



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS AIR COMBAT COMMAND

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER  
205 DODD BOULEVARD, SUITE 200  
JOINT BASE LANGLEY-EUSTIS VA 23665

The Honorable Deb Fischer  
United States Senate  
454 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Fischer:

This is in reply to your inquiry for the analytical basis for the Air Force's decision to reduce funding for RC-135 initial spares in its budget for Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) and an assessment of the impact this level of funding will have on the fleet's availability for operations and training.

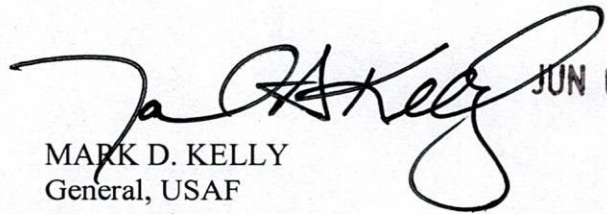
On 23 February 2022, Headquarters Air Force (HAF) notified Air Combat Command (ACC) of an Office of the Secretary of Defense-driven reduction in funding. ACC provided mission impact statements, and the FY23 Presidential Budget and congressional staff briefer engagements reflected a 52% decrease in the FY23 Aircraft Procurement Air Force (APAF) for initial spares.

The reduction in FY23 funding for APAF results in an overall 30% decrease in deployed RC-135 mission capability rates, accounting for 70% fewer spares on-hand for High Priority Mission Support Kits and an average transit time of four days for both sourcing required parts and making necessary repairs.

I understand your concerns regarding the availability of spare parts, and while this funding reduction is limited to FY23, ACC remains committed to advocating for the readiness of our RC-135 fleet. I am happy to discuss this matter with you further, along with any other ACC-related concerns you may have.

We trust this information is helpful.

Sincerely,



JUN 03 2022

MARK D. KELLY  
General, USAF  
Commander

*People First... Mission Always...*