

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9780

To direct the Secretary of Defense to meet certain requirements relating to the divestment, preservation, and inventories of A–10 aircraft, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 20, 2026

Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona (for himself, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mr. GRAVES, and Mr. MILLS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Defense to meet certain requirements relating to the divestment, preservation, and inventories of A–10 aircraft, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “BRRRRRT Act of
5 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO DIVESTMENT, PRES-**
2 **ERVATION, AND INVENTORIES OF A-10 AIR-**
3 **CRAFT.**

4 (a) LIMITATION ON DIVESTMENT OF A-10 AIR-
5 CRAFT.—

6 (1) LIMITATION.—None of the funds authorized
7 to be appropriated or otherwise made available for
8 any of fiscal years 2027 through 2033 for the De-
9 partment of Defense may be obligated or expended
10 to retire, divest, or place in storage any A-10 air-
11 craft in a manner that would reduce the total A-10
12 inventory, including combat-coded, training-coded,
13 test-coded, and backup aircraft, below the level nec-
14 essary to sustain operational employment, pilot pro-
15 duction, operational test, and demonstration require-
16 ments through fiscal year 2033.

17 (2) MINIMUM INVENTORY REQUIREMENT AND
18 FLEET COMPOSITION.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—In fiscal year 2027 and
20 each subsequent fiscal year, the Secretary of
21 the Air Force shall maintain in the inventory of
22 the Air Force the greater of—

23 (i) 126 A-10 aircraft; or

24 (ii) such higher number of A-10 air-
25 craft as the Secretary determines appro-
26 priate.

1 (B) FLEET COMPOSITION.—The A–10 air-
2 craft fleet, as described in subparagraph (A),
3 shall consist of not fewer than—

4 (i) four active units operating under a
5 designed operational capability statement
6 and Ready Aircrew Program tasking
7 memorandum in which close air support,
8 forward air controller-airborne, and combat
9 search and rescue support, including the
10 Sandy mission, are primary missions; or

11 (ii) five units drawn from the active
12 duty, Air National Guard, or Air Force
13 Reserve operating under designed oper-
14 ational capability statements and Ready
15 Aircrew Program tasking memorandums in
16 which close air support, forward air con-
17 troller-airborne, and combat search and
18 rescue support, including the Sandy mis-
19 sion, are primary missions.

20 (3) PROHIBITION ON PRESUMPTIVE REDUC-
21 TIONS.—None of the funds authorized to be appro-
22 priated by this Act or otherwise made available for
23 fiscal year 2027 or any subsequent fiscal year for
24 the Department of Defense may be obligated or ex-
25 pended to reduce, eliminate, deactivate, or fail to re-

1 store unit personnel, pilot training capacity, oper-
2 ational test capacity, depot maintenance capacity, or
3 weapon system sustainment activities for A-10 air-
4 craft in a manner that presumes future congress-
5 sional authority to divest such aircraft.

6 (4) RECONSTITUTION OF PREVIOUSLY RE-
7 DUCED CAPACITY.—With respect to any instance oc-
8 ccurring after October 1, 2025, and before the date
9 of the enactment of this Act, in which the Depart-
10 ment of the Air Force reduced, eliminated, deacti-
11 vated, or transferred depot maintenance capacity,
12 sustainment functions, training functions, or oper-
13 ational test functions for the A-10 fleet in anticipa-
14 tion of divestment or planned retirement of such air-
15 craft, the Secretary of the Air Force shall, not later
16 than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this
17 Act, submit to the congressional defense committees
18 a plan to restore or reconstitute sufficient capacity
19 to carry out this section and maintain the oper-
20 ational viability of the A-10 fleet through fiscal year
21 2033.

22 (b) CERTIFICATION OF FULLY CAPABLE REPLACE-
23 MENT BEFORE FURTHER DIVESTMENT OF A-10 AIR-
24 CRAFT.—

1 (1) CERTIFICATION REQUIRED.—The Secretary
2 of Defense may waive one or more of the require-
3 ments under subsection (a) with respect to a fiscal
4 year only if the Secretary certifies to the congres-
5 sional defense committees that a fully capable re-
6 placement for the A-10 aircraft fleet has achieved
7 full operational capability.

8 (2) ELEMENTS.—The certification required
9 under subsection (a) shall include the following:

10 (A) A determination that the replacement
11 aircraft or combination of systems—

12 (i) is operationally fielded and avail-
13 able for tasking;

14 (ii) includes the qualified pilots, main-
15 tainers, and support personnel necessary to
16 perform the missions currently assigned to
17 the A-10 fleet and to satisfy the require-
18 ments of clauses (iv) and (v);

19 (iii) includes the training,
20 sustainment, depot, and infrastructure ca-
21 pacity necessary to support continued oper-
22 ations;

23 (iv) is capable of performing combat
24 search and rescue support, including the
25 Sandy mission and Rescue Mission Com-

1 mander role, forward air controller-air-
2 borne, close air support, personnel recovery
3 support, and armed overwatch at a level
4 necessary to satisfy the documented re-
5 quirements of supported forces in oper-
6 ational plans, taskings, and the concur-
7 rence required under subparagraph (E);
8 and

9 (v) has demonstrated the ability to
10 provide persistent armed overwatch, air-
11 ground integration, and survivability char-
12 acteristics appropriate to the missions for
13 which the A-10 is currently employed.

