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COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS,
RESPONSE, AND COMMUNICATIONS

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES



UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Defense Appropriations Subcommittee
H-405 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Pete Visclosky
Ranking Member
Defense Appropriations Subcommittee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Visclosky,

As the subcommittee prepares its Fiscal Year 2016 Defense Appropriations legislation, I respectfully ask for your support for the EC-130H Compass Call fleet. The FY16 President's Budget Request asks to divest 7 of the 15 aircraft in the fleet even though the capabilities are in high demand from combatant commanders and there is no replacement in development. The Compass Call can perform electronic warfare, suppression of enemy air defenses, and offensive counter-information operations.

The Compass Call is the only dedicated U.S. Air Force Electronic Warfare aircraft. It entered inventory in the 1980s to jam enemy command and control communications and was successfully employed during Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. The Compass Call also provided electronic warfare support in operations in Kosovo, Haiti, Panama, Serbia, and Afghanistan. It was the most heavily tasked special mission C-130 during operations in Afghanistan. The aircraft executes unique missions with its electronic countermeasures systems, specialized jamming equipment, the capability to aerial refuel, and upgraded engines and avionics. The Air Force has not identified follow on capability and no other platform currently performs the mission. Retiring these platforms without a replacement in place will create a significant capability shortfall for the U.S. Armed Forces.

I respectfully request that you continue to fund the entire Compass Call fleet until an alternative capability has been identified and a transition plan for the replacement has been approved and funding has been programmed.

Sincerely,


Martha McSally
Member of Congress