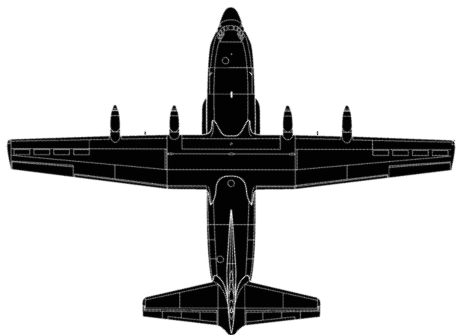


C-130 Hercules



The legendary C-130 Hercules is one of the—if not *the*—most successful military aircraft of all time. This versatile Lockheed-built workhorse has performed more kinds of missions, by more air arms, in more wartime and peacetime operations, for more years, than has any other airplane. It has been in continuous production for its first user—USAF—since 1954.

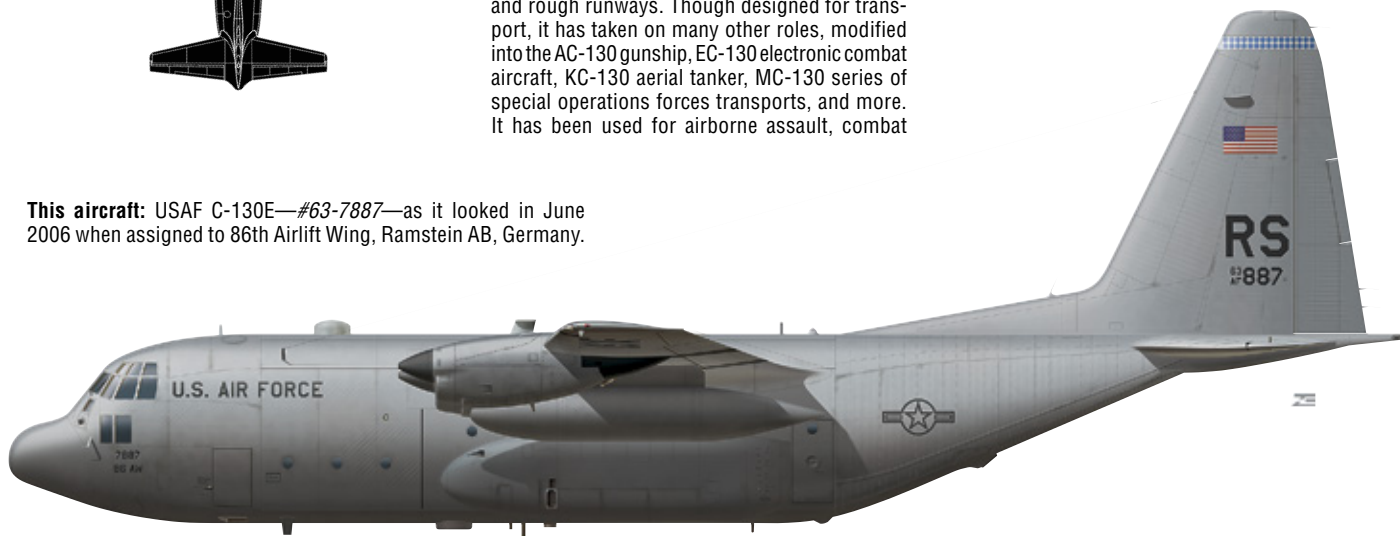
The four-engine turboprop Hercules was conceived as a simple, rugged tactical lifter able to use short and rough runways. Though designed for transport, it has taken on many other roles, modified into the AC-130 gunship, EC-130 electronic combat aircraft, KC-130 aerial tanker, MC-130 series of special operations forces transports, and more. It has been used for airborne assault, combat

search and rescue, aeromedical evacuation, weather recon, maritime patrol, and firefighting.

“The Herk” is vividly associated with Vietnam. It has, however, flown in virtually all US military and humanitarian operations of the past six decades. Its service life is nowhere near an end; USAF plans to keep acquiring the C-130J-30 for years to come.

—Robert S. Dudley with Walter J. Boyne

This aircraft: USAF C-130E—#63-7887—as it looked in June 2006 when assigned to 86th Airlift Wing, Ramstein AB, Germany.



USAF photo



A C-130 lands at a remote landing strip in Afghanistan.

In Brief

Designed, built by Lockheed ★ primary use tactical transport ★ first flight Aug. 23, 1954 ★ number built 2,484 ★ **Specific to C-130H:** crew of five (two pilots, navigator, flight engineer, loadmaster) ★ four Allison T56-A-15 turboprop engines ★ armament none ★ max load 92 troops or six standard freight pallets ★ max speed 366 mph ★ cruise speed 353 mph ★ max range 2,745 mi ★ weight (loaded) 175,200 lb ★ span 132 ft 7 in ★ length 97 ft 9 in ★ height 38 ft 3 in ★ ceiling 33,000 ft.

Famous Fliers

Air Force Cross: William Boyd Jr., Bernard Bucher, William Caldwell, Howard Dallman, Charles Shaub. **DFC:** Clay McCutchan (twice). **1980 Iran Rescue Mission:** Harold Lewis Jr., Lyn McIntosh, Richard Bakke, Charles McMillan, Joel Mayo (all KIA). **Mackay Trophy:** 1964—464th TCW; 1968—Daryl Cole; 1984—James Hobson Jr.; 1990—Crew of AC-130H; 1992—Crew of C-130H; 1997—Crew of Whisky 05 MC-130H; 2002—Crew of Grim 31 AC-130H; 2005—Crew of Train 60. **Other USAF notables:** Charles Holland, Norton Schwartz. **Test pilots:** Stanley Beltz, Roy Wimmer.

Interesting Facts

Flown by USAF, USMC, USN, USCG ★ boasts longest continuous production run (1954-present) of any military aircraft ★ chased, in first flight, by Lockheed designer Kelly Johnson in P2V ★ featured in 1968 film “Green Berets” and 1997’s “Air Force One” ★ flew secret mission to Lop Nor, China’s nuclear test site (1969) ★ holds record as the largest and heaviest aircraft to land on aircraft carrier ★ led formations of B-57 bombers over North Vietnam ★ used by Pakistan as heavy bombers in 1965 Indo-Pakistani War ★ nicknamed “Herk,” “Herky Bird,” “Fat Albert” ★ dropped BLU-82 “Daisy Cutter” and GBU-43/B MOAB, world’s largest conventional bombs, in 1991 Gulf War.