



Defense Security Cooperation Agency
PRESS RELEASE

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Austria Fighter Replacement Decision in Final Phase *DSCA Watching Outcome with High Level of Interest*

Washington, DC – The Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) awaits the outcome of Austria's competition for a new fighter replacement aircraft to replace their aging *Draken* fleet. The USG, through the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA), proposed 24 new production F-16C/D Block 50/52 aircraft or an alternative offer to participate in the F-16 Mid-life Upgrade (MLU) program with 24 F-16 jets.

U.S. officials are closely watching the public debate in Austria that is now centering on misleading remarks about the suitability of the F-16 for Austria's current and future missions.

Senior Austrian leadership has assured us that both the F-16 alternatives are receiving a full and fair assessment in every respect. Moreover, senior United States Air Force and Department of Defense officials reviewed the Austrian requirements and gave their complete assurance to senior Austrian MoD officials that the new Northrop Grumman APG-68(V)9 radar offered to Austria, and other systems, meet or exceed their requirements.

The F-16 alternatives have the singular advantage of being the only multi-role aircraft in Austria's competition that are combat tested and can carry the newest generation of air-to-air and air-to-ground weapons.

Since Austria's competition began just two years ago, DSCA has overseen the sale of 318 new production F-16C/D Block 50/52 aircraft to the world's air forces, as well as more than 350 of the latest generation MLU kits to European air forces. These aircraft coupled with the new USAF F-16 Common Configuration Improvement Program (CCIP) for 650-740 of the newest USAF aircraft enables complete compatibility. This demonstrates wide acceptance of the F-16 weapon system by the world's air forces in all its variants to provide security to 2030 and beyond.