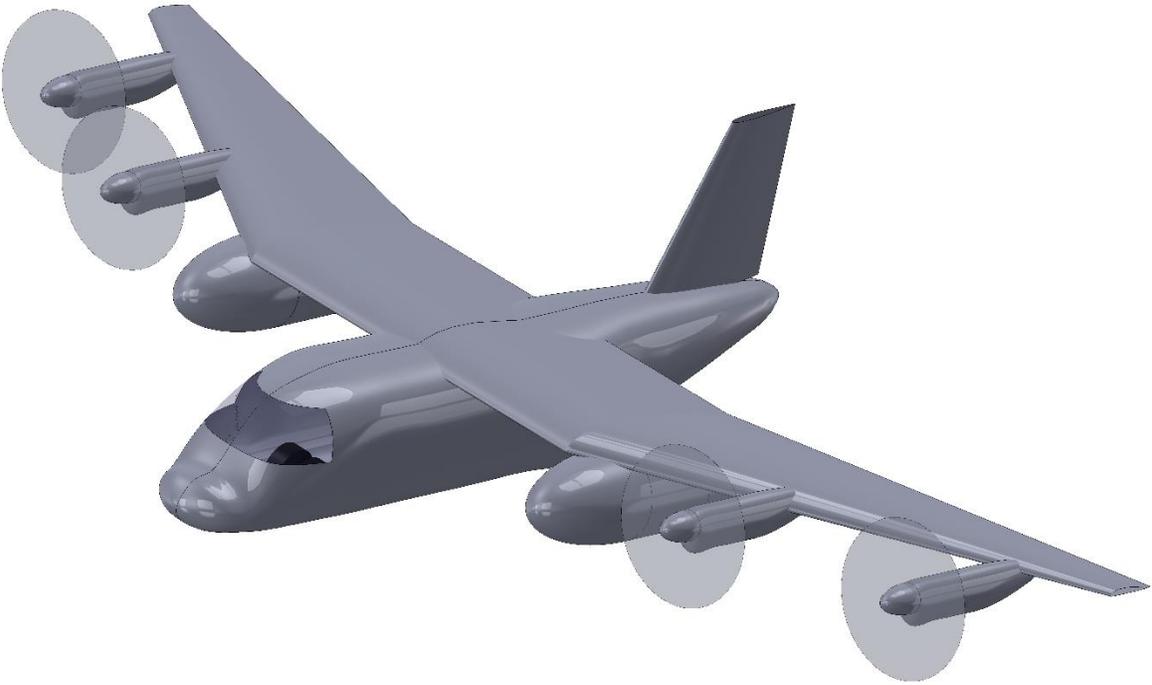


The C-85 Flying Forklift: A Conceptual Design for a Next-
Generation Military Tactical Transport



Abstract

The objective of this project was to produce a conceptual design for a next-generation turboprop-powered military transport aircraft. The aircraft was designed to compete in the 2015-2016 AIAA Undergraduate Individual Aircraft Design Competition. It carries a 20 ft. by 8 ft. by 8.5 ft. cargo container; the container must be carried externally. It must also be possible to drop the container during flight. The aircraft must be powered by Allison T56-A-15 turboprop engines.

Two designs are presented: a conventional design, and a tailless design. Both designs are capable of meeting all of the RFP requirements. However, the tailless design is superior in terms of both weight and fuel consumption, and as such was selected for additional analysis.

The resulting aircraft configuration has four engines; it is 70 ft. long, with a wingspan of 110 ft. It incorporates an unusual compound-sweep wing to increase the elevator moment arm; the outer wing is swept, while the inner wing is not. The inner wing spars serve as rails, along which the cargo container slides during loading/unloading. The left side of the cargo container is exposed while in flight, to avoid violating the external-payload requirement.

The aircraft weighs 64,336 lbs empty, carries a cargo container weighing 45,140 lbs, and has a maximum takeoff weight of 159,000 lbs. It has a crew of three: pilot, co-pilot, and loadmaster. To save weight, it is constructed largely from carbon-fibre reinforced polymer (CFRP), with metals and fiberglass used in key areas. Key performance metrics include a max-payload level-flight maximum speed of 314.1 knots at 23,000 ft, a cruising speed of 260 knots, a range of 1,968 nm, a takeoff distance of 2,127 ft, and a landing distance of 3,311 ft. It has been given the provisional designation C-85, and the provisional public-relations name Flying Forklift.

Signature



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List of Abbreviations

APU	Auxiliary Power Unit
CAD	Computer-Aided Design
CFRP	Carbon-Fiber-Reinforced Polymer
CG	Center of Gravity
DAPCA	Development and Production Costs of Aircraft
ESFC	Equivalent Specific Fuel Consumption
ESHP	Equivalent Shaft Horsepower
FCS	Flight Control System
GLA	Gust Load Alleviation
HP	Horsepower
LCD	Liquid Crystal Display
MLA	Maneuver Load Alleviation
MTOW	Maximum Takeoff Weight
NLF	Natural Laminar Flow
OEI	One Engine Out
RFP	Request for Proposals
SAS	Stability Augmentation System
SFC	Specific Fuel Consumption
SHP	Shaft Horsepower
SM	Static Margin
STOL	Short Takeoff and Landing
TSFC	Thrust-Specific Fuel Consumption
VSP	Vehicle Sketch Pad

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1 Introduction

A design for a turboprop-powered military transport aircraft is to be produced, to meet the requirements for the 2015-2016 AIAA Undergraduate Individual Aircraft Design Competition.

The RFP [1] has the following to say about the purposes of the design:

There is a need to rapidly move 20 ft. containers close to combat zones. The containers need to be unloaded very rapidly with a minimum of people involved. Containers are used for supplies, as living quarters, hospitals, etc. The container is based on a commercial 20 ft. container and CAD files will be supplied in different CAD formats. The container cannot be carried inside the airplane itself, but must be external to the airplane. The airplane must be a fixed wing airplane (no helicopter, no blimp). To keep maintenance [costs] down, there must be [commonality] with the Lockheed C130H for powerplant and propellers. The number of engines will be determined by the designer. The airplane must be able to fly without the container present. It should also be possible to drop the container during flight. The airplane must be able to land and take-off on rough surfaces. Take-off, cruise, ceiling and landing requirements must be met with container present.

A summary of the design requirements is given in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of design requirements, from the RFP [1].

Parameter	Value	Notes
Crew	3 (2 pilots, 1 loadmaster)	
Container dimensions	Length 20 ft.; width 8 ft.; height 8.5 ft.	
Container weight	5,140 lbs.	
Max payload weight	40,000 lbs.	
Cruise speed with maximum load	At least 250 kt. at 23,000 ft.	

Service ceiling	33,000 ft.	Required with container empty, but present
Maximum rate of climb	1,500 ft./min	Required at MTOW and 10,000 ft. altitude
Unrefueled range	1,000 nm	With full payload
Engine(s)	Allison T56-A-15 turboprop	Assume 90% propeller efficiency throughout flight envelope.
Runway length	3,500 ft.	Both takeoff and landing distance must meet this requirement; to be calculated at MTOW

The design developed in this project has been given the provisional designation C-85, and the provisional public-relations name Flying Forklift.

2 Initial Sizing

2.1 Mission Profile

An initial estimate of the fuel fraction was obtained, using an out-and-back mission profile representative of a battlefield-resupply or humanitarian mission. The profile is shown in Figure 1.

