

C-27J Spartan

What is it? The C-27J Spartan is a twin turboprop engine aircraft designed to meet the Air Force requirement for a rugged, medium size airland transport. The C-27J gives U.S. military troops a unique short-take-off-and-landing capability providing access to airstrips otherwise unreachable by fixed-wing aircraft. It is capable of transporting a 2000lb load 2400 miles without refueling, take off and land within 2000 ft (ground roll) on unimproved surfaces at 6000' PA and 95F.

The primary mission of the C-27J is tactical airlift by providing on-demand transport of the Army's time-sensitive, mission critical (TSMC) cargo and personnel to forward operating units. The aircraft is also capable of many unique missions such as low velocity air drops, medical evacuations, deploying paratroopers, combat ground troops and search and rescue missions. Domestic operations are projected to include fire-fighting, rescue, disaster relief and aero medical evacuation.

What has the Air National Guard done? The ANG has played a critical role in the development of the C-27J roadmap to include basing, personnel, aircraft delivery, AFI/technical order development and review, service transfer, and planning for operational execution. It has taken delivery of three aircraft to date and begun initial bed-down at the 179 Airlift Wing, in Mansfield, OH in preparation for a 2011 deployment. The ANG will eventually accept delivery of all 38 aircraft.

What continued efforts have the Air National Guard planned for the future? The ANG will continue to bed down remaining aircraft at six other bases in addition to standing up a Flight Training Unit at Meridian, MS.

Why is this important to the Air National Guard? The Air Force committed to deploying aircraft in direct support (DS) to the Army, a C2 relationship not seen since the Vietnam War, in order to support the Army's critical need for the delivery of TSMC cargo and personnel. Program bed down, training and sustainment is crucial to the Army's ground operations around the world and to future homeland domestic operations.