

COMMITTEE LANGUAGE FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997

EA-6 SERIES ACCOUNT: APN

PRESBUD	HNSC	SASC	CASC	HAC	SAC	CAC
100,620	195,620	173,620	201,620	221,620	236,620	228,620

HNSC LANGUAGE (Rpt. 104-563)

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EA-6B MODIFICATIONS - The budget request contained \$100.6 million for EA-6B modifications.

Fleet aviation continues to require a robust electronic warfare capability. The decision to retire the Air Force's EF-111s and rely on the EA-6B for the Department's tactical jamming mission makes it imperative that the EA-6B fleet be structurally sound and modernized to meet current requirements.

The EA-6B's aluminum wing center sections have been found to be subject to embrittlement, which has led to stress cracks and resulted in the removal of a number of aircraft from active service. As a result of a Congressional initiative to address this problem, replacement wing center sections are currently being produced. However the Navy has a requirement for twenty more of these sections, since Congress added funds in fiscal year 1996 to upgrade an additional 20 EA-6Bs to support the Air Force's stand-off jamming needs. Consequently, the committee recommends an additional \$55.0 million to purchase ten of the twenty new wing center sections in order to avoid a production break in the manufacture of this component.

The current jamming transmitters on the EA-6B have not changed substantially since originally designed in the 1960s. There have been several generations of improved surface-to-air and air-to-air missiles since then, and many of these new systems operate at higher radio frequency signals than these jammers. Also, the great majority of current anti-ship missiles employ seekers in the band 9/10 frequency range. Since the EA-6B is a key component of the Navy's Cooperative Engagement Capability against these threats, equipping these aircraft with Band 9/10 electronic countermeasure transmitters will provide a potent and effective defensive screen against such missiles. Consequently, the committee recommends an additional \$40.0 million to procure 60 shipsets of these transmitters.

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Section--121. EA-6B aircraft reactive jammer program.

The committee last year recommended an addition to the budget request of \$216.0 million to ensure the Department of Defense (DOD) had the resources to update badly outdated and increasingly important electronic warfare aircraft. The committee's recommendation would have dealt with immediate needs and would have begun a modest program to provide low cost reactive jamming capability.

The committee understands the Department has initiated various projects to halt the deterioration of some of the aircraft and return others to service. However, the Department has informed the committee of its intention to delay development of new receivers or a reactive jamming capability until fiscal year 1999. In view of the resources applied by the Congress to this program in the fiscal year 1996 budget, the committee finds such an approach difficult to understand.

In the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1996, the conferees noted the inconsistent nature of the Navy's actions regarding tactical electronic warfare (EW) in recent years and voiced deep concern with the Navy's vacillating commitment and support for meaningful upgrades for the EA-6B aircraft. In the statement of managers accompanying the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1996 (H. Rept. 104-450), the conferees directed the Secretary of the Navy to:

- (1) initiate the EA-6B modifications identified in the report; and
- (2) provide the congressional defense committees with:
 - (a) a program and budget plan for completing the directed modifications;
 - (b) the Joint Tactical Airborne EW Study (JTAEWS).

The conferees prohibited the Department from obligating more than 75 percent of the procurement funds for F/A-18 aircraft until the Department complied with this guidance.

EA-6B aircraft reactive jammer program

Although funds were authorized and appropriated for fiscal year 1996 to initiate a reactive jammer program for the EA-6B, the Department of Defense chose not to initiate such a program, and elected instead to program funds for such an effort from fiscal year 1999 to fiscal year 2001.

The committee finds these actions of ignoring congressional direction and refusing to start a modest reactive jamming program unacceptable. The EA-6B is currently using obsolete receivers with technology from the 1960s. The EA-6B is scheduled to be the only airborne standoff jamming capability within DOD. Therefore, the committee recommends an increase of \$55.0 million in PE 060427N to begin at once a program to develop and field a reactive jamming capability in the EA-6B.

It appears to the committee that the Department of the Navy intends to abide by the letter, but not the spirit of the law, particularly regarding reactive jamming capability. The committee received the report required by the National Defense Authorization Act for

Fiscal Year 1996 simultaneous with the deadline for obligating the funds for the F/A-18 program. This action leads the committee to believe that the language dealing with this and other important programs will have to be more detailed and explicit. Therefore, the committee feels compelled to recommend a provision that would require the Secretary to: (1) certify obligation of funds for a reactive jamming program; and (2) submit a plan for a complete program to the congressional defense committees before obligation of any funds for other recommended increases the EA-6B program. The provision would also provide that all additional funds listed below be transferred to the Air Force for upgrading and operating EF-111 aircraft, if such certification is not made by June 1, 1997.

