

Defense Security Cooperation Agency NEWS RELEASE

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Chile - Sale of F-16C/D Block 50+ and KC-135A Aircraft

On 13 June, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency notified Congress of a possible Foreign Military Sale of F-16 Aircraft, KC-135 Aircraft and associated equipment and services.

The Government of Chile (GOC) has requested a possible sale of 10 F-16C/D Block 50+ aircraft and two KC-135A aircraft (to be reconfigured to KC-135R). The F-16 aircraft will be either configured with the F100-PW-229 or F110-GE-129 engine and the KC-135 aircraft will be configured with the General Electric CFM-56 engine. Jet engines to power these aircraft will be acquired by direct commercial sale and notified by a 36(c) notification. This proposed sale also includes: 10 APG-68(V)XM FMS radar, four LITENING II Navigation Targeting Pod (FMS version), 10 M61 Vulcan cannons, 40 LAU-129 launchers, six each of the AN/ALQ-131 and AN/ALQ-184 countermeasures, Night Vision Goggle compatible cockpits, and the capability to employ a wide variety of munitions. Associated support equipment, software development/integration, modification kits, spares and repair parts, flight test instrumentation, publications and technical documentation, personnel training and training equipment, U.S. Government and contractor technical and logistics personnel services, and other related requirements to ensure full program supportability will also be provided. The estimated cost of the F-16C/D aircraft program is \$636 million. The estimated cost of the KC-135 aircraft program is \$78 million.

This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a friendly country which has been and continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in South America.

The proposed sale of these F-16 aircraft will allow the Chilean Air Force to maintain a strong defense while it continues its plans to modernize its shrinking inventory of aging aircraft. Chile's unique geography dictates the need for the KC-135's aerial refueling capability for its front-line fighter aircraft. The GOC does not have the F-16 aircraft system capability currently in its inventory.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not affect the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractor will be Lockheed Martin Aeronautical Corporation of Fort Worth, Texas. One or more proposed offset agreements may be related to this proposed sale. The number of U.S. Government and contractor representatives required in-country to support the program will be determined in joint negotiations as the program proceeds through the development, production and equipment installation phases.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.