

# AIR FORCE SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

*Air Commandos – Quiet Professionals*

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## AFSOC UPDATE



Lt Gen Donald Wurster  
Commander





# AFSOC Weapons Systems





# *Key Tenets*



- **Employ the Force**
  - **Surge is steady state**
  - **ISR & Gunship firepower – great success stories**
    - **Real time support for ground commanders**
- **Modernize the Force**
  - **Must sustain operational readiness and future relevance**
  - **Critical to support QDR-directed SOF growth**
    - **SOF receiver aircraft increase of 74% by FY17**
    - **SOF ground forces increase by 2,800+ shooters**



# *Top Priorities: MC-130 Recapitalization*



- Old aircraft require extra maintenance – cost, downtime
  - 56% increase in hours of unscheduled MX for MC-130 fleet since FY01
- Major MX requirements greatly reduces availability
  - Center wing box
  - High ops tempo drives more frequent MX/inspections





# Top Priorities: CV-22 Acceleration



- **MH-53 retires in FY09  
(Total reduction of 35 aircraft)**
- **CV-22 will be the only long-range VTOL in AFSOC**
- **Deliveries are too few and too slow**
- **Program of record is only 7 aircraft by FY09**
- **Need aircraft engaged in GWOT now!**





# *Top Priorities: AC-27B*



- Increasing ground commander requirement for Gunship
- AC-130s flying well above programmed rate in combat
  - Prematurely ages fleet, accelerates center wing box repair
- Conceptual AC-27 could supplement AC-130, reduce strain and meet GWOT requirements





# Additional Priorities



- Upgrade SOF mobility
- Accelerate Nonstandard Aircraft
- Fully develop ISR/PED capability
- Battlefield Airman transformation
- Improve institutional training





# Final Take-Away



- Programmed increase in SOF ground forces did not include a plus-up in aircraft to support them
- AFSOC is America's specialized airpower, air component to Special Operations
  - *It is imperative we match airpower to SOF requirements to our mission supporting US National Objectives*