14 (B) A detailed crosswalk identifying the
15 specific aircraft, systems, units, or combinations
16 thereof that the Secretary of Defense deter-
17 mines will replace the principal operational ef-
18 fects historically provided by the A-10 fleet.
19 The crosswalk shall address, at a minimum—

20 (i) combat search and rescue support,
21 including the Sandy mission and Rescue
22 Mission Commander role;

23 (ii) forward air controller-airborne
24 functions;

1 (iii) close air support persistence and
2 responsiveness for forces in contact;

3 (iv) armed overwatch and air-ground
4 integration in dynamic land and maritime
5 targeting environments;

6 (v) survivability and mission effective-
7 ness in the operational environments for
8 which the A-10 is currently employed; and

9 (vi) the training, sustainment, and
10 manning structure necessary to generate
11 and employ such replacement capability.

12 (C) A cost-comparison and mission de-
13 mand analysis that weighs the cost per oper-
14 ational hour and demands on other airframes
15 and personnel to fill the A-10 mission set
16 versus such costs and demands assuming the
17 continued employment of A-10 aircraft.

18 (D) An outline of the steps and timeline
19 for the hand-off of A-10 missions and any
20 plans to create, adapt, and train on those mis-
21 sions and close air support, combat search and
22 rescue, and rescue mission commander func-
23 tions and doctrines.

24 (E) The written concurrence of—

1 (i) the Secretary of the Army, with re-
2 spect to whether the replacement aircraft
3 or combination of systems is sufficient to
4 meet the Army's requirements for the A-
5 10 mission set;

6 (ii) the Secretary of the Navy, acting
7 through the Commandant of the Marine
8 Corps, with respect to whether the replace-
9 ment aircraft or combination of systems is
10 sufficient to meet the Marine Corps re-
11 quirements for the A-10 mission set, in-
12 cluding tactical recovery of aircraft and
13 personnel requirements; and

14 (iii) the Commander of United States
15 Special Operations Command, with respect
16 to whether the replacement aircraft or
17 combination of systems is sufficient to sup-
18 port special operations requirements for
19 the A-10 mission set.

20 (F) From each official specified in sub-
21 paragraph (E), a written determination as to
22 whether the replacement aircraft or combina-
23 tion of systems is sufficient to support combat
24 search and rescue support, including the Sandy

1 mission and Rescue Mission Commander role,
2 where applicable to the supported force.

3 (3) TREATMENT OF REPLACED MISSIONS.—For
4 purposes of paragraph (2), a mission may not be
5 treated as replaced merely because it is listed as a
6 secondary, collateral, or additional mission of a plat-
7 form or unit whose designed operational capability
8 statement or Ready Aircrew Program tasking memo-
9 randum is principally oriented toward a primary
10 mission.

11 (4) BRIEFING.—Not later than 30 days before
12 submitting a certification under subsection (a), the
13 Secretary of Defense shall provide to the congres-
14 sional defense committees a briefing on the basis
15 and findings of such certification.

16 (c) PRESERVATION OF CERTAIN RETIRED A-10 AIR-
17 CRAFT FOR RECOVERABILITY, CONTINGENCY USE, AND
18 POTENTIAL FOREIGN MILITARY TRANSFER.—

19 (1) PRESERVATION REQUIREMENT.—Except as
20 provided in paragraph (6), the Secretary of the Air
21 Force shall preserve each covered A-10 aircraft re-
22 tired during or after fiscal year 2027 in a condition
23 that enables such aircraft to be reconstituted for
24 operational use, contingency use, training, testing,

1 heritage demonstration, or transfer to an eligible
2 foreign partner.

3 (2) MINIMUM PRESERVATION STANDARD.—The
4 Secretary of the Air Force shall ensure that each
5 covered A-10 aircraft preserved under paragraph
6 (1)—

7 (A) is maintained in a recoverable storage
8 condition;

9 (B) retains all major systems, mission
10 equipment, and structural components nec-
11 essary to permit return to service, reconstitu-
12 tion for training or operational use, or prepara-
13 tion for transfer to an eligible foreign partner;

14 (C) is not demilitarized, mutilated, or oth-
15 erwise altered in a manner that would unrea-
16 sonably impair its recoverability or future
17 transferability;

18 (D) retains, to the maximum extent prac-
19 ticable, records relating to flying hours, service
20 life consumption, structural condition, modifica-
21 tions, maintenance history, and combat or oper-
22 ational use; and

23 (E) remains identifiable by tail number
24 and preservation status in the inventory and

1 storage records of the Department of the Air
2 Force.