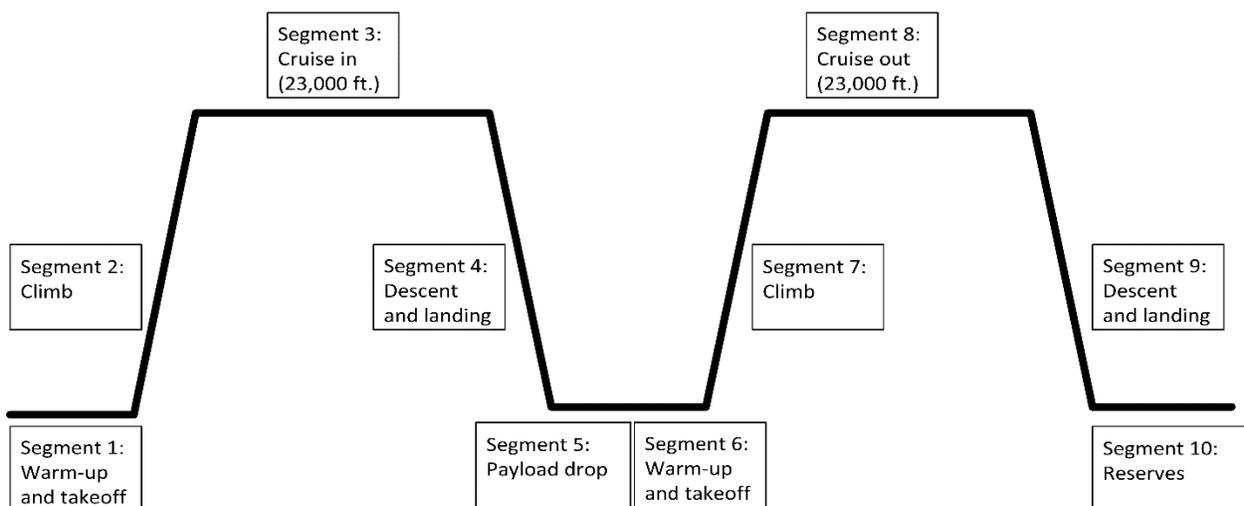


Figure 1: Mission profile. Note that the cruise-in/cruise-out distance was subject to change.

For the purposes of initial sizing, a cruise-in/cruise-out distance of 500 nm was selected. The required fuel fraction was then estimated as 0.243, using the mission-profile details from Table 23 (Appendix A). This seems reasonable, since the C-130H has a fuel fraction of 0.231 [2]. It is worth noting that using the same estimates for fuel fraction, L/D, and TSFC results in a range of 2,413 nm¹, which is much greater than the range requirement given in the RFP (1,000 nm). This illustrates the importance of using a mission profile for initial sizing. For comparison, the C-130H has a range of 2,046 nm [2].

2.2 Weight Breakdown

An estimated weight breakdown was prepared, using the following equations:

$$W_{TO} = W_e + W_{fuel} + W_{pay} + W_{crew} = \frac{W_{empty} + W_{pay} + W_{crew}}{1 - \frac{W_f}{W_{TO}}} \quad (1)$$

$$W_e = 2.2046 * 10^{[1.04 \log_{10}(0.4536W_{TO}) - 0.51]} \quad (2)$$

W_{TO} is the aircraft takeoff weight, W_e is the empty weight, W_{fuel} is the fuel weight, W_{pay} is the payload weight, and W_{crew} is the crew weight. All weights are in pounds. Equation (1) is a simple weight breakdown, while Equation (2) is a statistical estimate for the empty weight of a medium-heavy turboprop transport aircraft, taken from Table 1 in Marinus and Poppe [3]. Note that the units were converted to pounds from the original kilograms. The following estimates of payload and crew weights were used:

- $W_{pay} = 45,140 \text{ lbs}$ (given in the RFP)
- $W_{crew} = 600 \text{ lbs}$ (3 crew; 200 lbs. each)

¹This estimate only includes cruise; no allowance is made for warm-up, takeoff, climb, descent, or reserves.

Since $\frac{W_f}{W_{TO}}$ (fuel fraction) is known from Section 2.1, Equations (1) and (2) were solved iteratively for empty and takeoff weights. This resulted in the weight breakdown given in Table 2. For comparison, the C-130H has a maximum normal takeoff weight of 155,000 lbs [2].

Table 2: Initial weight estimates.

	Weight (lbs)	Fraction
Empty weight	81,309	0.4845
Fuel weight	40,783	0.2430
Payload weight	45,140	0.2690
Crew weight	600	0.0036
Takeoff weight	167,832	n/a

2.3 Engine and Wing Sizing

With four of the required Allison T56-A-15 engines (the engine used by the C-130H [2]) and assuming 4,910 ESHP (equivalent shaft horsepower) per engine [2], the takeoff power available is 19,640 HP and the power loading is $8.55 \frac{lbs}{hp}$. This seems reasonable, since the statistical method given in Table 10 of Reference [3] (an exponential equation based on maximum takeoff weight) gives a required takeoff power of 19,963 hp. Note that a number of different figures are cited in the literature for the takeoff ESHP of the T56-A-15. For example, the Engines section of Jane [2] gives a value of 4,910 ESHP (used here), but the section on the C-130H in the same book gives a value of 4,508 EHP.

3 Reference Aircraft

3.1 Tactical Transports

3.1.1 Lockheed C-130H (Hercules)

The C-130H is a medium-heavy tactical transport aircraft, which entered service in 1973 [2]. It has a conventional, cantilevered high wing with four Allison T56-A-15 turboprop engines. It also has



fuselage-mounted main landing gear, *Figure 2: The C-130J Hercules [42].*

conventional tail surfaces, and a conventional semi-monocoque structure of aluminum and magnesium alloys [2]. Like most military transports, it incorporates a rear-loading ramp.

A considerable amount of aerodynamic data for the C-130A, including air loads, maximum lift coefficients, pressure distributions, and stability & control characteristics, is contained in Lockheed's Aerodynamic Data for Structural Loads report, available online [4].

3.1.2 Lockheed C-130J (Super Hercules)

This updated version of the C-130 entered service in 1998 [5]. Although very similar in appearance to the C-130H, it was extensively optimized to reduce operating costs [6]. It incorporated a number of design changes, including:

- Use of composites for some wing panels and flaps
- New Rolls-Royce AE 2100D3 turboprops, each flat-rated to 4,591 EHP.
- Fly-by-wire control system with a central flight computer
- Crew reduced from four to two

A comparison of important design characteristics from the two C-130 versions is given in Table 3. Note that the C-130J does not represent a radical improvement over the older C-130H; it is essentially a modernization of a design dating back to 1951. This is reflected in the choice of wing airfoils, which are identical between the C-130H and C-130J: NACA 64A-318 airfoil at wing root; NACA 64A-412 at wing tip [2], [5]. This can further be seen by comparing key performance parameters from Table 3, and noting that there are few significant differences.

3.1.3 Antonov An-12 (Cub)

This four-turboprop tactical transport aircraft is the Soviet equivalent of the C-130. It entered service in 1959, with production ceasing in 1973 [2]. Key performance parameters are given in Table 3.

3.1.4 Airbus A-400M (Atlas)

This swept-wing turboprop-powered aircraft is by far the most modern tactical transport in the world, having entered service in 2013 [6]. Although much larger and faster than any of its counterparts, it still has comparable takeoff and landing distances. It uses composites extensively within the



Figure 3: The A-400M Atlas [43].

wing and tail structures, and incorporates a fly-by-wire control system.

