

United States Senate
Committee on Armed Services
Washington, DC 20510-6050

October 5, 2007

(Pentagon address)

Dear General Cody:

Thank you for your call regarding the Joint Cargo Aircraft (JCA) program and the issue of whether this will be a joint Army-Air Force program or solely an Air Force program. As it turns out, I do have several questions, the answers to which could help clarify the situation.

- Are there any other fixed wing cargo missions where the Army and Air Force are flying the same aircraft?
- Since you intend that Army JCA aircraft would supplant some CH-47 helicopters in certain logistics missions, is there some reason why Air Force JCA aircraft could not supplant logistics missions currently being flown by CH-47 helicopters?
- In this era of greater “jointness” with the services performing missions in support of the other Services, why can’t the Air Force perform the fixed wing intra-theater logistics mission for everyone in the theater?
- Why would splitting the mission of fixed win intra-theater logistics between the services be more efficient or more effective?
- Under the Defense Department’s plan of a joint Army-Air Force JCA program, how will the missions flown by the two services within a theater differ?
- Why would shifting the program and the funding resources to the Air Force necessarily result in delays in fielding the capability?
- Why would shifting the program to the Air Force necessarily result in reduced support to homeland defense or disaster relief missions? Is there some difference between the support that Army National Guard units would provide when compared to Air National Guard units?
- Why does it make sense to replace C-12 aircraft in the Army inventory with an aircraft that has so much more payload than the C-12?

As this will be a matter discussed in the DOD authorization conference, a reply by October 12, 2007 would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Chairman

cc: Honorable Robert M. Gates, Secretary of Defense
cc: General Duncan L. McNabb, Vice Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force