The committee notes that the General Accounting Office published a recent report, "Combat Air Power--Funding Priority for Suppression of Enemy Air Defenses May Be Too Low" (GAO-NSIAD-96-128). That report concludes, "DoD's planned actions in the next few years will have a negative impact on SEAD [suppression of enemy air defenses] and may need to be reversed in the future, at much greater expense and effort." The report further suggests that, "DoD, prior to retiring the F-4G and the EF-111, reassess the relative funding priority of SEAD and other elements of combat air power based on their war-fighting and peacetime contributions". The committee agrees that the Secretary of Defense should postpone the retirement of the EF-111 until the Department reassesses these funding priorities.

Band 9/10 ECM transmitters

Last year, the committee recommended an increase to begin procurement of a robust band 9/10 capability upgrade for the EA-6B fleet. The band 9/10 jammer has been identified as among the most immediate of available upgrades. The committee understands that the Navy could acquire up to 49 additional band 9/10 jammers by exercising options on an existing contract. Accordingly, the committee recommends an increase of \$40.0 million to acquire as many band 9/10 jammer pods as can be secured by exercising existing options.

USQ-113 communications jammer

The committee recommends an addition of \$11.0 million to acquire an additional 24 units of the USQ-113 communications jammer.

Universal exciter upgrade

In order to operate the EA-6B weapon system effectively in the modern electronic warfare battlefield, the Navy should incorporate sophisticated waveform generators in the aircraft. Accordingly, the committee recommends an increase of \$10.0 million in PE 060427N to perform laboratory and field tests to develop the required techniques.

Overhead connectivity

EA-6B flight crews are using laptop computers to obtain and process data necessary to conduct operational missions. The committee understands that this approach has been successful in increasing operators' situational awareness to date. The committee encourages innovative approaches to problem solving and the use of prototype units. Accordingly, the committee recommends an increase of \$22.0 million to extend the connectivity capability to more fleet assets.

A summary of recommended increases and their references is provided below:

AIRBORNE ELECTRONIC WARFARE FUNDING

[Dollars in millions]

	<u>Budget Request</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Reference</u>
Procurement:				
Band 9/10		40.0	\$40.0	APN line 19 OSIP 19-79
USQ-113		11.0	11.0	APN line 19 OSIP 32-85
Overhead connectivity	22.0	22.0		APN line 19 OSIP 32-85
Research & Development:				
Reactive jamming initiative		55.0	55.0	RDT&E, Navy PE 060427N
Universal exciter upgrade		10.0	10.0	RDT&E, Navy PE 060427N
Total			\$138.0	

CASC LANGUAGE (Rpt. 104-724)

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SEC. 123. EA-6B AIRCRAFT REACTIVE JAMMER PROGRAM.

(a) Limitation.--None of the funds appropriated pursuant to section 102(a)(1) for modifications or upgrades of EA-6B aircraft may be obligated, other than for a reactive jammer program for such aircraft, until 30 days after the date on which the Secretary of the Navy submits to the congressional defense committees in writing--

(1) a certification that some or all of such funds have been obligated for a reactive jammer program for EA-6B aircraft; and

(2) a report that sets forth a detailed, well-defined program for--

(A) developing a reactive jamming capability for EA-6B aircraft; and

(B) upgrading the EA-6B aircraft of the Navy to incorporate the reactive jamming capability.

(b) Contingent Transfer of Funds to Air Force.--(1) If the Secretary of the Navy has not submitted the certification and report described in subsection (a) to the congressional defense committees before June 1, 1997, then, on that date, the Secretary of Defense shall transfer to Air Force, out of appropriations available to the Navy for fiscal year 1997 for procurement of aircraft, the amount equal to the amount appropriated to the Navy for fiscal year 1997 for modifications and upgrades of EA-6B aircraft.

(2) Funds transferred to the Air Force pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be available for maintaining and upgrading the jamming capability of EF-111 aircraft.

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PROCUREMENT

Attack aviation continues to require a robust electronic warfare capability. The decision to retire the Air Force's EF-111s and rely on the EA-6B for the Department's tactical jamming mission makes it imperative that the EA-6B fleet be structurally sound and modernized to meet current requirements.

The conferees note that the current jamming transmitters on the EA-6B have not changed substantially since originally designed in the 1960s, although there have been several generations of improved surface-to-air and air-to-air missiles since then, and many of these new systems operate in the high radio frequency range. Also, the great majority of current anti-ship missiles employ seekers in the band 9/10 frequency range. Consequently, the conferees agree to authorize an increase of \$40.0 million to the budget request to procure 60 shipsets of these transmitters.

The conferees agree to authorize an addition of \$11.0 million to the budget request to acquire an additional 24 units of the USQ-113 communications jammer.