3 (3) PROHIBITION ON CANNIBALIZATION AND
4 PARTING OUT.—Except as provided in paragraph
5 (6), no covered A–10 aircraft preserved under this
6 subsection may be cannibalized, parted out, or used
7 as a source of spare parts if such aircraft—

8 (A) has received wing replacement or serv-
9 ice-life extension modifications;

10 (B) retains projected flying hours exceed-
11 ing the threshold specified in paragraph (9)(B);
12 or

13 (C) has been identified by the Secretary of
14 the Air Force as a viable candidate for recon-
15 stitution, contingency activation, foreign mili-
16 tary sale, foreign military financing-supported
17 transfer, or other security cooperation purpose.

18 (4) LIMITATION ON FINAL INDUCTION OR IRRE-
19 VERSIBLE PROCESSING PENDING ROADMAP.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—Until the date on which
21 the Secretary of the Air Force submits to the
22 congressional defense committees a roadmap for
23 the sustainment of the A–10 aircraft fleet and
24 related capabilities, none of the funds author-
25 ized to be appropriated or otherwise made avail-

1 able for any of fiscal years 2027 through 2033
2 for the Department of Defense may be obli-
3 gated or expended—

4 (i) to place any retired or retiring A-
5 10 aircraft into a storage, reclamation, ex-
6 cess, or disposal status at the 309th Aero-
7 space Maintenance and Regeneration
8 Group in a manner that would materially
9 impair the recoverability, reconstitution,
10 training use, testing use, heritage dem-
11 onstration use, or potential foreign trans-
12 fer of such aircraft, including placement
13 into any category of storage or processing
14 that is equivalent in effect to nonrecover-
15 able reclamation, excess disposal, or broad
16 parts-harvest status; or

17 (ii) to take any other covered action
18 with respect to an A-10 aircraft.

19 (B) COVERED ACTIONS.—For purposes of
20 subparagraph (A), a covered action includes—

21 (i) categorization of an A-10 aircraft
22 in a manner equivalent to parts reclama-
23 tion or excess disposal status;

1 (ii) downgrading an A-10 aircraft
2 from a recoverable or inviolate storage sta-
3 tus;

4 (iii) demilitarization, mutilation, or
5 cannibalization of an A-10 aircraft;

6 (iv) removal of major systems, mission
7 equipment, structural components, or other
8 items in a manner that would materially
9 reduce the future utility of the aircraft; or

10 (v) any other induction, storage, or
11 processing decision that presumes disposal,
12 reclamation, or nonrecoverable status be-
13 fore completion of the roadmap required
14 under subparagraph (A).

15 (C) TEMPORARY CUSTODY AND RECOVER-
16 ABLE STORAGE PENDING ROADMAP.—Nothing
17 in this paragraph shall be construed to prohibit
18 temporary custody, movement, inspection, pres-
19 ervation, or placement of an A-10 aircraft into
20 a recoverable storage condition pending submis-
21 sion of the roadmap required under subpara-
22 graph (A). During the period described in such
23 subparagraph, any A-10 aircraft transferred to
24 the 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regen-
25 eration Group shall, to the maximum extent

1 practicable, be maintained only in a recoverable
2 storage status and may not be processed into a
3 reclamation or excess disposal status.

4 (D) ROADMAP.—The roadmap required
5 under subparagraph (A) shall include, at a min-
6 imum, a contingency plan for keeping the total
7 A–10 inventory at the level necessary to sustain
8 operational employment, pilot production, oper-
9 ational test, and demonstration requirements
10 through fiscal year 2037. Such plan shall in-
11 clude—

12 (i) identified decision points; and

13 (ii) an assessment of the cost and re-
14 constitution impacts that would result if
15 the Secretary of the Air Force retroactively
16 decided to reconstitute and sustain the A–
17 10 aircraft mission following its termi-
18 nation.

19 (5) PRIORITY FOR ARIZONA STORAGE AND
20 RECOVERABILITY.—To the maximum extent prac-
21 ticable, the Secretary of the Air Force shall preserve
22 covered A–10 aircraft required to be retained under
23 this section at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ari-
24 zona, or at another facility capable of maintaining
25 such aircraft in recoverable storage status.

1 (6) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary of the Air
2 Force may waive the requirements of paragraphs (1)
3 through (5) with respect to a specific covered A–10
4 aircraft only if the Secretary certifies in writing to
5 the congressional defense committees that—

6 (A) the aircraft is no longer airworthy or
7 structurally viable for economical recovery,
8 training use, testing use, heritage use, or for-
9 eign transfer;

10 (B) the aircraft is not reasonably required
11 for contingency reserve capacity, training sup-
12 port, operational testing, heritage demonstra-
13 tion, or security cooperation purposes; and

14 (C) disposal or cannibalization of the air-
15 craft will not materially reduce the Depart-
16 ment’s ability to reconstitute A–10 capacity,
17 preserve representative aircraft with significant
18 remaining service life, or support a potential
19 foreign military transfer or sale.

