

Credible Sport



In 1980, Lockheed Martin refitted three C-130s to ultra-STOL capability under the code-name Credible Sport. The YMC-130Hs were to be used in a rescue attempt for US hostages being held in Iran. Extensive modifications included the addition of lift rockets slanting downward, slow-down rockets facing forward, missile motors facing backward, and even more rockets for stabilization. Mounted in a stretched nose was a terrain-following radar. There were extensive airframe modifications.

In one test, the slow-down rockets misfired while the C-130 was still in flight (above), resulting in a crash that destroyed the aircraft. All crew members survived. Soon after, the hostages were freed and the remaining two YMC-130Hs were stripped of modifications. One was sent back into service. The other (right) is on display at the Museum of Aviation in Warner Robins, Ga.

