

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20330

23 DEC 1975
(Handwritten initials)


OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 DEC 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: A-10 Procurement
Senator Robert Taft (OH) Interest - ACTION MEMORANDUM

Attached for your signature is a proposed interim reply to Senator Taft's December 12, 1975 letter urging your support of the A-10 program.

A substantive response is being prepared by the Air Force and will be forwarded for your signature in the near future.

Recommend your signature.

(Handwritten signature of J. W. Plummer)

J. W. Plummer
Acting Secretary of the Air Force

Attachment

Coordination:

ASD (LA)

(Handwritten signature of John T. Manning)

(Handwritten initials in a circle)



Interim

OK

(Handwritten initials in a circle)

S12/225

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

DEC 31 1975

Honorable Robert Taft, Jr.
United States Senate

Dear Bob,

Thank you for your letter of December 12, 1975 regarding the A-10 program.

I have asked the Air Force to assemble the necessary information to permit me to respond fully to your concerns in the near future.

I appreciate your continuing interest in Department of Defense programs and welcome the opportunity to be of service to you.

With warm regard,

Sincerely,

DON



ROBERT TAFT, JR.
OHIO



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

December 12, 1975

The Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense
Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

It has been reported to me that OMB may be recommending significant reductions in production of the A-10 in its review of the FY 1977 budget for the Department of Defense.

Testimony to the Senate Armed Services Committee has consistently indicated that the A-10 is urgently needed to support our European ground forces. The massive Soviet armor in Eastern Europe is one of the greatest threats we face in a NATO war, and the A-10 is designed specifically to counter that threat. To reduce production and delay introduction of the A-10 into the active inventory at the planned rate seems to me to be questionable.

In light of recent publicity about deficiencies in the structure of the A-10, I can understand the temptation to cut back on the program, but I am advised the deficiencies have been completely corrected. Indeed, I am told that recent flight tests have shown the weapon system to exceed substantially its design goals for weapons accuracy and probable tank kills per mission.

In view of this, it would appear ill-advised to allow any cutback in the program. I hope that you will resist any change in the planned production schedule.

Sincerely,



Bob Taft Jr.
Robert Taft, Jr.

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