



AIRCRAFT

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Host nation military aircraft available for [counterinsurgency](#) operations (air mobility; [intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance](#) (ISR); air battle management; and air attack) are typically well-used, older-generation aircraft acquired from the United States and other foreign sources. In most cases, these aircraft are non-standard to US Air Force inventories and are difficult to maintain because of dwindling sources of spare parts and supplies. [Foreign internal defense](#) (FID) activities in those countries are complicated by lack of commonality with existing US Air Force platforms and parts inventories. At the same time, the cost and complexity of modern aircraft systems usually rule out new procurement and always magnify life-cycle support problems. Lacking modern counterinsurgency aircraft, older-generation, non-standard aircraft may be the only viable option for host nations.

Lesser-developed partner nations possess few, if any, precision-guided munitions. In fact, most air forces in the developing world lack the basic capacity to place lethal fire close to friendly troops in contact at night. Many air forces are presently capable of “area engagement” but not “precision engagement.”

Most developing nations lack an effective attack capability. Many nations in the developing world possess some kind of weapons delivery platforms but cannot field these resources because of restricted funding for operations and maintenance. Most of these aircraft remain grounded in their respective countries because of a lack of spare parts and fuel.