20 (7) REPORTS.—Not later than 90 days after
21 the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually
22 thereafter through September 30, 2033, the Sec-
23 retary of the Air Force shall submit to the congres-
24 sional defense committees a report on covered A–10
25 aircraft. Each report shall include—

1 (A) the number of aircraft retired, stored,
2 preserved, cannibalized, transferred, or disposed
3 of during the preceding year;

4 (B) the number of preserved aircraft that
5 received wing replacement or wing upgrade
6 modifications;

7 (C) the projected remaining flying hours of
8 each preserved aircraft, or by category if nec-
9 essary for security or administrative reasons;

10 (D) the status of preservation and
11 recoverability actions for each such aircraft;

12 (E) any aircraft assessed as viable can-
13 didates for foreign military sale, transfer, train-
14 ing use, operational test use, or contingency ac-
15 tivation;

16 (F) any waiver exercised under paragraph
17 (6), including the justification for such waiver;

18 (G) the tail numbers, current location, and
19 current storage or preservation status of all A-
20 10 aircraft that, as of the date of the enact-
21 ment of this Act, are retired, retiring, trans-
22 ferred to, or pending transfer to the 309th
23 Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration
24 Group;

1 (H) identification of which such aircraft
2 have received wing replacement or wing up-
3 grade modifications;

4 (I) identification of which such aircraft are
5 assessed as retaining projected flying hours ex-
6 ceeding the threshold specified in paragraph
7 (9)(B); and

8 (J) identification of which such aircraft are
9 assessed as viable candidates for reconstitution,
10 contingency activation, training use, test use,
11 heritage demonstration, or foreign military sale
12 or transfer.

13 (8) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this
14 subsection shall be construed to require the Sec-
15 retary of the Air Force to return any aircraft to ac-
16 tive service or to transfer any aircraft to a foreign
17 country in violation of other applicable provisions of
18 law, export control requirements, end-use monitoring
19 requirements, or national security considerations.

20 (9) COVERED A-10 AIRCRAFT DEFINED.—In
21 this subsection, the term “covered A-10 aircraft”
22 means an A-10 aircraft that, as of the date on
23 which the aircraft is proposed for retirement, trans-
24 fer, or placement into storage—

1 (A) has received wing replacement or wing
2 upgrade modifications intended to extend the
3 service life of the aircraft;

4 (B) retains not fewer than 1,500 projected
5 flying hours of remaining service life, as deter-
6 mined by the Secretary of the Air Force using
7 the most current structural and airworthiness
8 data available; or

9 (C) is assessed by the Secretary of the Air
10 Force, in consultation with the Secretary of De-
11 fense, as a viable candidate for reconstitution,
12 contingency activation, security cooperation use,
13 foreign military sale, or transfer under the
14 Arms Export Control Act or any other provision
15 of law.

16 **SEC. 3. REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO SUSTAINMENT OF A-**
17 **10 AIRCRAFT AND RELATED TRAINING.**

18 (a) LIMITATIONS ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—

19 (1) LIMITATION ON DIVESTMENT ACTIVITIES.—

20 Not more than 85 percent of the funds authorized
21 to be appropriated or otherwise made available for
22 any of fiscal year 2027 through 2033 for the De-
23 partment of Defense for covered divestment activi-
24 ties with respect to the A-10 fleet may be obligated
25 or expended to carry out such an activity until the

1 Secretary of the Air Force submits to the congres-
2 sional defense committees—

3 (A) the roadmap required under subsection
4 (d); and

5 (B) a certification that such roadmap ad-
6 dresses each requirement under subsection (b).

7 (2) LIMITATION ON TRAINING TRANSITION
8 FROM DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE.—None of
9 the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise
10 made available for any of fiscal years 2027 through
11 2033 for the Department of Defense may be obli-
12 gated or expended to transition covered training
13 functions at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ari-
14 zona, to another military installation unless the Sec-
15 retary of the Air Force submits to the congressional
16 defense committees a certification that—

17 (A) continuation of such functions at
18 Davis-Monthan Air Force Base is not feasible
19 without carrying out a major military construc-
20 tion project; and

21 (B) the transition of such functions to
22 such other military installation would not mate-
23 rially increase costs, delay operational avail-
24 ability, reduce local access to qualified per-
25 sonnel, degrade training quality, or result in the

violation of any requirement under subsection
(b).

(3) LIMITATION ON REDUCTION OF FUNCTIONS

AT NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available for any of fiscal years 2027 through 2033 for the Department of Defense may be obligated or expended to reduce, eliminate, deactivate, transfer, or fail to restore the weapons instructor course for A–10 aircraft offered through the United States Air Force Weapons School located at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, or any such successor course, in a manner that presumes future congressional authority to divest the A–10 fleet.

(b) SUSTAINMENT REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Air Force shall maintain sufficient training capacity, development, test, and evaluation capacity, depot-level maintenance and repair capacity, supply, logistics, and contractor capacity, and other sustainment-related capacity to ensure the A–10 fleet remains operationally viable through fiscal year 2033 (in this section, referred to as the “covered period”), including with respect to each mission and capability of

1 such fleet as of the date of the enactment of this Act
2 (including combat search and rescue missions).

3 (2) CERTAIN MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.—The
4 capacity required under paragraph (1) shall include,
5 at a minimum, the following:

6 (A) A requirement that, on an annual
7 basis during the covered period, not fewer than
8 14 pilots receive the qualifications, or requali-
9 fications, necessary for the operation of A-10
10 aircraft.