Table 3: Comparison of data for existing tactical transports. Data is from [2], [5], [6], and [7].

Parameter	C-130H	C-130J	An-12	A-400M
Service entry date	1973	1998	1959	2013
Maximum takeoff weight (lbs.)	155,000	155,000	134,480	303,135
Maximum payload weight (lbs.)	42,673	41,790	44,090	66,138
Wing area (ft^2)	1,745	1,745	1,310	2,384
Wingspan (ft)	132.6	132.6	124.7	139
Cruise ESHP per engine ² (hp)	4,508	4,591	4,000	11,000
Cruising speed (kts)	300	339	~300	402
Stalling speed (kts)	100	100	88	Unknown
Max rate of climb at SL ($\frac{ft}{min}$)	1,900	2,100	1,970	4,000
Maximum wing loading ($\frac{lbs}{ft^2}$)	89	88.8	102.7	127.2
Maximum power loading ($\frac{lbs}{EHP}$)	8.6	8.44	8.41	6.89
Takeoff distance (ft)	3,580	3,050	2,300	3,215
Landing distance (ft)	1,700	1,400	1,640	2,526

Key performance parameters are given in Table 3. Note that Jane [6] contains some inconsistencies. For example, the Design Features section on the A-400M cites a long-range cruising speed of about Mach 0.7 at 37,000 ft (corresponding to 402 knots, the figure given in Table 3), while the performance table gives a maximum operating speed of only 300 knots. Takeoff and landing distances are also missing, and were instead taken from Reference [7].

² ESHP (Equivalent Shaft Horsepower) for a turboprop engine is typically quoted as either takeoff ESHP or normal (cruise) ESHP. The T56-A-15 engines on the C-130H have a takeoff ESHP of 4,910 ESHP [14], but takeoff ESHP for the AE 2100D3 engines on the C-130J is not given in *Jane* [13]. However, [13] does state that “[the C-130J propulsion] system provides 29% more takeoff thrust,” indicating that the takeoff ESHP of the C-130J engines is significantly higher than that of the C-130H engines. This would explain why the C-130J has a significantly better rate of climb and takeoff distance than the C-130H. It is also worth noting that the C-130J uses six-bladed composite propellers, as opposed to the four-bladed propellers originally used on the C-130H.

3.2 Strategic Transports

The aircraft in this category are much larger than the tactical transports in the preceding section, but they have similar max-payload ranges. For example, the C-130H has a payload capacity of 42,673 lbs. and a range of 2,046 nm [2], while the C-17 has a payload capacity of 170,900 lbs. and a range of 2,500 nm [6].

It should be noted that the propulsion, range, runway, and payload requirements make the C-85 a tactical, as opposed to strategic, transport. The designs in this section are primarily included as examples of 1) more modern technology and 2) alternate design characteristics, which may be incorporated into the C-85.

3.2.1 Boeing C-17 (Globemaster III)

This aircraft first flew in 1991; it is currently the standard US strategic transport. Design features include a rear-loading ramp; a T-tail; four turbofan engines; hinged, externally-blown flaps; and a supercritical, swept, high wing [6]. It is primarily relevant



Figure 4: The C-17 Globemaster III [44].

because of modern design features not present in the older C-130H, such as:

- Significant use of composites (estimated 8.1% by weight, from Jane [6])
- Quadruple-redundant fly-by-wire control system

It should be noted that the C-17 has a much greater carrying capacity relative to the C-130, but it requires a longer runway. The C-17 has a takeoff distance of 7,740 ft and a landing distance of

3,000 ft [6]; by contrast, the C-130J has a takeoff distance of 3,050 ft. and a landing distance of 1,400 ft [5]. Therefore, although most modern transports are strategic, tactical transports are still relevant in situations where the runways are too short to permit strategic transports to operate.

3.2.2 Antonov An-124 (Condor)

This huge four-engine jet transport is the Ukrainian counterpart to the C-17. It entered service in 1987, and was the world's largest production aircraft as of 2004 [5]. It has a maximum payload of 330,700 lbs., almost twice that of the C-17, while its takeoff and landing distances of 8,270 ft. and 2,955 ft. respectively are comparable to those of the C-17 [5]. It has a range of 2,430 nm with maximum payload [6].

Interestingly, the An-124 was equipped with kneeling landing gear, which could raise or lower the aircraft as required for loading or unloading. It takes approximately 3 minutes to lower the gear and 6.5 minutes to raise it [5].

3.3 Flying Boxcars

A number of twin-boomed transport aircraft fall into this category. The main advantage of this configuration is that it allows trucks to back up to the rear-loading ramp, although some examples also had loading ramps at the front [8].

3.3.1 Fairchild C-119 (Packet)

This American twin-boomed transport aircraft first flew in 1947; it was developed from the earlier C-82 Packet [9]. Key design features included twin piston engines, tricycle landing gear with main wheels retracting into the engine pods, a high wing with anhedral center-section (to shorten the landing gear), and a capacious cargo compartment with rear loading doors.

3.3.2 Fairchild XC-120 (Pack-Plane)

This experimental version of the C-119 was developed in the early 1950s, with a detachable cargo-carrying fuselage. This was purported to reduce cargo-handling time on the ground, but only one prototype was built and the project was scrapped [10]. Further information on the XC-120 was obtained from an old edition of Jane's All the World's Aircraft [11].

The XC-120 had a hatch in the floor of the fuselage, which could be used by the crew either to enter and exit the plane without the cargo compartment in place (this required a ladder), or to access the cargo pod. A secondary escape and servicing hatch was located

on the roof of the fuselage. The XC-120 also incorporated quadricycle landing gear folding into the nacelles, replacing the tricycle gear of the C-119. This arrangement can be seen in Figure 6.

To attach the cargo pod, the XC-120 would first roll over the pod. Four electrical drum hoists (mounted on the fuselage) would then be used to raise the pod to mate with four ball-and-socket



Figure 5: The XC-120 Pack-plane, with and without its cargo pod [10].



Figure 6: The XC-120 on the ground [46].

connections on the fuselage [12]. The final step would be to use an inflatable rubber tube to seal off the space between the pack and the carrier aircraft.

3.4 Miscellaneous Aircraft

3.4.1 Scaled Composites White Knight Two

The world's largest all-composite aircraft is a good example of aircraft designed around an external payload. The first White Knight Two was built in 2007 and first flew the next year. It serves as a launch platform for



Figure 7: An image of White Knight Two, with SpaceShipTwo attached [47].

SpaceShipTwo, a manned suborbital space vehicle intended for commercial tourism flights. White Knight Two and SpaceShipTwo are to be operated by Virgin Galactic, which has ordered three of the former and five of the latter [13]. Key design features include twin fuselages, an inverted gull wing, and quadricycle landing gear, all in order to accommodate and launch SpaceShipTwo while in flight. White Knight Two and SpaceShipTwo are shown in Figure 7.

3.4.2 Bombardier Dash-8 Q400

The Q400, shown in Figure 8, is a modern twin-engine turboprop airliner. It entered service in 2002; more than 400 have been produced, and the aircraft is still in production [6]. It is relevant to this work for two reasons:

- It is powered by two Pratt & Whitney Canada PW150A engines, which are much more modern than the Allison engines required by the RFP. This is discussed further in Section 4.4.



Figure 8: The Dash-8 Q400 [48].

- Its landing gear retract into the engine nacelles, as opposed to into

fuselage sponsons like the C-130. This helps prevent the aircraft from tipping over while on the ground, which is discussed in Section 5.4 as a significant problem for the selected configuration.

