

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 06, 2021

The Honorable John P. Roth
Acting Secretary
Department of Air Force
1670 Air Force Pentagon, Room 4E878
Washington, DC 20330-1670

Dear Acting Secretary Roth,

We write to express our continued support for the A-10 Warthog and request the Air Force provide more transparency with regards to decision-making around the platform. Arizona is proud to be home to the largest contingent of A-10 aircraft at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. The airspace, training ranges, and unique climate of Arizona make our state a prime location for flying missions, particularly missions that involve close maneuvering to the ground in visual flight conditions. As you know, the A-10 is a vital asset to the close air support mission and is an iconic symbol of the Arizona defense community.

However, the Air Force has utilized divestment of the A-10 as a budgetary solution for modernization efforts. We will continue to advocate for the A-10 program because we have not seen a clearly articulated plan on how the Air Force will replace the aircraft's capabilities nor plans to mitigate impacts to the communities surrounding installations where the A-10 is located. Our engagements with department leadership, while positive, have not yielded the necessary details on the A-10 program nor the future of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base to be able to discern a full commitment to a plan.

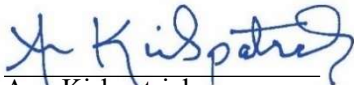
Please provide answers to the following question areas as soon as possible:

- 1) What is the expected release date for the Initial Operation Test and Evaluation report containing F-35 vs. A-10 comparative testing as directed by the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act?
 - a. We understand that the final report will not be available until 90 days after completion of the required testing in the F-35 Joint Simulation Environment, which has faced significant delays. Retirement of the A-10 is restricted in the 2017 NDAA until the release of this report in its entirety. Since this report has not been received, any divestment of aircraft seems premature. Can the Department provide the F-35 vs. A-10 comparative testing as a separate report?
- 2) When will the Air Force obligate the planned Fiscal Year 2021 funds for A-10 enhanced wing assembly kits?
 - a. Is the Air Force delaying obligation of funds to purchase fewer kits and reduce fleet size?
 - b. Please provide an updated list of the units that will receive the 46 currently procured but not installed wing kits. Please include the number of aircraft each unit is receiving and the number of non-upgraded aircraft remaining.
- 3) We understand that Davis-Monthan Air Force Base is currently identified as the preferred location for a potential consolidation of geographically separated rescue units. When will a

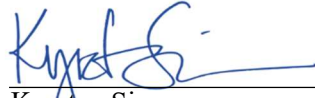
basing decision be made regarding these assets? When do you anticipate this decision will be reflected in the Future Years Defense Program? In what fiscal year do you anticipate the move to begin?

Arizona is and will continue to be an avid supporter of the Department of Defense. As we continue to work together to build a force that can meet the National Defense Strategy, we must be cognizant not to create unnecessary capability gaps that put our national security at risk. We must also ensure we properly utilize the unique resources our communities provide. We look forward to your timely response.


Sincerely,



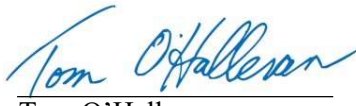
Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress



Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



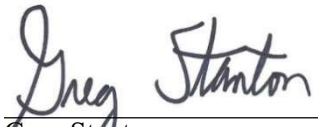
David Schweikert
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



Debbie Lesko
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton
Member of Congress