

Economic Analysis of Procuring Civilian Aircraft to Support the United States Air Force Operational Support Airlift Fleet

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The views expressed herein are those of the author and do not reflect the position of the United States Military Academy, the Department of the Army, or the Department of Defense.

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Abstract: Reports from the Government Accounting Office and the Institute for Defense Analyses describe economic inefficiencies in the Operational Support Airlift (OSA) fleet of the Department of Defense. This study analyzes whether or not the current OSA fleet can be supported by civilian aircraft in a more cost-effective manner. It explores alternatives utilizing costing data of the current OSA fleet as well as costing data provided by NetJets and FlexJet. The results of this study show that OSA missions fulfilled by the United States Air Force's organic C-21A fleet cannot be cost-effectively replaced by civilian air assets.

Keywords: Analysis of Alternatives, Cost Benefit Analysis, Airlift, Operational Support Airlift, OSA, Civilian Airlift, C-21A, FlexJet, NetJets, USafa