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EDUCATION AND THE
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1001
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The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee
2208 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Thornberry,

As the House Armed Services Committee prepares to markup the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016, I respectfully ask for your support of the A-10 aircraft.

The Close Air Support (CAS) capability of the A-10 is unmatched. Its firepower has saved countless American lives while the versatility of the A-10 allows for a multitude of mission sets such as Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR) capabilities, which are vital to ensure the safety of downed pilots.

Currently, the A-10s are an essential part of the US mission in the Middle East, as evidenced by the recent announcement of a new deployment of A-10s in support of allied efforts. In addition, last week, the commander of U.S. forces in South Korea noted the A-10s importance regarding deterrence efforts against the North Korean military.

Despite its unparalleled capabilities, the Air Force has ignored Congress and taken action towards divestment of the A-10. Such efforts are in contradiction to the more than \$1 billion that has been reinvested in the A-10 over recent years. Whether discussing the amount of lives saved in combat or the gap in close air support capabilities under divestiture, the A-10's role in support of U.S. forces is evident.

I appreciated your decision to keep the A-10 flying next year and urge you to back any effort to explicitly prohibit the Air Force from taking further action to divest of the aircraft. We cannot afford to divest the A-10 fleet, specifically without an aircraft capable of fulfilling the CAS and CSAR role.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. It is an honor to serve with you.

Sincerely,


Earl L. 'Buddy' Carter
Member of Congress