4 Design Requirements

4.1 Design for Payload

Most of the RFP requirements (ex. range, runway length, and takeoff distance) seem relatively straightforward from a technical perspective. However, the payload requirement is unusual. The RFP specifies a 20 ft. container as the required payload; this container weighs 5,140 lbs. empty and 45,140 lbs. when full. Moreover, the RFP



Figure 9: The required container [45].

specifies that “[the] container cannot be carried inside the airplane itself, but must be external to

the airplane [1],” and “[the] airplane must be able to fly without the container present. It should also be possible to drop the container during flight [1].” The container is shown in Figure 9.

Three principal arrangements are envisaged for carrying such a container externally:

1. Leaving the container as-is, and loading it into the aircraft from below (the container would remain exposed from below while in flight). The aircraft would then roll over the container to load or unload.
2. Adding a fairing around the container, to make it more aerodynamic. The container could then be attached and removed in a manner similar to that of the XC-120 (see Section 3.3.2).
3. Leaving the container as-is, and loading it into the aircraft from the side (the container would remain exposed from the side while in flight). A diagram illustrating this approach is given in Appendix C.

Approaches 1 and 2 would be greatly facilitated if the C-85 were equipped with kneeling landing gear, capable of raising or lowering the aircraft to the level desired. It would then be possible to drive the aircraft over the container, lower it, attach the container, raise the aircraft, and then drive away, without any specialized ground-handling gear. Kneeling landing gear was used by both the Antonov An-124 Condor (mentioned earlier) and the Lockheed C-5 Galaxy.

4.2 Design for Range

As shown in Section 2.1, the 1,000 nm range requirement is much too low to be useful. Therefore, the Table 23 mission profile was used to size the C-85; a more suitable range requirement should be defined later. In addition, provision should be made for external fuel tanks; for comparison, the C-130H can carry two underwing fuel tanks with a combined capacity of 2,558 US gallons [6]. Provision will also be made for aerial refueling.

4.3 Design for STOL

The RFP requires a runway distance of less than 3,500 ft. at maximum takeoff weight; both takeoff and landing distances must be less than this value. It can be seen from Table 3 that only the C-130H is incapable of meeting the requirement; the C-130J, An-12, and A-400M all have takeoff and landing distances less than 3,500 ft.

Characteristics of the high-lift systems used by current tactical transports are given in Table 4. Note that none of the aircraft listed incorporated leading-edge slats; they all use either single- or double-slotted Fowler flaps. It is expected that the C-85 will make use of a similar system.

Table 4: High-lift systems of current tactical transports. Information is from [14] and [6].

	C-130	An-12	A-400M
Trailing-edge flaps	Single-slotted Fowler flaps	Double-slotted Fowler flaps	Fixed-vane double- slotted Fowler flaps
Leading-edge slats	No	No	No

4.4 Design for Propulsion

The RFP requires that the Allison T56-A-15 engine be used [1]; it was calculated in Section 2.3 that four engines are required. This engine was used to power the C-130H. Thrust, power, and TSFC data for this engine can be obtained from Appendix J of *Fundamentals of Aircraft and Airship Design* [15]. The RFP also requires that the NP2000 propeller (an eight-bladed propeller made by Hamilton Sundstrand) be used; 90% propeller efficiency is to be assumed [1].

The T56-A-15 is far from the best engine available. Indeed, Jane [6] cites a 15% increase in fuel efficiency and a 29% increase in takeoff thrust for the C-130J relative to the C-130H; these improvements are due entirely to its new propulsion system. The C-130J replaces the older T56-

A-15 engines with Rolls-Royce AE 2100D3 turboprops. A third engine, the Pratt & Whitney Canada PW150A, was considered.

A summary of engine data is given in Table 5. Weights and performance metrics were obtained from the 1996 and 2009 Aerospace Source Books [16], [17], while dimensions were obtained from the Engines section of Jane [5].

Table 5: Comparative engine data.

Engine	T56-A-15	AE 2100D3	PW150A
Manufacturer	Allison	Rolls-Royce	Pratt & Whitney Canada
Powers	Lockheed C-130H	Lockheed C-130J	Dash-8 Q400
Sea-level takeoff SHP	4,591	4,591	5,071
Sea-level takeoff SFC $\left(\frac{lbs}{hr * SHP}\right)$	0.54	0.46	0.433
Length (ft.)	12.2	9.0	7.95
Diameter (ft.)	2.25	3.78	2.52
Weight (lbs.)	1,848	1,644	1,583

Table 5 shows that the PW150A outperforms both the T56-A-15 and the AE 2100D3 in terms of sea-level takeoff SHP, while being both smaller and lighter. It also has significantly lower fuel consumption than either of the other two engines. An upgraded version of the PW150A (the PW-150C) is being considered to power the XAC MA700 notional Chinese twin-turboprop airliner [6]. The T56-A-15 will be used to power the C-85 as per the RFP requirements; however, the PW150C will be considered as an upgrade, especially for a civilian variant.

4.5 Design for Advanced Technology

The C-85 design should make use of the latest advanced technologies, in order to outperform existing military transports. Various technologies and their impacts are discussed in this section.

4.5.1 *Natural Laminar Flow*

Natural laminar flow involves shaping an aircraft wing or fuselage to achieve long runs of laminar flow, without any active control mechanisms. This technology is under consideration for the C-85 in part because the C-130 (both H and J) used NACA 6-series airfoils: NACA 64A-318 at wing root; NACA 64A-412 at wingtip [2], [6]. These airfoils were designed explicitly for long runs of laminar flow. Wind-tunnel data for the 64A-412 airfoil can be found in an old NACA report [18]. It is worth noting that the data in [18] only includes data for Reynolds numbers of $3e6$, $6e6$, and $9e6$, while the C-85 has an estimated cruise Reynolds number of $22e6$. Not only does this high Reynolds number invalidate the NACA data, it also means that laminar flow will be much harder to maintain. Furthermore, any mud, dirt, or insects on the wing leading edge will ruin laminar flow, and the presence of propellers will make obtaining laminar flow even more difficult. However, the Lockheed engineers still chose laminar-flow airfoils, indicating that at least some laminar flow is possible. Therefore, as a first-order approximation, 5% laminar flow will be assumed for any wing sections in the propwash (laminar-flow is possible behind propellers, according to Raymer [19]); wing sections outside the propwash will be assumed to have 15% laminar flow. The 6-series foils can be used as a starting point for airfoil selection.

4.5.2 *Advanced Composites*

Composite materials are increasingly being used in aerospace applications due to their high strength, high stiffness, and low weight. However, composites can in many cases be more expensive and more difficult to manufacture and repair than metals. Despite these drawbacks, most modern transport aircraft use composites extensively. For example, the C-130J (unlike the all-metal C-130H) uses carbon-fiber flaps and graphite-epoxy trailing-edge wing panels [6]. The C-17 is 8.1% composites by mass (not including the redesigned all-composites horizontal tail), while

the A-400M uses composites for the horizontal tail box, elevator, vertical fin, rudder, and wing (except ribs) [6]. The C-85 makes even greater use of composites (see Section 9.2.3).

4.5.3 Active Load Alleviation

Active load alleviation involves automatically deflecting the control surfaces as loads on the aircraft are increased. The aim is to alter the lift distribution to concentrate lift inboard, reducing wing bending moments. If applied to an existing aircraft, load alleviation will increase the useful load; if applied to a new aircraft, load alleviation can be used to save wing structural weight.

