

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 22, 2009

General Norton A. Schwartz
Chief of Staff
United States Air Force
Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330

Dear General Schwartz:

We write to you today regarding Air Combat Command's proposal to create an Air National Guard RC-130 unit in support of Combat Air Force C-130 Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance tasking. We fully support this critical ISR mission for the Air National Guard.

The Air Force Requirements Oversight Council has established the requirements for an RC-130 unit to be used as a carrier for roll on/roll off Senior Scout capabilities and to satisfy Combatant Commander Urgent Operational Needs. ACC's proposal meets these requirements and enjoys the support of the National Guard Bureau's senior leadership.

For the past two years, the Air Force and National Guard have worked extensively to convert this commendable proposal into an important and timely mission. Attached is a detailed summary of their efforts that we trust you will find useful in your evaluation. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



James E. Risch
United States Senator



Mike Crapo
United States Senator

Background of proposal to create ANG RC-130 unit in support of CAF C-130 ISR tasking:

On 27 March 2007 General Keys, the Commander of Air Combat Command requested General McNabb, Commander of Air Mobility Command and Lieutenant General McKinley, Director of the Air National Guard to formally investigate the establishment of an RC-130 Wing to facilitate Combat Air Force C-130 based Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) tasking. General Keys established the following criteria:

- Ability to directly task unit/aircraft
- Ability to “quickly” configure aircraft (Roll On/Roll Off)
- Ability to hard modify aircraft
- Minimal impact to AMC
- Air Refueling Capable aircraft
- Constrained Budget

On 7 May 2007, AMC/CC responded favorably to COMACC’s request but could not source the aircraft from within his force structure.

On 12 March 2008, NGB/CF presented a proposal to COMACC to support an Air National Guard (ANG) RC-130 unit in support of CAF C-130 ISR tasking. His proposal included:

- Retain Scathe View/Shadow Harvest capabilities with the Nevada ANG
- Establish an ACC 4 PAA C-130 unit to support Senior Scout and other CAF Roll On/Roll Off ISR taskings
- ANG would complete Program Change Request (PCR) to gain 4 MC-130’s from Air Force Reserve Command. Additionally, the ANG would move 4 excess AFRC MC-130’s to an ANG site and maintain the aircraft in flyable storage status. The ANG agreed to fund flyable storage costs and if the mission failed to gain approval, ANG agreed to pay all AMARG induction costs.

COMACC, now General Corley, concurred with the ANG proposal. A Program Change Request (PCR) was submitted in September 2008. Headquarters Air Force (HAF) directed ACC complete a requirements document prior to approval of a PCR. On 16 July 2009, ACC presented the RC-130 requirements document to the Air Force Requirements Oversight Council. AFROC’s Decision established the requirement for an RC130 to be used as a carrier for roll on/roll off Senior Scout capabilities and to satisfy Combatant Commander (COCOM) urgent operational needs. AFROC further directed ACC to reevaluate its aircraft sourcing decision.

- Urgent operational needs are requests made by a COCOM that do not go through the deliberate planning process. Although all planned Senior Scout deployments have been met, all of the short notice requests have gone unfilled, i.e.
 1. CENTCOM JUON; Counter Improvised Explosive Device; Explosive Detector and Identifier
 2. SOUTHCOM JUON; Obscured Target Detection
 3. CENTAF UON; Airborne Multispectral Imaging Capability

4. AFSOUTH UON; Obscured Targets Intelligence Collection Capability
5. CENTAF UON; Airborne Joint Persistent Wide Area Surveillance and Exploitation Capability
6. CENTAF; Commander Request to demonstrate a DB-110 sensor in theater
7. Office of Secretary of Defense, Program Decision Memorandum direction to field HyCAS sensor
8. CENTCOM FY10-15 IPL
 - Priority #2, Persistent ISR
 - Priority #7, Explosive Stand-off Detection
9. EUCOM FY10-15 IPL
 - Priority #6, Multi-INT Observation and collection
10. NORTHCOM FY10-15 IPL
 - Priority #7, Classified
11. PACOM FY10-15 IPL
 - Priority #2, Classified
 - Priority #6, classified
12. SOUTHCOM FY10-15 IPL
 - Priority #1, Signals Intelligence
 - Priority #2, Geospatial Intelligence-Foliage Penetrating Radar
13. STRATCOM FY10-15 IPL
 - Priority #6, Stand-off Detection
14. SOCOM FY10-15 IPL
 - Priority #1, ISR

ACC hosted an aircraft sourcing working group as per AFROC guidance and reported their findings to the Sep 09 AFROC. Utilizing 4 MC130's remained the most feasible option to meet the validated requirement. The Sep AFROC then further directed ANG to reconsider its proposal, identify funds to be used in this new mission and brief the CSAF. AFROC will not submit requirement document to VCSAF for signature, necessary to complete the PCR process, without concurrence from CSAF.

Approximately 13 months is required to modify the first aircraft at an estimated cost of \$17.5M. This includes \$3.0M for non-recurring engineering, \$6.5M for required depot level maintenance and \$8.0M to remove equipment previously placed on the aircraft. The estimated cost to modify the second aircraft is \$14.5M. All costs associated with modifying the last two aircraft could be included in the FY12 POM.

Sourcing \$17.5M to start the first aircraft modification in FY10 and another \$14.5M for the second aircraft in FY11 is the quickest way to make this critical ISR asset available, reducing the reliance on AMC aircraft, responding to worldwide threats more efficiently and demonstrating, evaluating and providing support to COCOM's Urgent Operational Needs. The FYDP estimated costs (USAF and ANG) of this program are approximately \$68M/yr.