



# AIR COMBAT COMMAND

## PEOPLE FIRST - MISSION ALWAYS

### HC-130J COMBAT KING

Current as of February 6, 2023



#### MISSION

The HC-130J is the only dedicated fixed-wing Personnel Recovery platform in the Air Force inventory. It is an extended-range version of the C-130J Super Hercules transport. The Combat King II provides the capability to rapidly deploy and execute global search and rescue operations to austere environments and denied territory. Additionally, it facilitates all weather personnel recovery operations to include airdrop, air-land, tanker and receiver air-to-air refueling, non-traditional ISR, and forward area ground refueling missions.

The Combat King II's unique situational awareness capability allows it to also serve as the coordination focal point for combat search and rescue assets. It facilitates communication and mission activities between the rescue operation center and rescue mission elements. Additionally, its range and capabilities allow it to conduct a multitude of additional missions, such as humanitarian assistance, disaster response, and aeromedical or noncombatant evacuation operations.

#### FEATURES

Modifications to the HC-130J have improved the aircraft's navigation, communication, threat detection, and countermeasures systems. It has been equipped with forward-looking electro-optical/infrared sensor with video datalink capabilities, along with satellite and data-burst communication. Robust threat countermeasure systems allows the aircraft to operate in a hostile environment. Additionally, the ability to receive fuel inflight via a Universal Aerial Refueling Receptacle Slipway Installation allows extended range and endurance.

The HC-130J is typically employed during the night at low to medium altitude levels in contested or sensitive environments, both over land and over water. To enhance the probability of mission success and survivability near populated areas, crews use NVGs and ground mapping radar equipment to fly tactical flight profiles in order to avoid detection and accomplishing covert infiltration/exfiltration and transload operations.

Airdrop operations are conducted to rapidly deliver personnel or equipment to a remote area. Rescue drops may include the deployment of illumination flares, marker smokes and rescue kits containing lifesaving and sustaining supplies. Tanker air-to-air refueling can be conducted at night, with no verbal communication with up to two simultaneous helicopters, tilt-rotors, or probe-fitted fixed-wing aircraft. Additionally, forward area refueling point operations can be established to support a variety of joint and coalition partners at austere forward operating locations.

#### BACKGROUND

The HC-130J is a result of the HC/MC-130 recapitalization program and replaced Air Combat Command's aged HC-130P/N fleet as the dedicated fixed-wing personnel recovery platform in the Air Force inventory. The aircraft's first flight was July 29, 2010, and has since served the many roles and missions of the HC-130P/Ns. The 71st/79th Rescue Squadrons, 418th Test and Evaluation Squadron in Air Combat Command; the 415th Special Operations Squadron in Air Education and Training Command; the 106th Rescue Wing, 129th RQW and 176th Wing in the Air National Guard; and the 920 RQW in Air Force Reserve Command all operate the aircraft.

#### AIR COMBAT COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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The personnel recovery mission was first assigned to the Air Rescue Service as a function of Military Airlift Command. It was transferred to Air Combat Command from 1992 to 2003. It then became a function of the Air Force Special Operations Command at Hurlburt Field, Florida. In 2006, personnel recovery and Combat Search and Rescue was transferred back to Air Combat Command. Fixed wing search and rescue lineage has ranged from legendary aircraft such as modified B-17 and C-47s to the now proud heritage of the HC-130J.



## Characteristics

**Primary function:** Fixed-wing Personnel Recovery platform

**Contractor:** Lockheed Aircraft Corp.

**Power Plant:** Four Rolls Royce AE2100D3 turboprop engines

**Thrust:** 4,591 Propeller Shaft Horsepower, each engine

**Wingspan:** 132 feet, 7 inches (40.4 meters)

**Length:** 97 feet, 9 inches (29.57 meters)

**Height:** 39 feet, 2 inches (11.9 meters)

**Operating Weight:** 89,000 pounds (40,369 kilograms)

**Maximum Takeoff Weight:** 164,000 pounds (74,389 kilograms)

**Fuel Capacity:** 61,360 pounds (9,024 gallons)

**Payload:** 42,000 pounds (19,050 kilograms)

**Speed:** 316 knots indicated air speed at sea level

**Range:** beyond 4,000 miles (3,478 nautical miles)

**Ceiling:** 33,000 feet (10,000 meters)

**Armament:** countermeasures/ flares, chaff

**Basic Crew:** Three officers (pilot, co-pilot, combat system officer) and two enlisted loadmasters

**Unit Cost:** \$75 million (FY19 replacement cost)

**Initial operating capability:** 2013

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