

Amendment 2164 - To withhold funding for acquisition of aircraft and equipment for the Afghan Security Forces until the Secretary of Defense submits a plan to Congress confirming the plan to transfer the C-27A planes to another agency or entity.

In an effort to build up the fledgling Afghan Security Forces, the U.S. has been equipping and training the Afghan military and police forces through the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund. As part of that effort, the U.S. Air Force purchased 20 C-27A Spartan Tactical Transport Aircraft to provide the Afghan Air Force with a cargo lift capability at a cost of \$631.4 million to U.S. tax payers.

But from the start, the program was plagued by problems with the aircraft and supply chain, and as a result, none of these aircraft have been transferred to the Government of Afghanistan, nor will they ever be. The Air Force has instead decided to supply the Afghanistan Air Force with C-130H planes, and has delivered the first two of four C-130H planes at an additional cost to taxpayers of \$148 million.¹

Currently, the 16 C-27As sitting in Afghanistan and the four sitting at Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany have expired airworthiness certifications because the maintenance contract expired in March of this year.

The FY 2014 NDAA provides the Air Force authority to treat these planes as DOD excess stocks, which will enable the Air Force to transfer these planes to another agency or entity, rather than destroy them as part of the U.S. military's retrograde process from Afghanistan.

This amendment requires the Secretary of Defense to develop a plan for transferring these planes before the Air Force is allowed to acquire additional aircraft or equipment for the Afghanistan Security Forces.

While no other federal agencies have expressed interest in the C-27As, they could also be transferred to our foreign allies.

Only by holding the Air Force accountable for their previous investment decisions can the American taxpayer discourage this kind of continued waste of their valuable tax dollars.

¹ <http://www.janes.com/article/28166/afghan-air-force-receives-first-hercules-airlifters>