There are two forms of active load alleviation commonly discussed in the literature: maneuver load alleviation (or MLA, in which the controls are deflected in response to high-g maneuvers), and gust load alleviation (or GLA, in which the controls are deflected in response to gusts). Flutter load alleviation is also occasionally discussed.

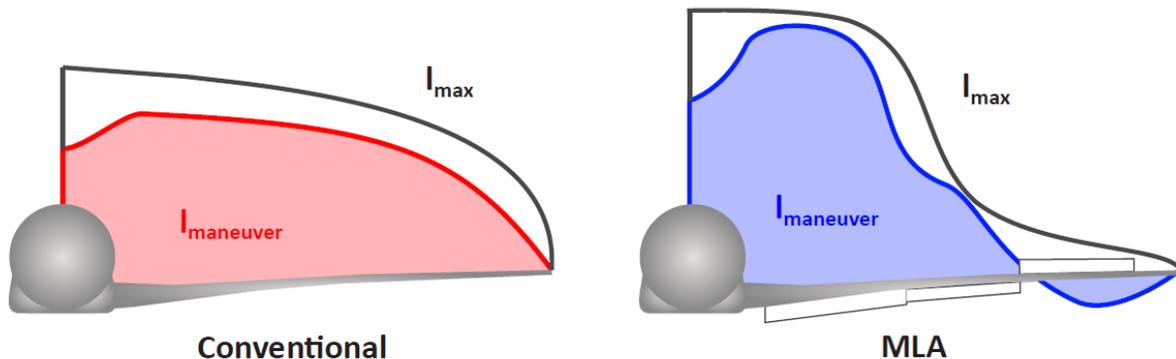


Figure 10: Comparison of the lift distribution of a conventional wing with that of a MLA-equipped wing, taken from [20].

A diagram of the effects on lift distribution due to a maneuver load alleviation system is shown in Figure 10. Note that the lift distribution of an MLA-equipped wing is essentially the same as that of a non-MLA wing at cruise load factors ($n = 1$); the lift distribution only becomes non-elliptical as the loads become critical. Therefore, the induced-drag penalty due to a non-elliptical lift distribution is nonexistent in cruise.

Like many ideas in aerospace, active load alleviation is not new. The concept of deflecting control surfaces to reduce wing loads was patented in 1949 by the Douglas Aircraft Corporation, while the first comprehensive design study on maneuver load alleviation known to this author was published in 1971 by Roland White of the Aerophysics Research Corporation [21]. By applying a MLA system incorporating both ailerons and flaps to a large transport aircraft design, the former Boeing design specialist was able to demonstrate that a 10% wingspan increase was possible without increasing wing weight.

The first aircraft to fly with a load alleviation system was an upgraded version of the Lockheed L-1011 TriStar widebody airliner (the L-1011-500), in 1979 [22]. At the time, Lockheed was seeking to extend the TriStar wingspan by 9 feet. A maneuver load alleviation system was required to ensure that the wingspan extensions did not require redesign of the entire wing to handle the resulting increased loads. The system incorporated accelerometers in three locations: the left wingtip, right wingtip, and the fuselage. A dynamic-pressure sensor was also required. The system only utilized the outboard ailerons; flaps were not used. Also, only MLA was implemented; GLA was studied, but ultimately rejected due to marginal benefits [22]. The upgraded TriStar was certified in 1980, and entered service with Pan Am the same year. Lockheed also instituted a program to retrofit all existing L-1011-500s with the new system [23].

Research into active load alleviation systems is ongoing. NASA has conducted a number of theoretical and experimental studies of both MLA and GLA systems [24], [25], [26]. More recently, MLA and GLA were featured in a number of airliner multidisciplinary optimization studies at Stanford [20], [27]. The Airbus A320 and A330 are known to incorporate maneuver load alleviation systems [20], while unconfirmed rumors suggest that the Airbus A380 and Boeing 787 also have MLA systems. The B-2 Spirit has a gust load alleviation system [28].

The chief obstacle to more widespread use of MLA and GLA is the required flap actuation speed. White [21] showed that using ailerons and flaps together results in a significantly larger MLA benefit than use of ailerons alone; this requires the flaps to be able to quickly respond to commands from a central flight computer. However, most large modern transport aircraft incorporate slotted Fowler flaps (see Section 4.3), which take some time (~10 s) to deploy. There are a number of ways this problem can be solved with the C-85:

1. By using a plain hinged flap. This will result in a lower maximum lift coefficient than would be obtainable with a single- or double-slotted Fowler flap, but its faster actuation speed would allow the full benefit of MLA and GLA to be realized.
2. By using a single- or double-slotted Fowler flap, and only applying MLA and GLA using the ailerons. This method would entail considerably lower technical risk (this is what was done with the TriStar), and a high maximum lift coefficient could be obtained. However, the full potential of MLA and GLA cannot be realized in this manner.

As a first-order estimate of the effects of a load alleviation system, the 12.2% wing-weight bonus from Table 1 in Reference [21] should be assumed if Option 1 is selected. An 8.2% bonus (also from [21]) should be assumed if Option 2 is selected.

The C-85 incorporates Option 2 (slotted Fowler flaps, MLA/GLA on the ailerons only; 8.1% wing-weight bonus). A trade study should be performed later to address the relative merit of the two options.

4.6 Design for Alternative Missions

The C-130 was famous for the variety of roles in which it served (and continues to serve) throughout its career. Several alternative roles are contemplated for the C-85; these include:

- Civilian Transport: a civilian variant of the C-130 (known as the L-100) exists. It is primarily used to carry freight, but can also be employed for passengers (as in Indonesia's transmigration program), firefighting, surveillance, casualty evacuation, and humanitarian relief [2], [6].
- Tanker: The US Marine Corps uses KC-130 aircraft as probe-and-drogue tankers, with extra fuel tanks in the cargo bay and on underwing pylons [2].
- Gunship: a number of C-130 variants were converted to AC-130s, equipped with a variety of side-firing weapons including 30mm and 40mm guns, Hellfire and Griffin missiles, and 105mm howitzers [14], [6]. The C-119 also served as a gunship, as the AC-119. If the C-85 is to serve in this role, any weapons must have a clear field of fire (i.e. not obstructed by the wing or engines).
- Paratroop Transport: provision should be made for accommodation of paratroops inside a suitably modified cargo container. This may require the paratroops to have access to the cockpit. In the case of the XC-120, this was accomplished with a hatch in the ceiling of the cargo pod, corresponding to a hatch in the cockpit floor [11].

4.7 Design for Export

The C-130J is one of the world's widely exported military aircraft. At least 55 nations ordered C-130H models as of 1984; Lockheed had received a total of 1,729 Hercules orders by that year, of which 1,702 had been delivered. 558 of the orders were placed by militaries other than the United States, while 97 orders were for commercial versions [2]. Sales of the C-130J totaled 461 as of 2014, with 127 orders coming from 15 countries outside the United States [6].

It is worth noting that there is no modern competitor aircraft in the same class as the C-130J. The A-400M is the only other modern tactical transport, but it is much larger and has a significantly

higher payload capacity (see Table 3). Also, the A-400M program suffered from significant cost overruns, estimated at €1.4 billion out of a total €5.5 billion in 2006 [6]. The unit price of an Atlas was quoted as €100 million in 2006 (about \$150 million US dollars in 2015), while the unit price of a Super Hercules was quoted as approximately \$67.5 million US in 2002 (about \$89 million US in 2015). It is therefore desirable for the C-85 to have a unit price less than \$89 million US, as well as a lower operating cost. If this can be achieved, the C-85 would be a very competitive candidate for export.

