



Public Affairs Guidance

Preferred Alternative Basing for C-27J Ops

PA POSTURE: Active. The Air Force executed an enterprise-wide evaluation of Air Force sites for operational basing of C-27J Operations. The press release at section 3 announces the preferred basing alternative.

1. RESPONSIBILITIES:

- a. SAF/IE will
 - Provide subject matter expertise.
 - Assist with responses to follow-on media queries
- b. SAF/LL will develop a Congressional Engagement Plan
- c. SAF/PAO will
 - Publish a press release once appropriate Congressional notifications are complete
- d. NGB/PA will provide subject matter experts regarding ANG issues related to this announcement

2. BACKGROUND: The Air Force used its Strategic Basing process to determine basing locations for the C-27. After reviewing site survey results, preliminary environmental analysis and applying military judgment, the Secretary of the Air Force and the Chief of Staff of the Air Force have made preferred and reasonable alternative decisions that will undergo further environmental analysis.

3. PRESS RELEASE:

Air Force selects preferred alternative base for C-27J aircraft operations

WASHINGTON – The Air Force announced Great Falls International Airport, Mont. as the preferred alternative to be the seventh C-27J operational location bedding down four aircraft.

Secretary of the Air Force, Michael Donley and General Norton Schwartz, Chief of Staff of the Air Force announced in July 2010 two candidate bases that included Boise Air Terminal AGS, Idaho and Great Falls International Airport, Mont. Site survey teams evaluated the two candidates for feasibility, timing, cost and planning purposes to meet initial operational capability requirements.

The C-27J is a twin turboprop engine aircraft designed to meet the Air Force requirement for a rugged, medium size airland transport. The C-27J gives US military troops a unique, short-take-off-and-landing capability, providing access to airstrips otherwise unreachable by fixed-wing aircraft.

The first six operational bases announced in July 2008 were Martin State AGS, Baltimore, MD; W.K. Kellogg Airport, Battle Creek, MI; Bradley IAP AGS, Bradley, CT; Hector Field AGS, Fargo, ND; Mansfield Lahm RAP, Mansfield, OH; and Key Field AGS, Meridian, MS.

The final basing decision for the next operational base is pending completion of environmental impact analysis, expected by May 2011. A final announcement is expected in June 2011 with aircraft delivery expected in mid-2014.

-30-

4. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS:

- 12 Oct – SecAF, CSAF approval of preferred alternative
- 13 Oct – Congressional notifications
- 13 Oct – Press release

5. TALKING POINTS:

- Great Falls International Airport, Mont. is the preferred alternative location for the C-27J operations aircraft.
- The final basing decision will be determined following the completion of the formal environmental impact analysis process expected in May 2011 with final basing decision expected Jun 2011.
- The Air Force has instituted a deliberate, repeatable, and transparent process in determining current and future basing opportunities.
- This preferred alternative basing decision was approved by the Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Air Force
- Basing of these next four aircraft will begin in 2014.

6. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

Q1. What is the capability of this aircraft?

A1. The C-27J is a twin turboprop engine aircraft designed to meet an Air Force requirement for a rugged, medium-sized transport. The C-27 gives US military troops a unique, short-take-off-and-landing capability, providing access to airstrips otherwise unreachable by fixed-wing aircraft.

Q2. Can you explain the steps the Air Force is taking for the basing of these aircraft?

A2. The Air Force uses a deliberate, repeatable and transparent process to identify potential locations for our missions. The process begins with a clear definition of operational imperatives; progresses through selection criteria identification, and culminates with an environmental analysis prior to final site determination. Depending on when assessments and requirements are complete, the process can take up to 2 years.

Q3. How many is the Air Force planning to locate for this basing announcement?

A3. Four C-27Js

Q4. What makes Great Falls International Airport, Mont. the best alternative for this selection?

A4. This installation best meets the needs of the Air Force. This alternative capitalizes on existing manpower, enhances regional lift capability, and can be accomplished at moderated cost.

Q5. Will there be a “mission bathtub” between the F-15s leaving and the C-27s arriving?

A5. The time delay between missions will be mitigated by training and other preparation required to make the transition from F-15s to C-27s.

Q6. When do the F-15s leave Great Falls?

A6. No earlier than first quarter FY12.