11 (B) A requirement that, on an annual
12 basis during the covered period, not fewer than
13 four officers receive advanced instructor quali-
14 fications, or requalifications, through the weap-
15 ons instructor course for A-10 aircraft offered
16 through the United States Air Force Weapons
17 School.

18 (C) A requirement that, for the duration of
19 the covered period, the Secretary maintains a
20 fighter pilot specialty community with respect
21 to the A-10 mission set, including the Air
22 Force Specialty Code 11F3B (or any successor
23 specialty code or designation), in a manner that
24 establishes the A-10 mission set as a primary
25 area of pilot training, operational experience,

1 and career development rather than a secondary
2 or collateral area.

3 (3) PRESERVATION OF FUNCTIONS AT NELLIS
4 AIR FORCE BASE.—In carrying out this subsection,
5 the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent prac-
6 ticable, maintain at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada,
7 the weapons instructor course for A-10 aircraft of-
8 fered through the United States Air Force Weapons
9 School and associated support functions, including
10 access to ramp space, hangars, office space, simu-
11 lator or mission-planning facilities, ranges, and other
12 relevant infrastructure as necessary to meet the re-
13 quirement under paragraph (1).

14 (4) PRESERVATION OF FUNCTIONS AT DAVIS-
15 MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE.—In carrying out this
16 subsection, the Secretary shall, to the maximum ex-
17 tent practicable, maintain at Davis-Monthan Air
18 Force Base, Arizona, the core ground-based training
19 system, simulators, and other training infrastructure
20 necessary for pilots to receive qualification or re-
21 qualification for the operation of A-10 aircraft as
22 necessary to meet the requirement under paragraph
23 (1).

24 (5) FORMAL TRAINING UNIT.—In carrying out
25 this subsection, the Secretary shall maintain a for-

mal training unit of the Air Force for providing to pilots the qualifications necessary for the operation of A-10 aircraft, and a process for the requalification of pilots formerly so qualified.

(6) USE OF EXISTING OR REPURPOSED INFRASTRUCTURE.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall seek to use existing or repurposed facilities, hangars, ramp space, and other support infrastructure for the purpose of meeting the requirement under paragraph (1) and may not initiate any new military construction project for such purpose unless the Secretary certifies to the congressional defense committees that—

(A) existing or repurposed facilities are insufficient for such purpose;

(B) the proposed military construction project is the minimum cost necessary to meet such requirement; and

(C) the proposed military construction project will not materially interfere with the beddown and mission requirements of the 492d Special Operations Wing at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona.

(7) BUDGET MATERIALS.—Concurrent with the submission to Congress of a budget pursuant to sec-

tion 1105 of title 31, United States Code, for each of fiscal years 2028 through 2033, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the amounts necessary to implement this subsection.

(c) ANNUAL REPORT ON A-10 SUSTAINMENT.—

(1) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than March 1, 2027, and annually thereafter until March 1, 2034, the Secretary of the Air Force shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report describing the extent to which the Department of the Air Force met the requirements under subsection (b) during the preceding fiscal year.

(2) ELEMENTS.—Each report required under paragraph (1) shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(A) An identification of the number of pilots that received the qualifications necessary for the operation of A-10 aircraft during the preceding fiscal year, disaggregated by whether such qualifications were an initial qualification or a requalification.

(B) An identification of the number of officers that received advanced instructor qualifications through the weapons instructor course for

1 A-10 aircraft offered through the United States
2 Air Force Weapons School, disaggregated by
3 whether such qualifications were an initial qual-
4 ification or a requalification.

5 (C) A description of the status of actions
6 taken to meet the requirement under subsection
7 (b)(5) during the preceding fiscal year, and any
8 related instructor shortfalls.

9 (D) A description of the status of oper-
10 ational test and evaluation capacity with respect
11 to the A-10 fleet, including major limitations
12 affecting airworthiness, weapons integration,
13 tactics development, or mission effectiveness.

14 (E) A comparative analysis of research, de-
15 velopment, test, and evaluation funding and
16 resourcing for the A-10 fleet during the pre-
17 ceeding 10 fiscal years, including an identifica-
18 tion of—

19 (i) any major test, evaluation, mod-
20 ernization, or capability-integration efforts
21 that were delayed, denied, cancelled, or not
22 pursued;

23 (ii) the stated basis for each such de-
24 cision; and

1 (iii) an assessment of whether devel-
2 opmental or operational test capacity was
3 materially constrained by underfunding,
4 understaffing, or the rejection of otherwise
5 feasible low-cost or no-additional-cost ef-
6 forts.

7 (F) The status of programmed depot-level
8 maintenance and repair with respect to A-10
9 aircraft or related infrastructure, and any re-
10 sulting effect on the ability of the Department
11 to meet the requirements under subsection (b).

12 (G) The status of logistics, supply, con-
13 tractor maintenance, and other sustainment
14 functions for the A-10 fleet, and any resulting
15 effect on the ability of the Department to meet
16 the requirements under subsection (b).

