

**MONDAY MORNING GROUP OF WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY  
ANNUAL ADVOCACY TRIP – WASHINGTON, DC  
APRIL 20-23, 2026**

**C-130J WEAPON SYSTEM TRAINER (WST) FOR THE 146TH AIRLIFT WING**

**ISSUE:** The 146th Airlift Wing (146AW) plays a critical role in national defense and domestic emergency response, but the absence of its previously approved C-130J Weapon System Trainer (WST) has created an operational training gap. Despite completion of a dedicated simulator facility in December 2024, aircrews must continue traveling out of state for required training, increasing costs, reducing efficiency, and limiting readiness—particularly for high-risk Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System (MAFFS) wildfire operations.

**ACTION:** The Monday Morning Group requests Congressional leaders prioritize fielding a C-130J WST to the 146AW in FY27 to strengthen readiness, improve safety, and maximize the value of prior federal investment.

**Funding Request FY27**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Amount</b>
C-130J WST Acquisition	\$45,000,000
Sustainment	\$7,200,000
Operations & Maintenance	\$200,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$52,400,000</b>

**BACKGROUND:** The C-130J WST is a high-fidelity, full-motion simulator that significantly improves pilot proficiency and mission effectiveness. Originally approved in 2017, the project included both simulator delivery and facility construction. However, diversion of MILCON funds in FY2019 delayed implementation and reassigned the simulator to Little Rock, Arkansas. With the 146AW facility complete and ready for use, delivering the WST to California will restore intended capability, improve training access, and enhance readiness for federal missions and domestic emergency response.

Key capabilities include:

- **Military Airlift:** The 146AW provides worldwide transport of troops, cargo, and equipment.
- **Aerial Firefighting:** As one of four MAFFS units, the wing conducts critical wildfire suppression missions across the Western U.S.
- **Aeromedical Evacuation:** Aircraft can be configured to transport patients during emergencies.
- **Humanitarian Aid:** The wing supports disaster relief missions nationally and internationally.
- **Contingency Response & Combat Operations:** Personnel rapidly establish air mobility operations and have supported major operations including Desert Shield/Storm, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom.