

Amendment 2165 - To withhold funding for acquisition of aircraft until the Secretary of Defense submits a plan to Congress confirming the plan to transfer the Air Force's C-27J planes to another agency or entity.

Since 2007, the U.S. taxpayer has paid \$1.6 billion for 21 C-27J Spartan Tactical Transport Aircraft, of which 16 have been delivered. Most of these planes have never been used and now sit in storage at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Arizona.¹

Originally envisioned as part of a fleet of joint cargo aircraft, the Air Force decided to cancel the C-27J because it could acquire a similar capability for a lower price with its C-130 aircraft.²

This amendment requires the Secretary of Defense to develop a plan for transferring these planes, most of which are brand new, before the Air Force is allowed to acquire additional planes.

Other federal agencies such as the U.S. Special Operations Command, the U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Coast Guard have expressed interest in the C-27Js, but they could also be transferred to our foreign allies.³

According to the plane's manufacturer, Alenia Aermacchi, the C-27J "provides a true multi-functional, military aircraft designed and built for tactical transport and to support combat operations. It operates autonomously in remote and austere environments and can take off and land from unprepared surfaces and airstrips less than 2,000 feet. The C-27J has flown in Iraq and Afghanistan in the most complex and challenging environments, including operations from unpaved runways with excellent results in terms of technical reliability and operational performance."⁴

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.dodbuzz.com/2013/10/07/time-runs-out-on-c-27j/>

² Ibid

³ <http://www.janes.com/article/28059/pentagon-shops-for-new-c-27j-managers>

⁴ <http://www.aleniana.com/c-27j-spartan-tactical-transport-aircraft>