17 (H) An assessment as to whether the De-
18 partment met the requirements under sub-
19 section (b) during the preceding fiscal year.

20 (I) A description of any shortfall, delay, or
21 other deviation resulting in a failure to meet
22 any such requirement, including any corrective
23 action planned or underway.

24 (d) ROADMAP FOR A-10 FLEET SUSTAINMENT.—

1 (1) ROADMAP REQUIRED.—Not later than 90
2 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
3 Secretary of the Air Force shall submit to the con-
4 gressional defense committees a roadmap setting
5 forth—

6 (A) proposed actions to meet each require-
7 ment under subsection (b); and

8 (B) a contingency plan for the sustainment
9 of the A-10 fleet through fiscal year 2037, in-
10 cluding an identification of decision points re-
11 lating to such extended sustainment and an as-
12 sessment of related costs and reconstitution ef-
13 fects.

14 (2) BRIEFING.—Not later than 15 days after
15 the date of the submission of the roadmap under
16 paragraph (1), the Secretary of the Air Force shall
17 provide to the congressional defense committees a
18 briefing on such roadmap and any anticipated mate-
19 rial shortfall in meeting a requirement under sub-
20 section (b).

21 (3) ANNUAL UPDATES.—Not later than one
22 year after the date of the submission of the roadmap
23 under paragraph (1), and annually thereafter until
24 September 30, 2033, the Secretary of the Air Force

1 shall submit to the congressional defense committees
2 a written update to such roadmap.

3 (4) GAO REVIEW.—If the Secretary of the Air
4 Force does not submit to the congressional defense
5 committees the roadmap required under paragraph
6 (1) by the deadline specified in such paragraph, the
7 Comptroller General of the United States shall—

8 (A) conduct a review of the compliance
9 with this section by the Department; and

10 (B) not later than 120 days after such re-
11 view is complete, submit to the congressional
12 defense committees a report containing the re-
13 sults of such review.

14 (e) PROGRAM TO PRESERVE KNOWLEDGE AND HIS-
15 TORY RELATING TO A-10 AIRCRAFT.—

16 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of the
17 Air Force shall establish a program to preserve tech-
18 nical and historical knowledge relating to the oper-
19 ation and sustainment of the A-10 fleet.

20 (2) LEAD ENTITY.—The Director of the Air
21 Force Historical Research Agency shall serve as the
22 lead entity carrying out the program under para-
23 graph (1), in coordination with the Commander of
24 the Air Combat Command, the head of the National
25 Museum of the United States Air Force, and such

1 other organizations of the Department of the Air
2 Force as the Secretary of the Air Force determines
3 appropriate.

4 (3) REQUIRED ACTIVITIES.—The program es-
5 tablished under paragraph (1) shall include, at a
6 minimum the following activities:

7 (A) The collection of oral histories relating
8 to the A–10 fleet from pilots, advanced instruc-
9 tor-qualified aircrew, maintainers, joint ter-
10 minal attack controllers, and other personnel
11 involved in the operation (including operational
12 support for combat search and rescue missions)
13 or sustainment of aircraft within such fleet.

14 (B) The collection and preservation of
15 records associated with the A–10 fleet, includ-
16 ing technical data, operational tactics, weapons
17 integration records, upgrade and modification
18 history, and records relating to the sustainment
19 of aircraft within such fleet.

20 (C) The digital archiving of materials col-
21 lected under subparagraphs (A) and (B) in a
22 searchable repository accessible to appropriate
23 users within the Department of Defense.

24 (D) The identification of lessons learned
25 pursuant to the materials so collected.

1 (E) The development of recommendations
2 for collecting, preserving, and transferring
3 knowledge relating to the A-10 fleet with re-
4 spect to design, doctrine, training, and
5 sustainment activities relating to successor air-
6 craft.

7 (4) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the
8 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
9 the Air Force shall submit to the congressional de-
10 fense committees a report containing a summary
11 of—

12 (A) the activities carried out under the
13 program established under paragraph (1);

14 (B) the status of the archive established
15 pursuant to paragraph (3)(C); and

16 (C) the principal lessons learned identified
17 pursuant to paragraph (3)(D).

18 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19 (1) The term “covered divestment activity”,
20 with respect to the A-10 fleet, means any activity to
21 transition, replace, retire, deactivate, or otherwise
22 reduce such fleet or the capabilities thereof, includ-
23 ing with respect to training, personnel, and re-
24 sources for the sustainment and operation of such
25 fleet, below the levels required under subsection (b).

1 (2) The term “covered training functions”
2 means functions that comprise the primary source of
3 providing to pilots and other aircrew the training
4 and qualifications necessary for the operation of A–
5 10 aircraft.

6 (3) The term “depot-level maintenance and re-
7 pair” has the meaning given such term in section
8 2460 of title 10, United States Code.

9 (4) The term “military construction project”
10 and “military installation” have the meanings given
11 such terms in section 2801 of title 10, United States
12 Code.

