

# C-130J Large Aircraft Infrared Counter Measure (LAIRCM)

FY24

**Recommendation:** Fully fund the Budget Request for C-130H/J Large Aircraft Infrared Counter Measure System (LAIRCM) upgrades for the Air National Guard (ANG) & Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) and add \$50 million for LAIRCM upgrades for the Air Reserve Component (ARC).

Program	FY23 Enacted	FY24 Request	FY24 Recommended
Aircraft Procurement, Air Force, Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasures (LAIRCM), Line 25	37.3	XX (+\$50M)	XX (+\$50M)

Please note, the numbers in the chart are displayed in millions.

**Background:** The Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasures (LAIRCM) system provides a significantly improved defensive capability for the Department of Defense to counter the proliferating infrared (IR) man-portable air defense systems (MANPADS) missile threats by detecting, tracking, and countering incoming IR missiles. This system is fully autonomous following power-up and consists of Group A aircraft modification kits and Group B hardware. Group B hardware for the LAIRCM system currently consists of missile warning sensors; laser transmitter assemblies; a control indicator unit; a system processor, and repeaters, as needed by the platform.

The ARC C-130Hs and C-130Js require MANPAD self-defense capabilities to detect and defeat modern threats specifically designed to target Mobility Air Forces aircraft. With a legacy lasting over 63 years, the C-130 Hercules remains the U.S. Military's primary combat delivery aircraft. In addition to its primary role in tactical airlift, ANG C-130s support humanitarian, peacekeeping, and disaster relief operations around the world. Undetected surface to air missiles remain a significant threat to deployed combat support aircraft in the INDOPACOM Theater of Operations. The Block 35 AN/AAQ-24 Large Aircraft IR Countermeasures (LAIRCM) system provides improved detection and the ability to defeat advanced MANPAD threats, significantly increasing the survivability of the C-130 fleet during Agile Combat Employment operations worldwide. A total of 40 ANG / 14 AFRC C-130Js and 104 ANG / 44 AFRC C-130Hs require group A and B modifications for the LAIRCM Block 35 system and the LAIRCM Group B equipment.

In accordance with Section 1815 of the FY 2008 National Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 110-181), this item is necessary for use by the active and reserve components of the Armed Forces for homeland defense missions, domestic emergency responses, and providing military support to civil authorities.

**FY24 Budget Request:** Continue C-130H/J Large Aircraft Infrared Counter Measure System (LAIRCM) upgrades for the Air National Guard (ANG) & Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC).

## Why support full funding for LAIRCM and an additional \$50M in FY24?

- The AN/AAQ-24 Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasures (LAIRCM) system is a proven defensive capability for aircraft against man-portable air defense systems (MANPADS) missile threats.
- Increased emphasis on INDOPACOM and the requisite survivability necessary to sustain island hopping maneuvers in the presence of proliferated missile threats in that region necessitate the advanced threat detection and defeat countermeasures available in LAIRCM Block 30/35.
- The Mobility Air Force (MAF) identified ANG C-130H/J Self-protection Capability as the number one Critical Capability for the 2020, 2021, and 2022 Weapons and Tactics Conference Priority Lists.

- ANG C-130's comprise nearly half the total Air Force Combat Fleet and will be the backbone of Combat Airlift for many decades.
- LAIRCM is essential to ensuring the C-130s continued viability. ANG C-130Hs require self-defense capabilities to detect and defeat modern threats specifically designed to target Mobility Air Forces aircraft. Block 30/35 LAIRCM improves the detection and defeat of advanced MANPAD threats and replaces ageing and obsolete aircraft systems presently on ANG C-130H.
- Funding to implement LAIRCM Block 30/35's increased survivability performance for ANG C-130 aircraft is vital to safe and effective operations in INDOPACOM and other theaters.

**Potential Bases for LAICM upgrades:**

<u>State</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Model</u>	<u>Qty</u>
AR	Little Rock	189 AW	C-130H2	14
CA	Channel Island	146 AW	C-130H2	8
CT	Bradley	103 AW	C-130H2/3	8
DE	Wilmington	166 AW	C-130H2.5	8
GA	Savannah	165 AW	C-130H3	7
IL	Peoria	182 AW	C-130H3	8
KY	Louisville	123 AW	C-130-J-30	8
MN	St. Paul	133 AW	C-130H3	8
MO	St. Joseph	139 AW	C-130H2.5	10
MT	Great Falls	120 AW	C-130H2	8
NV	Reno	152 AW	C-130H3	8
NY	Schenectady	109 AW	C-130H2	2
OH	Mansfield	179 AW	C-130H2	5
RI	Quonset	143 AW	C-130J-30	8
TX	Carswell	136 AW	C-130J-30	8
WV	Charleston	130 AW	C-130J-30	8
WY	Cheyenne	153 AW	C-130H3	8