The desirability of a low operating cost provides additional impetus to use PW150C engines (see Section 4.4), in order to gain the commensurate fuel savings.

5 Aircraft Configurations

Four main configuration options have been identified. The first is a modified C-130H or C-130J, while the other three depend on the cargo-container storage method: internally, with the container extracted from below; externally, with fairings fitted in front and behind the container; and internally, with the cargo container extracted from the side. The relative merits of each are discussed in this section.

5.1 Modified C-130H or C-130J

The C-130H and C-130J already meet most of the design requirements. Exceptions include the 3,500 ft. runway requirement, the 45,140 lbs. payload requirement, the engine requirement, and the external-payload requirement. The runway requirement is met by the C-130J but not the C-130H (see Table 3); the two aircraft have maximum payloads of 42,673 and 41,790 lbs. respectively (Table 3). Also, both aircraft have a cargo hold with dimensions of 40 ft. x 10.25 ft. x 9 ft. [6], which is sufficient to carry the container.

The main advantage of this configuration is its low technical risk, as the aircraft already exists. Negotiations with the customer could be conducted to lower the payload requirement to what the C-130H and -J can already carry. Alternatively, an active load alleviation system could be fitted to the C-130J ailerons (as was done with the TriStar) to raise the maximum payload to the required 45,140 lbs. This would be difficult (but not impossible) to do with the C-130H due to its lack of a fly-by-wire control system. The external-payload requirement would also have to be negotiated, as it cannot be met without a clean-sheet design. Finally, the C-130H uses the required engines, but the C-130J does not.

There are two main problems with this idea. The first problem is that, as detailed above, neither model is capable of meeting all of the design requirements. The second problem is that the C-130 is a very old design; the initial design specification was released in 1951 [14]. Significant improvements should be possible with more modern technology. This is especially important due to the desirability of civilian and export variants (see Sections 4.6 and 4.7).

5.2 Cargo Extracted from Below

This design would use the same basic layout as the C-130, but would make extensive use of more modern technology. In order to meet the external-payload requirement, the cargo container would be extracted from below. An image of this configuration is shown in Figure 11.

This configuration would be capable of meeting the design requirements, as long as the cargo container is present. However, it has two main glaring issues:

1. In order to extract the cargo container from below, the landing gear would have to be at least 10 ft. tall, giving the design the appearance of “a Hercules on stilts” (author’s words). This is because the required container is 8.5 ft. tall. This would be extremely heavy, expensive, and difficult to integrate into the design.

2. The aerodynamics of the cargo hold with container removed (especially at higher angles of attack) are extremely complex. To design for this, a plate should be included above the cargo container, such that it lowers to cover the hole.

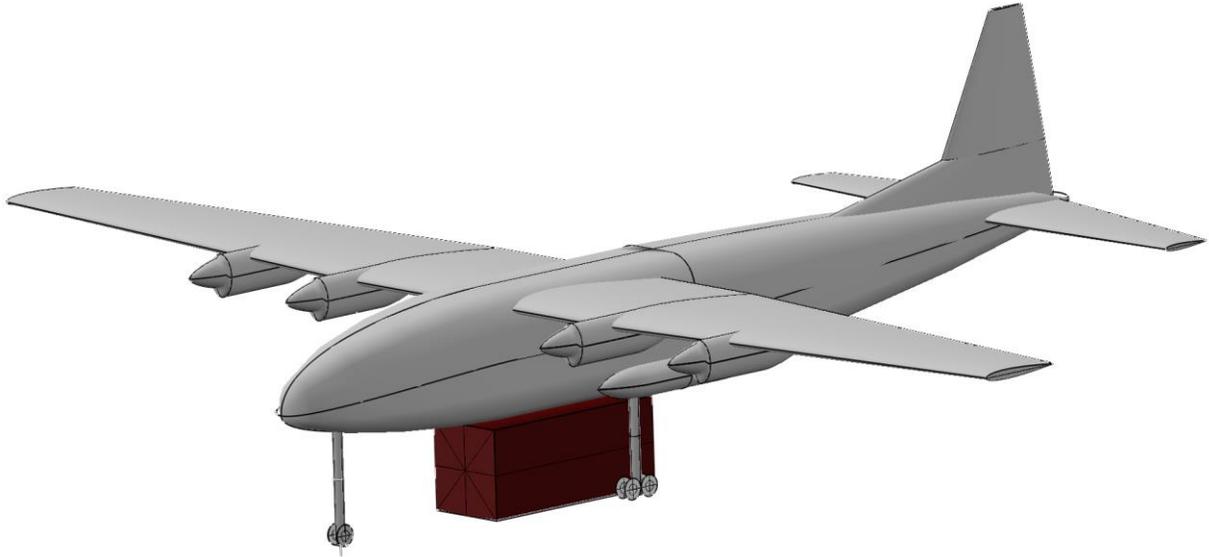


Figure 11: Sketch of a hypothetical configuration with cargo extracted from below.

5.3 External Cargo Container with Fairing

This configuration was heavily inspired by White Knight Two (discussed in Section 3.4.1). A removable fairing is fitted to the cargo container, which is then attached to the fuselage by a winch system as with the XC-120. Integrating the winch system into the fuselage allows for operation from unprepared airstrips, without ground-handling equipment. The container is situated at least 6 feet off the ground, which allows flatbed trucks to back up to load or unload cargo (standard flatbed trucks have trailer heights less than 4.9 ft. [29]). Inverted gull wings are used to keep the landing gear as short as possible. An image of this configuration is shown in Figure 12.

This configuration uses an H-tail, in order to facilitate dropping the cargo pod in flight without risk of collision with the tail. Quadricycle landing gear (not shown) is also used. The fairings would

have to slide (either fore or aft) to join together when the cargo pod is not present, to minimize drag.

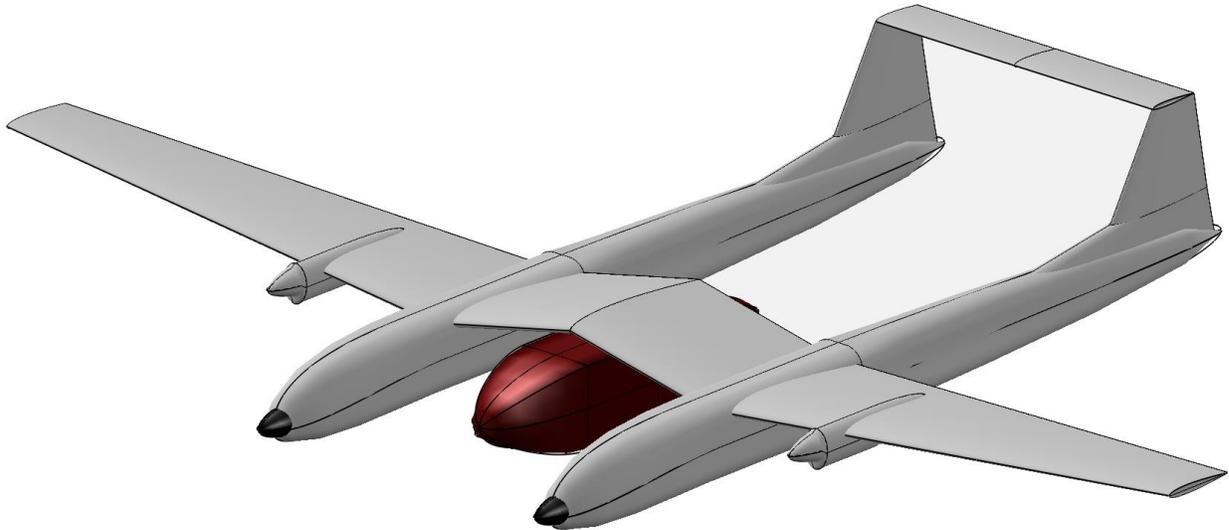


Figure 12: Sketch of a hypothetical configuration with an external cargo container.