13 **SEC. 4. RECONSTITUTION OF A-10 DEMONSTRATION TEAM.**

14 (a) RECONSTITUTION REQUIRED.—The Secretary of
15 the Air Force shall reconstitute and operate an A–10 dem-
16 onstration team to support public outreach, recruiting,
17 heritage, and official commemorative events associated
18 with the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United
19 States.

20 (b) PURPOSE.—The demonstration team reconsti-
21 tuted and operated under subsection (a) shall—

22 (1) honor the combat legacy and service history
23 of the A–10 Thunderbolt II;

1 (2) promote pride in American airpower and
2 the service of the men and women of the United
3 States Air Force;

4 (3) support appropriate public events, airshows,
5 military ceremonies, and official anniversary observ-
6 ances connected to the 250th anniversary of the
7 founding of the United States; and

8 (4) preserve and showcase the heritage of the
9 A-10 community and the A-10 mission set.

10 (c) TEAM COMPOSITION.—In carrying out this sec-
11 tion, the Secretary shall designate such aircraft, aircrew,
12 maintainers, support personnel, and associated equipment
13 as the Secretary determines necessary to establish and op-
14 erate the demonstration team.

15 (d) LIMITATION.—Aircraft designated for the dem-
16 onstration team under this section—

17 (1) shall be drawn from A-10 aircraft otherwise
18 retained in the inventory of the Air Force; and

19 (2) may not be retired, divested, or transferred
20 solely on the basis of designation for demonstration
21 purposes during the period in which the team oper-
22 ates.

23 (e) BRIEFING.—Not later than 120 days after the
24 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the
25 Air Force shall provide to the congressional defense com-

1 mittees a briefing on the implementation of this section.

2 Such briefing shall include—

3 (1) the number of aircraft to be assigned to the
4 demonstration team;

5 (2) the expected cost and source of funds for
6 such team;

7 (3) the anticipated schedule of appearances and
8 commemorative events;

9 (4) the basing location of the team;

10 (5) any safety, maintenance, and sustainment
11 requirements associated with operation of the team;
12 and

13 (6) an assessment of the feasibility and advis-
14 ability of rebasing the demonstration team at Davis-
15 Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona.

16 (f) TERMINATION.—The authority to operate a dem-
17 onstration team under this section shall terminate on Sep-
18 tember 30, 2033.

19 **SEC. 5. PLAN FOR COMPETITIVE EXPERIMENTATION RE-**
20 **LATING TO AUTONOMOUS AND NONTRADI-**
21 **TIONAL CAPABILITIES RELEVANT TO THE A-**
22 **10 MISSION SET.**

23 (a) PLAN REQUIRED.—The Secretary of the Air
24 Force shall develop a plan to carry out competitive experi-
25 mentation, prototyping, and operational assessment of au-

1 tonomous, semi-autonomous, artificial intelligence-en-
2 abled, and adjunct aircraft capabilities relevant to the A-
3 10 mission set.

4 (b) ELEMENTS.—The plan under subsection (a) shall
5 include the following:

6 (1) Appropriate opportunities for participation
7 by nontraditional defense contractors, commercial
8 technology firms, venture-backed defense firms, and
9 other private-sector entities capable of rapidly devel-
10 oping relevant hardware, software, autonomy, sens-
11 ing, communications, or mission system capabilities.

12 (2) Measures to ensure operational experimen-
13 tation is conducted in a manner consistent with
14 meaningful human command and control, by a quali-
15 fied military aviator, over mission-critical functions,
16 including target engagement, weapons release, mis-
17 sion abort, and such other functions as the Sec-
18 retary of the Air Force determines appropriate.

19 (3) An estimated annual budget for imple-
20 menting the plan.

21 (4) Consideration of how to make available to
22 a qualified United States entity a limited number of
23 A-10 aircraft, components, or associated support
24 equipment for the sole purpose of research, develop-
25 ment, test, and evaluation activities relevant to the

1 A–10 mission set, autonomous or semi-autonomous
2 aircraft integration, mission systems development,
3 digital battlefield communications, or other related
4 capabilities.

5 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
6 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air
7 Force shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services
8 of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report
9 on the plan developed under subsection (a).

10 (d) QUALIFIED UNITED STATES ENTITY.—In this
11 section, the term “qualified United States entity”
12 means—

- 13 (1) a nontraditional defense contractor;
- 14 (2) a traditional defense contractor;
- 15 (3) a federally funded research and development
16 center;
- 17 (4) a university-affiliated research center; or
- 18 (5) another domestic entity the Secretary deter-
19 mines is capable of carrying out the activities de-
20 scribed in subsection (a) in a manner consistent with
21 national security and public safety.

1 **SEC. 6. REPORT ON A-10 COMBAT LEGACY, CURRENT OPER-**
2 **ATIONAL USE, AND MODERNIZATION OUT-**
3 **LOOK.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
5 ings:

6 (1) The combat record of the A-10 aircraft
7 from Operation Desert Storm through current oper-
8 ations, including recent support to the recovery of
9 downed aircrew in Operation Epic Fury, and the
10 continued relevance of lessons derived from close air
11 support, armed overwatch, air-ground integration,
12 combat search and rescue support, and operations to
13 secure key maritime approaches, including the Strait
14 of Hormuz.