The EA-6B's aluminum wing center sections have been found to be subject to embrittlement, which has led to stress cracks and resulted in the removal of a number of aircraft from active service. Consequently, the conferees agree to increase the budget request by \$50.0 million to purchase ten of the twenty new wing center sections in order to avoid a production break in the manufacture of this component.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Although funds were authorized and appropriated for fiscal year 1996 to initiate a reactive jammer program for the EA-6B, the Department of Defense chose not to initiate such a program, and elected instead to program funds for such an effort from fiscal year 1999 to fiscal year 2001.

The conferees find these actions of ignoring congressional direction and refusing to start a modest reactive jamming program unacceptable. The EA-6B is currently using obsolete receivers with technology from the 1960s. The EA-6B is scheduled to be the only airborne standoff jamming capability within DOD. The conferees expect the Department to begin at once a program to develop and field a reactive jamming capability in the EA-6B, and have authorized an additional \$32.0 million for this purpose.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 121) that would require the Secretary of Defense to:

- (1) certify obligation of funds for a reactive jamming program; and
- (2) submit a plan for a complete program to the congressional defense committees before obligation of any funds for other recommended increases the EA-6B program.

The provision would also provide that all EA-6B modification funding be transferred to the Air Force for upgrading and operating EF-111 aircraft, if such certification is not may by June 1, 1997.

The House bill did not contain a similar provision.

The House recesses.

HAC LANGUAGE (Rpt. 104-617)

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Inventory Shortfalls: In light of existing inventory shortfalls and requirements, the Committee has added funds over the request for Army Kiowa Warrior helicopters (\$233 million added), Navy EA-6B electronic warfare aircraft (\$180 million) Navy E-2C surveillance aircraft (\$155 million), upgrades to P-3 maritime surveillance aircraft for the Navy (\$153 million), and Air Force F-15E fighters (\$319 million), among others.

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EA-6 SERIES

The Navy requested \$100,620,000 for EA-6B modifications. The Committee recommends \$221,620,000, an increase of \$121,000,000. Of the additional funds provided, \$50,000,000 is only for procurement of 10 additional Center Wing Sections, \$40,000,000 for procurement of 60 additional Band 9/10 transmitters, \$20,000,000 for procurement of turbine blade containment upgrades, and \$11,000,000 only for procurement of 24 USQ-113 communications receivers.

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ELECTRONIC WARFARE DEVELOPMENT

The Navy requested \$78,748,000 for EW development. The Committee recommends \$141,248,000, an increase of \$62,500,000. Of the additional funds provided, \$3,500,000 is only for anti-jam GPS efforts as recommended in the House-passed Defense Authorization bill, \$32,000,000 is only for development of an EA-6B reactive jamming capability, \$5,000,000 is only for jamming techniques optimization, and \$22,000,000 is only for EA-6B connectivity upgrades.

SAC LANGUAGE (Rpt. 104-286)

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Program and project funding adjustments.--The Committee recommends the addition and subtraction of funds for the following projects and programs to reflect congressional priorities; to rectify shortfalls in the budget request for activities; to implement increases endorsed and/or requested by the Navy to address budget shortfalls; to effect funding transfers recommended by the Committee or the Navy; and to delete excess funds.

[In thousands of dollars]

Item estimate	1997 budget estimate	Committee Recommendation	Change from budget
F/A-18C (fighter) Hornet		234,000	+234,000
F/A-18D (fighter) Hornet		255,000	+255,000
F/A-18E/F (fighter) Hornet/ ALR-67(V)3	1,859,856	1,844,756	-15,100
EA-6 series modifications	100,620	263,620	+163,000
USQ-113 communications jammer	11,000		+11,000
Band 9/10 transmitter		40,000	+40,000
J-52 engine containment		40,000	+40,000
Center wing sections		50,000	+50,000
Connectivity		22,000	+22,000
F-18 series modifications/ ALR-67(V)3	156,486	154,327	-2,159
S-3 series modifications/6-month contract award delays	36,413	18,207	-18,206
EP-3 series modifications/ lightweight environmentally sealed parachute assembly	35,429	36,429	+1,000
P-3 series modifications	128,560	200,760	+72,200
Antisurface warfare [ASUW] improvement program			87,000
SIGINT capabilities package/ transfer to elsewhere in budget			-17,600
Lightweight environmentally sealed parachute assembly			+2,800
H-1 series modifications/ thermal imaging systems	9,339	22,839	+13,500
Common electronic countermeasures [ECM] equipment	20,069	68,043	+47,974

Airborne self protection jammer			+50,000
ALR-67(V)3			-12,026
APR-39A(V)2 radar warning receiver			+10,000
Passenger safety modifications (common avionics, spares)		14,800	+14,800
Aircraft spares and repair parts/ Magic Lantern	839,987	844,987	+5,000