

Appendix C

**“Preliminary Information on Air Force Tanker Leasing Issues,”
General Accounting Office,
Briefing for Senate Armed Service Committee**

May 2002

Preliminary Information on AF Tanker Leasing Issues

**Briefing for Senate Armed Services Committee
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Requirements

KC-135 Fleet Data

- 134 E Models in inventory as of April 2002
 - All E Models are in reserve component; active AF has more capable R Models
 - First acquired – 1957
 - Average age – 43 years
 - AF projects lifetime flying hours limit of 36,000 hours for E Models (39,000 for R Models)
 - AF says no E Models would reach this limit before 2040 ✓
 - As of 1995, majority of the fleet had between 12,000 and 14,000 flight hours ✓
 - Fleet averaging about 300 hours per year since then ✓
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Requirements

KC-135 Fleet Data

- Mission Capable rates (FY 02 through March)
 - Active - 85%
 - Reserve R Models – 77.9%
 - National Guard R Models – 77.8%
 - Reserve E Models – 70.4%
 - National Guard E Models – 75.5%
- AF has been upgrading approximately 2 E Models per year to R Model at cost of about \$29 million per aircraft
 - AF estimates it will have 127 E Models to replace when leased 767s become available
- AF estimates that by 2005, average number of non-available aircraft will reach 206 of 545 KC-135s

Requirements

Prior AF Plans for Replacing KC-135s

- Urgency of replacement is not clear; AF says Sept 11 increased their concern about age of fleet ✓
 - At the time of 1996 GAO report, AF planned to begin replacing KC-135s with new tankers in 2013 ✓
 - In 2001, AF officials said start of replacement was moved up to 2009 ✓
 - Replacement of KC-135s was never in the Air Force budget or unfunded requirements list until March 2002 ✓
 - If requirement to replace KC-135Es is urgent, quickest solution may be to re-engine and upgrade to R Models (approx. 2 year lead-time) ✓
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Impact on AF Tanker Fleet When 767s Are Returned at End of Lease Period