There are several problems with this configuration that stem from the use of twin fuselages. First of all, twin fuselages would presumably be much heavier than a single fuselage. Secondly, locating the crew would be difficult. The two pilots would have to be located such that adequate visibility could be obtained over the engines for takeoff and landing, ruling out the possibility of tandem cockpits. The simplest solution would be to locate one pilot in each fuselage, but this may not be desirable due to pilot-communication issues. If both pilots were located in the same fuselage, a side-by-side cockpit would be required, meaning that the fuselages would have to be wider (and therefore heavier) than otherwise. The odd number of crew would lead to asymmetry issues no matter the cockpit layout. Finally, it would be impossible to access the container while in flight with this configuration, which would be a significant problem if the container is ever used to carry passengers.

5.4 Cargo Extracted from the Side

This configuration incorporates rails attached to the wing spars (see Figure 26, Section 9.5.1), so that the cargo container can be stored internally during flight and slide out along the wing for loading/unloading. One side of the container would still be external, to avoid violating requirements. As with the previous configuration, the container is situated at least 6 feet off the ground. Flatbed trucks can then pull up alongside the aircraft to load or unload cargo without any specialized ground-handling equipment. This means the landing gear is of a more reasonable length (about 5-6 feet).

As with the Cargo Extracted from Below configuration, the aerodynamics of the cargo hold with container removed are extremely complex. To design for this, a plate will be included inside the cargo container, such that it slides sideways to cover the hole when the cargo container is not present. An image of this configuration is shown in Figure 13, with more diagrams in Figure 26 (Section 9.5.1) and in Appendix C.

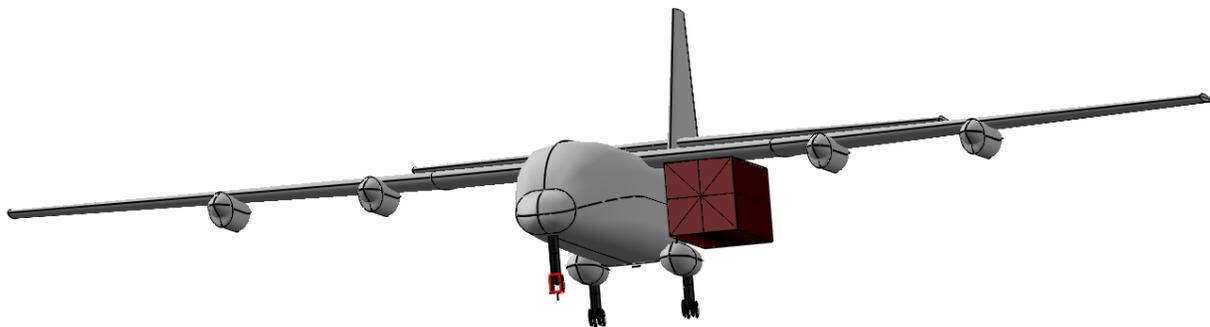


Figure 13: Sketch of a hypothetical configuration with cargo extracted from the side.

The aircraft may be prone to tipping over when the cargo container is removed. This could best be avoided by housing the landing gear inside the engine nacelles, as was done with the Bombardier Dash-8 [6]; however, the landing gear would have to be significantly longer. Alternatively, a

folding strut could be included inside the inner left engine pod, which would be lowered when loading or unloading cargo. This would also provide bending-moment relief to the wing spars. A more radical solution is to switch to bicycle landing gear, with outrigger wheels (see Figure 11.2 in [19] for a sketch). Finally, folding supports could be attached to the fuselage, as is currently done with fire trucks to prevent them from tipping over when the ladder is extended. Other problems with this configuration include:

- Large additional bending moments will be imposed on the wing spar during loading/unloading.
- There is a risk that the cargo container will hit either the tailplane or the landing-gear fairings if the container is dropped in flight. The gear fairings can be avoided by dropping the container while the aircraft is at a bank angle; a T-tail can be used to overcome the resultant risk of collision with the tailplane.
- In order to drop the container in flight, it must be deployed out along the wing. This will create very large yawing and rolling moments. The rudder and ailerons may have to be oversized to account for this; alternatively, a system could be designed such that the container is “shoved” out the cargo door quickly. The rails may also need explosive bolts, in order to drop the container in case the rails jam in flight.

This configuration was selected for continued analysis. This is because it is the simplest configuration to design that can meet all of the requirements. The landing-gear length appears reasonable, while the single fuselage saves weight and design complexity. Finally, the four principal problems discussed above appear to be solvable.

6 Analysis Methods

A significant amount of MATLAB code was written to perform the analyses presented throughout the rest of this report. The propulsive, aerodynamic, performance, and mission analysis codes were particularly involved, and as such are detailed in this section.

6.1 Propulsive Analysis

A function called `T56_A_15_thrust` was written in MATLAB to generate $T(V, h)$ and $TSFC(V, h)$ curves (net thrust and thrust-specific fuel consumption vs. speed and altitude) for the Allison T56-A-15 engine. The function incorporates power, thrust, and ESFC (equivalent specific fuel consumption) data for the T56-A-15 engine, from *Fundamentals of Aircraft and Airship Design* [15]. This data is given for both takeoff and normal (cruise) conditions.

The function first obtains the propeller thrust. This was done by fitting a cubic spline to the power data from [15], compensating for installed-engine effects. As required by the RFP, a propeller efficiency of 90% was assumed; scrubbing drag, cooling drag, and miscellaneous drag were estimated using Equations 13.21, 13.22, and 13.23 from Raymer respectively [19]. The resulting power value was converted to thrust by dividing through by velocity. Note that a singularity results at zero velocity; to account for this, if the velocity corresponded to a Mach number less than 0.1, the velocity at $M_{0.1}$ was used instead of the actual velocity. A similar method was used by Raymer to obtain the uninstalled-engine data for the hypothetical turboprop engine included in Appendix E of [19].

The function next obtains the jet thrust. As with the propeller thrust, a cubic spline was fitted to the thrust data from [15]. Two installed-engine effects were incorporated: inlet pressure recovery and bleed extraction, which were estimated using Equations 13.6 and 13.8 from Raymer respectively [19].

The final step was to obtain the thrust-specific fuel consumption data. This was done by fitting a cubic spline to the ESFC data from [15], multiplying by total (uninstalled) power to get fuel burn per hour, then dividing by total (installed) thrust to get installed TSFC. Sample thrust and TSFC results (for one engine only) are given in Figure 14.

