



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Annual Publication | Read It On Your Desktop and Tablet

MILITARY & SECURITY NEWS ▼

MILITARY HISTORY ▼

PHOTOS & VIDEOS ▼

TOPICS ▼

SHOP

ACC Gen. Mike Hostage Says Recapitalization Is Best of Bad Options

Older aircraft fleets will have to be sacrificed

BY **ERIC TEGLER** - OCTOBER 28, 2013





Staff Sgt. Joshua Bard straps Air Combat Command Commander Gen. Mike Hostage into an F-22 Raptor for his qualification flight at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., June 27, 2012. Hostage says recapitalization of the Air Force is the best of the bad options left to the service due to the current budget climate. U.S. Air Force photo by Christopher Cokeing

Advertisement

5 Share 2 Facebook 0 Twitter Submit

SECTIONS: [Military & Security News](#)

TOPICS: [Aerospace](#)

LABELS: [Aircraft](#), [Attack Aircraft](#), [Bomber Aircraft](#), [Fighter Aircraft](#), [Issues](#), [JSF](#), [Programs & Technology](#), [U.S. Air Force](#)



Gen. Mike Hostage, the [Air Force](#)'s Commander of [Air Combat Command](#), was consistently blunt during remarks at the [Air Force Association Conference](#) in Washington, D.C., in September.

“If anybody here managed their personal budget the way we’re managing the nation’s budget, they’d probably wind up either in jail or out on the street,” he said.

“

Recapitalization, he asserts, is the only option. “I realize

that means accepting risk in the near term. But the alternative is arriving in the middle of the next decade with a now 45-year-old fighter force and, most likely, no remaining domestic fighter production capability.”

Continuing budget uncertainties are forcing him to make the best of less than optimal choices, with major consequences for the Air Force’s ability to assure the strategic and tactical freedom of maneuver that the nation’s politicians and joint forces expect. The most fundamental of these choices pits today’s security against tomorrow’s.



An F-35A Lightning II joint strike fighter from the 33rd Fighter Wing at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., and an F-22A Raptor from the 43rd Fighter Squadron at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., fly over the Emerald Coast Sept. 19, 2012. This was the first time the two fifth-generation fighters had flown together for the Air Force. Hostage said the Air Force must procure sufficient numbers of the fifth-generation F-35 and not end up with another miniscule fleet of aircraft like the 186 F-22s. U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Jeremy T. Lock

The Air Force's fighter fleet is old and worn out. Period. Preserving its capabilities would require both modernization of the existing fleet of fourth-generation fighters and recapitalization with a new, full fleet of **1,763 fifth-generation F-35s**. But with Washington's endless budget battle unabated, there simply isn't money to do both.

“Our current fiscal environment will force me to make the hard decision between recapitalization and modernization,” Hostage acknowledged.

Recapitalization, he asserts, is the only option. “I realize that means accepting risk in the near term. But the alternative is arriving in the middle of the next decade with a now 45-year-old fighter force and, most likely, no remaining domestic fighter production capability.”

4th gen vs. 5th gen recapitalization

A 33rd Fighter Wing F-16 Fighting Falcon escorts an F-35A Lightning II joint strike fighter Aug. 31, 2011, en route to Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. Air Force Chief of Staff Mark Welsh says that modernizing fourth-generation fighters like the F-16 and F-15 instead of recapitalization with the F-35 is a false economy. U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt.

Joely Santiago

The risk stems from a fleet that no longer enjoys an assured technological edge and whose readiness has been decimated by recent funding gaps. Remarking on the latter, ACC's commander admitted, "I'm in an abysmal state at the moment in terms of combat readiness, as a result of three months and one week of sequester."

PREV PAGE

1 2

NEXT PAGE

RELATED POSTS



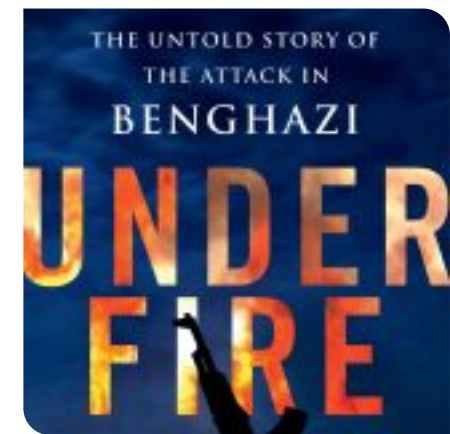
Is the U.S. Army Looking Beyond GCV?



Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAIs)



Army Conducts NIE 14.1



Book Review – Under Fire: The Untold Story of the Attack in Benghazi

BY **ERIC TEGLER**

Eric Tegler is a writer/broadcaster from Severna Park, Md. His work appears in a variety...

5
Share

2
Like

Tweet

Submit

f COMMENTS



Add a comment...

Commer



Daniel Kramer · Engenheiro Agrônomo at CATI - SAA SP

If the USAF feels this way what one can expect from another country, such as Brazil, which as of december of this year will only have F-5 as air superiority aircraft?

Reply · Like · October 30 at 9:03am



Chuck Oldham · ★ Top Commenter · University of Iowa

Which is why Brazil is carrying out the F-X2 program, though it has been a long and fraught process, and has been delayed

Reply · Like · October 30 at 5:19pm

f Facebook social plugin

POPULAR ARTICLES



Operation Damayan: The U.S. Response to Typhoon Haiyan | Photos



Book Review – Under Fire: The Untold Story of the Attack in Benghazi



RC-135W Arrives in Britain



Adrift in the Budget Fog Bank



The UH-72 as a UH-1N Replacement

NEWSLETTER SIGN UP

Sign up for the Defense Media Network newsletter. News and articles delivered to your inbox!

SIGN UP!

POPULAR VIDEOS



Thales Watchkeeper WK450 UAV

FACEBOOK

Defense Media Network

13,275 people like Defense Media Network.

FEATURED PHOTOS





 Facebook social plugin

TWITTER

Tweets by [@DefenseMediaNet](#)



California National Guard Battles Rim Fire Near Yosemite | Photos

SHOP

View one of our great shop categories below:

- [Print Publications](#)
- [Books](#)

NEWEST PRINT PUBLICATION



Connect to DMN



Looking for a DMN Product?

[About](#) · [Contact](#) · [Advertise](#) · [Promotions](#) · [Terms & Conditions](#)

© 2013 Defense Media Network. Faircount Media Group. All Rights Reserved.

u