



Fighter Force Recapitalization

Fiscal Year 2027 Requirements for the Air National Guard

Invest to Divest Air National Guard Aging Fighter Fleets



F-35A Lightning II's assigned to the 134th Fighter Squadron, 158th Fighter Wing, Vermont Air National Guard line up prior to takeoff at the South Burlington Air National Guard Base, South Burlington, Vermont on March 2, 2024.

Problem

The USAF fighter fleet is the oldest, smallest, and least ready in its 78 year history. 13/24 Air National Guard Fighter Squadrons lack a recapitalization plan commensurate with combat capability needs identified in the 2026 National Defense Strategy.

ANG Fighter Units Represent...

21%
OF
TOTAL AIR
FORCE

30%
OF
COMBAT AIR
POWER

94%
OF
HOMELAND
DEFENSE



F-15EX assigned to the assigned to the 142nd Wing, Oregon National Guard.

At only 7% of the total USAF budget!

Recommendation

The National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) urges Congress to support:

- Appropriations for multiyear contracts for maximum year-to-year production of F-35A and F-15EX at fully burdened cost
- Authorization for no less than 1,817 Total Aircraft Inventory and 1,162 combat-coded Primary Mission Aircraft Inventory
- Concurrent recapitalization across all AF components of all remaining legacy F-16s B30-52 into advanced fighters

Background

The ANG plays a critical dual role as both the Air Force's primary combat reserve and a key homeland defense force. Over the past 30 years, the ANG shifted from a strategic reserve to an operational force supporting continuous deployments. Although the Air Force has taken steps toward integrating the ANG into modernization planning, a fully executable recapitalization plan is still lacking, creating risk of divestment and loss of experienced pilots and maintainers.

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Air National Guard

F-15C/D, F-15EX, F-16, F-22, F-35A, A-10 States & Units

Programmatic Decision as of March 2026

F-15C/D

CA: 144th FW, Fresno (F-15EX, 2027)*

LA: 159th FW, New Orleans (F-15EX, 2027)*

MA: 104th FW, Westfield (F-35A, 2026)*

F-15EX

OR: 142nd W, Portland

F-22

HI: 154th FW, Honolulu (Active Association)

F-35A

AL: 187th FW, Montgomery

FL: 125th FW, Jacksonville

OR: 173th FW, Klamath Falls

VT: 158th FW, South Burlington

WI: 115th FW, Traux Field

F-16

AZ: 162nd FW, Tucson

CO: 140th FW, Aurora

DC: 113th FW, Joint Base Andrews

IN: 122nd FW, Fort Wayne

MN: 148th FW, Duluth

NJ: 177th FW, Atlantic City

OH: 180th FW, Toledo

OK: 138th FW, Tulsa

SC: 169th FW, Eastover

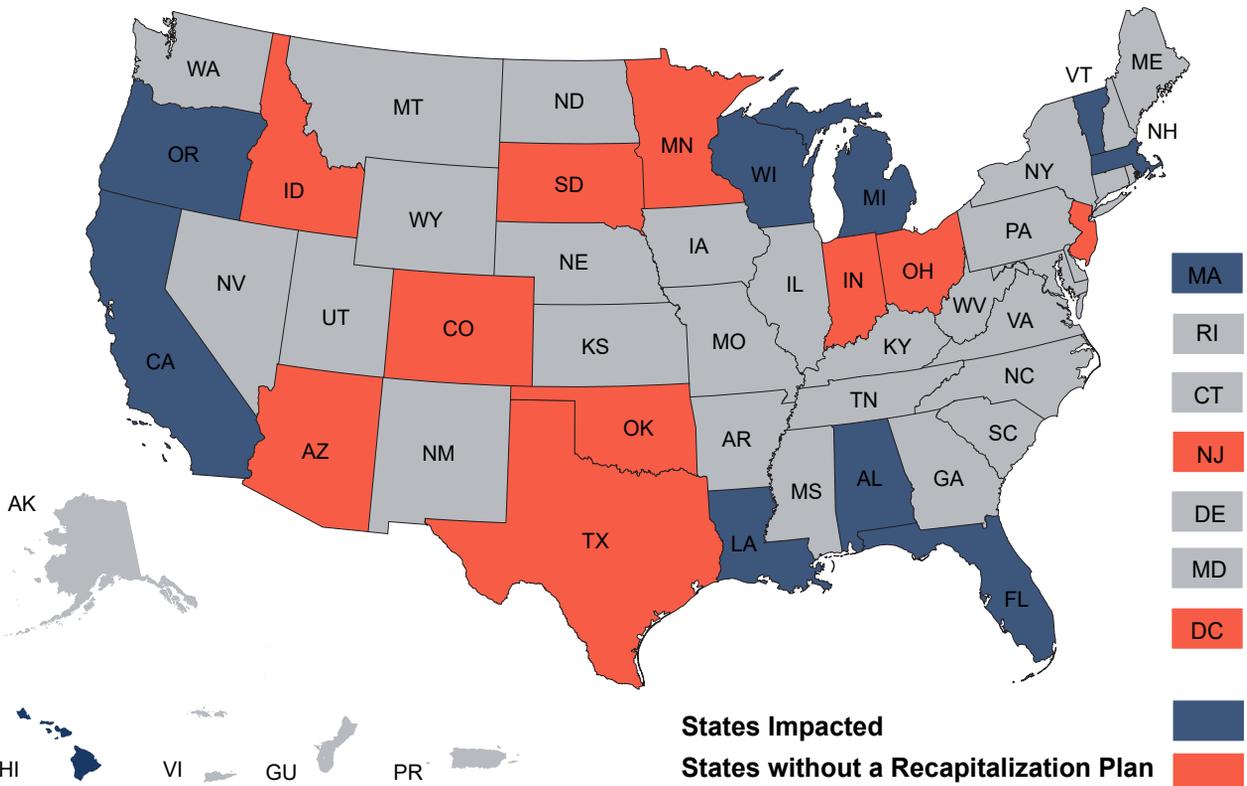
SD: 114th FW, Sioux Falls

TX: 149th FW, San Antonio

A-10

MI: 127th W, Selfridge (F-15EX, 2029)*

ID: 124th FW, Boise (F-16, 2028)*



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