15 (2) It is important to preserve operational
16 knowledge resident in the A-10 enterprise and ap-
17 plying such knowledge to future force design, doc-
18 trine, training, capability development, and incre-
19 mental modernization efforts that may improve the
20 operational return on continued sustainment of the
21 A-10 program.

22 (b) REPORT.—Not later than January 15, 2027, the
23 Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary
24 of the Air Force, and the Commander, Air Combat Com-
25 mand, and the Commander, U.S. Central Command, shall
26 submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Sen-

1 ate and House of Representatives a report on the combat
2 employment of the A-10 aircraft from Operation Desert
3 Storm through current operations, including how lessons
4 learned from such employment should be preserved and
5 applied to the future of the A-10 mission set, successor
6 force design, doctrine, training, and capability develop-
7 ment. The report should include the following:

8 (1) A description of the combat employment of
9 the A-10 aircraft in major operations from Oper-
10 ation Desert Storm through current operations.

11 (2) Lessons learned for close air support, armed
12 overwatch, battlefield communications, weapons inte-
13 gration, pilot training, and air-ground coordination.

14 (3) Lessons learned from the use of the A-10
15 aircraft in combat search and rescue support, includ-
16 ing the Sandy mission, and the relevance of such les-
17 sons to future personnel recovery and armed
18 overwatch concepts.

19 (4) An assessment of the extent to which ele-
20 ments of the A-10 mission set, command-and-con-
21 trol methods, and air-ground integration experience
22 may inform future force design.

23 (5) Recommendations for preserving, adapting,
24 or transferring relevant A-10 operational knowledge

1 to future doctrine, training, and capability develop-
2 ment.

3 (6) An assessment of whether currently pro-
4 grammed or planned Air Force capabilities are ex-
5 pected to replicate or improve upon the principal
6 operational effects historically provided by the A-10
7 aircraft as rescue mission commander, close air sup-
8 port, armed overwatch, forward air controller-air-
9 borne, and personnel recovery support missions.

10 (7) An assessment of the applicability of A-10
11 operational lessons to human-machine teaming, au-
12 tonomous collaborative or adjunct aircraft, artificial
13 intelligence-enabled mission planning and targeting
14 support, digital battlefield communications, distrib-
15 uted air-ground integration, and other emerging ca-
16 pabilities.

17 (8) Recommendations for operational experi-
18 mentation or testing using A-10 units, preserved A-
19 10 mission infrastructure, or relevant training and
20 sustainment organizations to evaluate emerging ca-
21 pabilities applicable to the A-10 mission set, includ-
22 ing opportunities to integrate private-sector and
23 nontraditional defense partners.

24 (9) An assessment of recent and potential incre-
25 mental modernization options for the A-10 aircraft,

1 including electronic warfare capabilities, decoy or
2 stand-in effects delivery, aerial refueling enhance-
3 ments, digital communications, sensor integration,
4 precision weapons integration, survivability improve-
5 ments, open-systems architecture, and human-ma-
6 chine teaming applications, and whether such op-
7 tions could improve the operational return on contin-
8 ued sustainment of the A-10 program.

9 (c) FORM OF REPORT.—The report required by sub-
10 section (b) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but
11 may include a classified annex.

12 **SEC. 7. BRIEFING ON FEASIBILITY OF FOREIGN TRANSFER,**
13 **SECURITY COOPERATION, AND CONTIN-**
14 **GENCY BASING OPTIONS FOR SURPLUS A-10**
15 **AIRCRAFT.**

16 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
17 ings:

18 (1) Surplus A-10 aircraft may retain value for
19 security cooperation, partner burden-sharing, contin-
20 gency operations, or recoverable storage arrange-
21 ments.

22 (2) It is possible that such aircraft could be
23 transferred to eligible foreign partners through exist-
24 ing authorities, maintained in recoverable status for
25 future foreign military sales or excess defense arti-

1 cles consideration, or used to support contingency
2 basing or coalition interoperability requirements.

3 (b) BRIEFING.—Not later than January 15, 2027,
4 the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Sec-
5 retary of the Air Force and the Director of the Defense
6 Security Cooperation Agency, and in consultation with the
7 Secretary of State, shall provide to the Committees on
8 Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representa-
9 tives a briefing on the feasibility of transferring surplus
10 A–10 aircraft to eligible foreign partners, or otherwise
11 maintaining such aircraft in recoverable status to support
12 future security cooperation or contingency operations. The
13 briefing shall include the following:

14 (1) An assessment of the feasibility of transfer
15 through foreign military sales, excess defense arti-
16 cles, or other appropriate authorities.

17 (2) An identification of allies or partners that
18 may be suitable candidates to operate, host, or sup-
19 port surplus A–10 aircraft.

20 (3) An assessment of training, maintenance,
21 sustainment, basing, interoperability, and force pro-
22 tection requirements associated with any such trans-
23 fer or arrangement.

- 1 (4) An assessment of export-control, technology
- 2 security, and end-use monitoring considerations.

