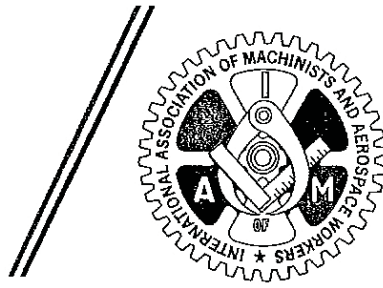


**International
Association of
Machinists and
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301
967-4500



OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

GL-2 Legislative

October 24, 2007

The Honorable Michael W. Wynne
Secretary
United States Department of the Air Force
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1670

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am the International President of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM), the largest union in the defense industry. The IAM is involved in ongoing defense programs as primary contractors as well as subcontractors.

Our members build the C-130J Combat Delivery, the HC-130J Combat Search And Rescue tactical tanker and the MC-130J Special Operations tactical airlift aircraft. Currently military service has validated requirements for over 100 new aircraft to replace equipment that is either damaged or worn out. We have learned that your office is considering an option to allow Airbus to compete for the HC/MC-130 Recap program with the A-400, an airplane that is still on the drawing board. In contrast, the C-130J is combat proven with thousands of flight hours supporting our troops in the war on terrorism, and is a superior product that provides jobs to thousands of workers in forty-one states. We understand that Lockheed Martin has prepared a five-year multi-year contract that will support jobs and create cost benefits for the DoD.

When our members complete a mission they recognize how important it is to maintain quality and improve costs and efficiency throughout. We pledge to continue working with our employers to improve costs and deliver on time for our armed forces. Please help us to protect our country's jobs by selecting the USA built C-130J for our U.S. Air Force.

Sincerely yours,

R. Thomas Buffenbarger
International President

RTB/mmp

cc: Secretary Robert M. Gates, DoD
Deputy Secretary Gordon R. England, DoD
President John Sweeney, AFL-CIO