

> 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 Marine Corps intends to replace its aging active fleet of KC-130Fs, KC-130Rs, with the new KC-130J aircraft. This aircraft possesses increased speed (21 percent greater) and range (35 percent greater) compared to legacy aircraft. The KC-130J also features an improved air-to-air refueling system and state-of-the-art flight station. The latter includes two head-up displays (HUDs), night-vision lighting, an augmented crew station, and a fully integrated digital avionics architecture. An Allison AE 2100D3 propulsor system with full authority digital electronic controls, a Dowty R391 advanced technology six-bladed propeller system, and a 250-knot cargo ramp and door, complete the package.

OPERATIONAL IMPACT

The KC-130 provides tactical in-flight refueling for fixed-wing aircraft and

helicopters. The aircraft also provides 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; and pathfinder, battlefield illumination, tactical aero-medical evacuation, and 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 communication 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 that is currently in production. The Marine Corps is entering a multi-year program for purchase with the US Air Force. The total program buy for the Marine Corps is 51 aircraft. Testing and an operational evaluation will be conducted in FY 2003 with subsequent delivery to the fleet and initial operational capability by January 2004.

PROCUREMENT PROFILE: **FY03** **FY04**

Quantity:

4

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DEVELOPER/MANUFACTURER

Lockheed Martin