

SUBJECT: National Guard Association of Texas - State Resolution to Modernize All ANG C-130s with Large Aircraft IR Countermeasures (LAIRCM)

REFERENCES: Resolution form, WEPTAC (Air Reserve Component's Weapons and Tactics Conference Modernization Priorities Book, LAIRCM Information Sheet

ISSUE: The ANG C-130 fleet requires self-defense capabilities to detect, deny and defeat modern factor threats specifically designed to target large Mobility Air Forces aircraft.

POINT OF CONTACT: Resolution Committee, NGAT

PROPOSAL: Texas

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

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.

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).

RECOMMENDATION: Pass