

SA 1546. Mr. BINGAMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1390, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title I, add the following:

SEC. 125. AC-130 GUNSHIPS.

(a) *Report on Reduction in Service Life in Connection With Accelerated Deployment.*--Not later than December 31, 2009, the Secretary of the Air Force, in consultation with the United States Special Operations Command, shall submit to the congressional defense committees an assessment of the reduction in the service life of AC-130 gunships of the Air Force as a result of the accelerated deployments of such gunships that are anticipated during the seven- to ten-year period beginning with the date of the enactment of this Act, assuming that operating tempo continues at a rate per year of the average of their operating rate for the last five years.

(b) *Elements.*--The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An estimate by series of the maintenance costs for the AC-130 gunships during the period described in subsection (a), including any major airframe and engine overhauls of such aircraft anticipated during that period.

(2) A description by series of the age, serviceability, and capabilities of the armament systems of the AC-130 gunships.

(3) An estimate by series of the costs of modernizing the armament systems of the AC-130 gunships to achieve any necessary capability improvements.

(4) A description by series of the age and capabilities of the electronic warfare systems of the AC-130 gunships, and an estimate of the cost of upgrading such systems during that period to achieve any necessary capability improvements.

(5) A description by series of the age of the avionics systems of the AC-130 gunships, and an estimate of the cost of upgrading such systems during that period to achieve any necessary capability improvements.

(6) An estimate of the costs of replacing all AC-130 gunships with a similar platform that meets the requirements of the Air Force for a next-generation gunship, including--

(A) a description of the time required for the replacement of every AC-130 gunship with a similar next-generation gunship; and

(B) a comparative analysis of the costs of operation of AC-130 gunships by series, including costs of operation, maintenance, and personnel, with the anticipated costs of operation of various platforms that might be suitable for a next-generation gunship.

(c) *Form.*--The report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.