

KC-130J

Description

The KC-130 is a versatile four-engine, tactical aerial refueler/transport, which supports all six functions of Marine aviation. It is the only long-range



fixed wing assault support capability organic to the Marine Corps. The KC-130J with its increase in speed (+21 percent) and range (+35 percent) over legacy aircraft, features an improved air-to-air refueling system and state-of-the-art flight station. The flight station includes two Head Up Displays (HUDs),

night vision lighting, augmented crew station and fully integrated digital avionics architecture. An Allison AE 2100D3 propulsion system, with full authority digital electronic controls, Dowty R391 advanced technology six bladed propeller system, and 250 knot cargo ramp and door, complete the package that will provide the MAGTF commander with a state-of-the-art, multi-mission, tactical aerial refueler/transport well into the next century. The Marine Corps intends to replace its aging active fleet of KC-130Fs, Rs, and Ts with the new KC-130J.

Operational Impact

The KC-130 provides both fixed-wing and helicopter tactical in-flight refueling, rapid ground refueling of aircraft or tactical vehicles, assault air transport of air landed or air delivered personnel, supplies and equipment, command and control augmentation, pathfinder, battlefield illumination, tactical aero-medical evacuation, and Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personnel (TRAP) support. This force multiplier is well suited to the mission needs of the forward deployed MAGTF. The KC-130J will bring increased capability and mission flexibility to the planning table with its satellite communications system, survivability enhancements, night systems, enhanced rapid ground refueling, and improved aircraft systems.

Program Status

The KC-130J is procured as a commercial-off-the-shelf aircraft currently in production. The total program buy for KC-130J is 79 aircraft for the Marine Corps. DT/OT and an Operational Evaluation will be conducted in FY02 and early FY03 with subsequent delivery to the fleet and Initial Operational Capability by October, 2003.

Procurement Profile:	FY02	FY03
Quantity:	2	4

Developer/Manufacturer Lockheed Martin