

APPENDIX C

US CLOSE AIR SUPPORT AIRCRAFT

This appendix provides a reference chart depicting the characteristics of US close air support aircraft.

US CLOSE AIR SUPPORT AIRCRAFT

AIRCRAFT	SERVICE	CHARACTERISTICS
F-111	USAF	Tactical bomber, good all-weather and night capability; supersonic; typical load 12,000 lbs, maximum load 25,000 lbs.
A-6M	USMC	All-weather tactical bomber, subsonic; typical load 4,000 lbs, maximum load 9,000 lbs.
AV-8B1	USMC, USN	VTOL CAS aircraft; subsonic; typical load 4,000 lbs, maximum load 9,200 lbs; 5,000-lb ordnance load; 25-mm Gatling gun.
A-10 OR O/A-10*	USAF, AFRES, ANG	Specialized CAS aircraft; subsonic; typical load 6,000 lbs, maximum load 16,000 lbs; 30-mm gun.
F-15E	USAF	Multirole aircraft; priority to air to ground; also has an excellent platform for computed air-to-ground delivery; supersonic; maximum load 24,000 lbs.
F-16*	USAF, AFRES, ANG	Multirole aircraft; complements the F-15 in an air-to-air role; most accurate ground delivery system in the inventory; supersonic; typical load 6,000 lbs, maximum load 10,500 lbs.
F-18*	USN, USMC	Multirole fighter; wide variety of air-to-surface weapons; typical load 7,000 lbs, maximum load 17,000 lbs; 20-mm gun and air-to-air missiles.
AC-130*	USAF, AFRES	Specialized CAS and/or RACO aircraft, propeller driven, two models. The A model is equipped with two 7.62-mm miniguns. The H model is similar, except it has no 7.62 miniguns and one of the 40-mm guns is replaced with a 105-mm howitzer. Both models have advanced sensors and target acquisition system including forward-looking infrared and low-light TV. Weapons employment accuracy is outstanding. This aircraft is vulnerable to enemy air defense systems and must operate in a low ADA threat environment.
*Aircraft with FM communications		
NOTE . Typical load is average load for typical support mission; maximum load is the amount the aircraft can carry in an ideal situation.		
LEGEND:		
AFRES = Air Force Reserve		USMC = United States Marine Corp
ANG = Air National Guard		USN = United States Navy
lb = pound		VTOL = vertical takeoff and landing
RACO = rear area combat operations		