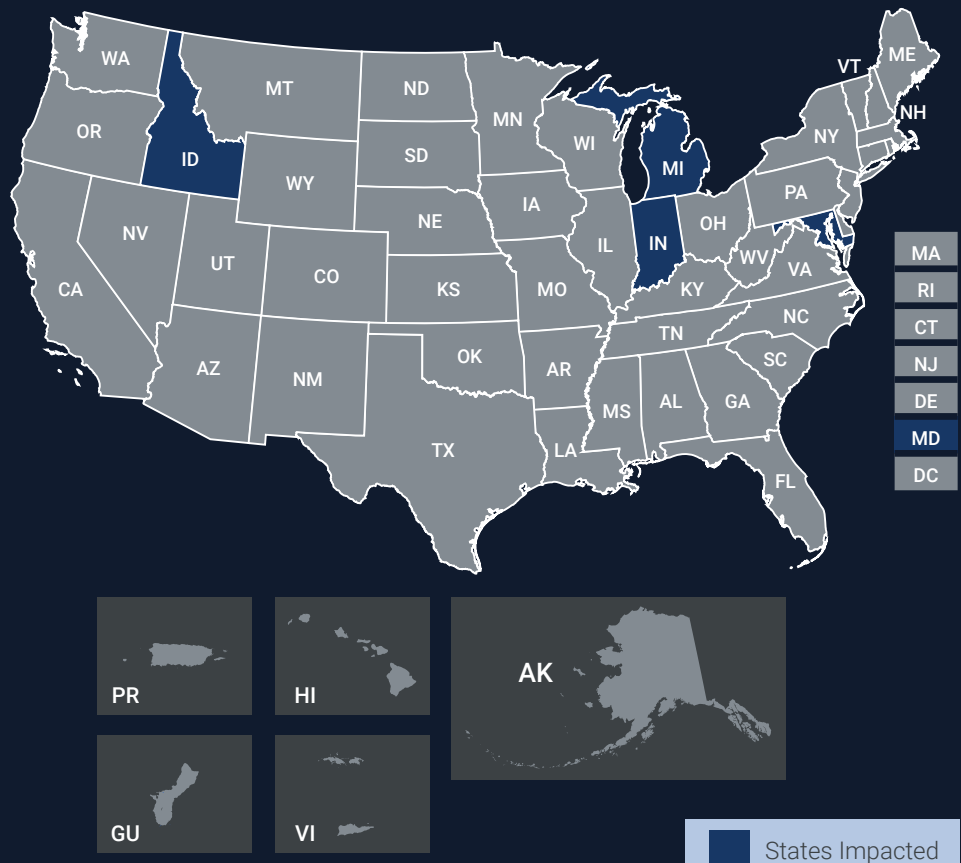
The digital high-definition targeting pod interface, display, and recording is projected to:

- Allow enhanced target identification, improved weapons accuracy, and friendly battle tracking from greater standoff distances
- Provide a broadband display uplink to the cockpit and the ground force commander, getting a battlespace picture to the decision-makers faster enabling a shortened kill chain

Continued funding for the Air National Guard A-10 fleet will ensure its dual mission of deploying in support of contingency operations and providing rapid domestic emergency response will continue to be met. The A-10 remains ready and able to execute its mission set today. With additional moderniza-
tion, the A-10 will continue to evolve to meet combatant commander requirements.

Air National Guard A-10 States & Units

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



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