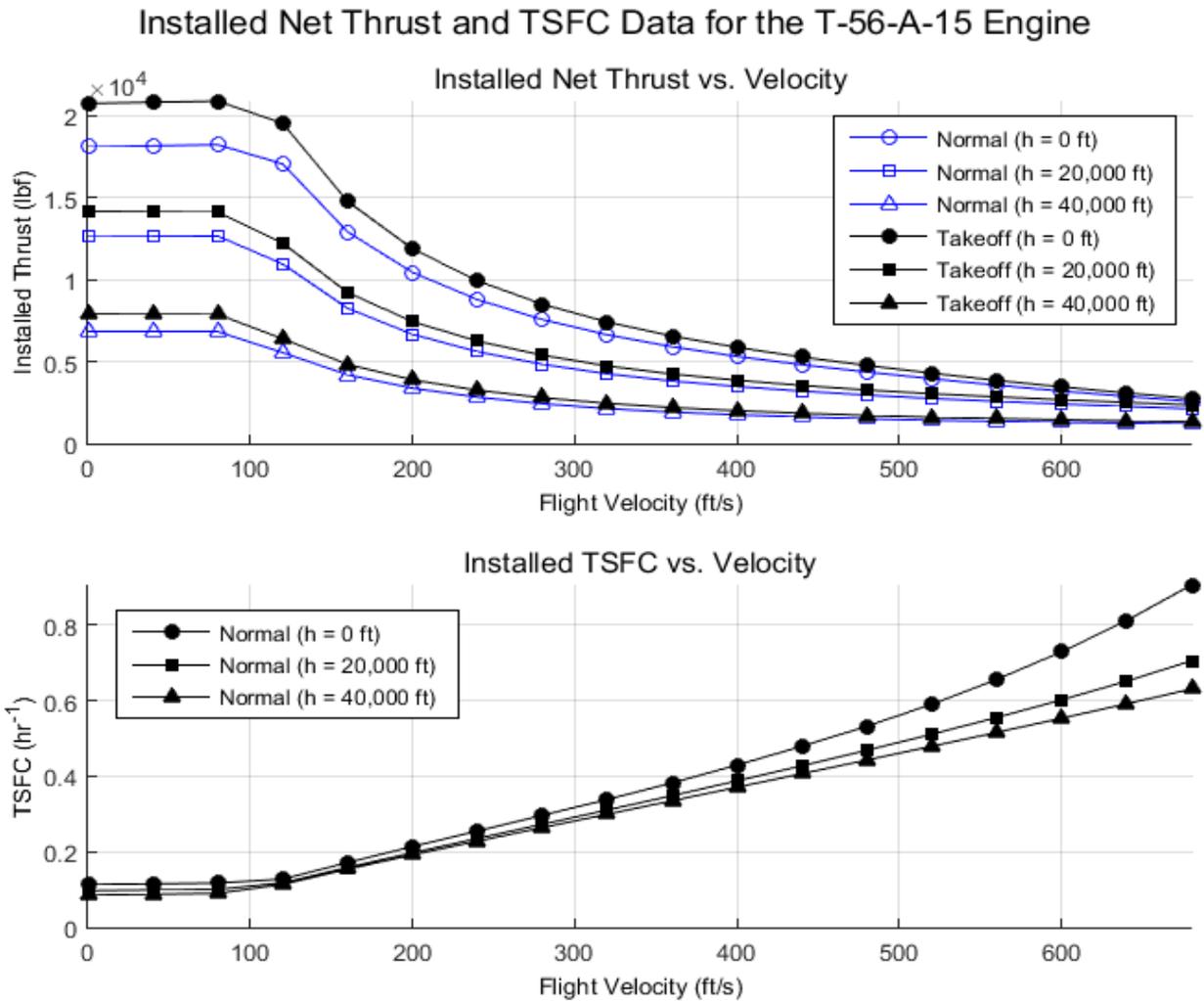


Figure 14: Installed net thrust and TSFC data for the Allison T56-A-15 engine.

6.2 Aerodynamic Analysis

The drag polar of an aircraft can be estimated as follows:

$$C_D = C_{D_0} + K(C_L - C_{L_{min}})^2 \quad (3)$$

C_D is the total drag coefficient, K is the lift-induced drag factor, C_L is the lift coefficient, and $C_{L_{min}}$ is the lift coefficient for minimum drag. $C_{L_{min}}$ was estimated as 0.255 (the same value as the C-130, from the Aerodynamics report [4]) in this work³.

A function called `aero_parameters` was written in MATLAB to estimate C_{D_0} and K , for varying flight conditions. The function has four inputs: a structure containing the aircraft geometric data, two arrays containing the velocities and altitudes respectively (the function is vectorized with respect to these arrays; they must both be the same size), and a condition string. The condition string has three configuration settings:

- Cruise (returns the coefficients for the clean airplane)
- Takeoff (adds landing-gear drag and flap drag at the takeoff setting)
- Landing (adds landing-gear drag, flap drag at the landing setting, spoiler drag, and windmilling-engine drag)

Zero-lift drag was obtained using a wetted-area method, from Raymer [19]. In this method, the first step is to estimate the drag of the various major aircraft components. This was done using an equivalent-flat-plate technique (including both Reynolds and Mach effects), with correction factors to account for pressure drag and interference drag. Drag estimates of six components were estimated in this manner: the wing, fuselage, tailplane, vertical fin, landing-gear sponsons, and engine nacelles. 10% laminar flow was assumed for the wing⁴, tail, and vertical fin; the other components were fully turbulent.

³ The C-85-1 wing uses the NACA 64A-315 airfoil, similar to the NACA 64A-318 and NACA 64A-412 airfoils used for the C-130 wing (see Section 0). It is therefore assumed that the $C_{L_{min}}$ value of 0.255 can be achieved with proper selection of tail airfoils, incidences, and twist. More information on this choice is given in Section 10.4.

⁴ Recall from Section 4.5.1 that 5% and 15% laminar flow was assumed for wing sections in and out of the propwash respectively. The value of 10% is an average of the two, and was used to simplify the analysis.

The next step was to estimate the additional drag due to miscellaneous sources. Five sources were included: landing-gear drag, fuselage-up sweep drag, flap drag, spoiler drag, and windmilling-engine drag. Landing-gear drag and spoiler drag were estimated using Table 12.6, while fuselage-up sweep drag, flap drag, and windmilling-engine drag were estimated using Equations 12.36, 12.61, and 12.39 respectively (all from Raymer [19]). The final step is an allowance for leakage & protuberance drag, conservatively estimated as 7% of the total.

Induced drag was obtained using an Oswald-efficiency method:

$$K = \frac{1}{\pi e AR} \quad (4)$$

AR is the wing aspect ratio, and e is the Oswald efficiency. The Oswald efficiency was obtained using the Equation (5), taken from Grant [30]:

$$e = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{e_{inviscid}} + \pi AR k C_{D_0}} \quad (5)$$

$e_{inviscid}$ is the inviscid Oswald efficiency, C_{D_0} is the zero-lift drag coefficient, while k was estimated as 0.38.

6.3 Performance Analysis

To perform performance analysis, a code called `performance_maindriver` was written in MATLAB. This program solves for five of the key performance metrics required by the RFP: maximum speed, maximum rate of climb, service ceiling, takeoff distance, and landing distance. `performance_maindriver` calls a number of other functions, all of which directly use the propulsive and aerodynamic functions where necessary.

6.3.1 Maximum Speed

The RFP requires a cruising speed of at least 250 knots at 23,000 ft.; the maximum speed must be greater than this value. To solve for the maximum speed, `performance_maindriver` calls a function called `maximum_speed`, which uses MATLAB's `fsolve` nonlinear solver function to zero the difference between aerodynamic drag and available thrust (from `T56_A_15_thrust`).

6.3.2 Maximum Lift Coefficient and Stalling Speed

The methods used to estimate maximum lift coefficient varied between aircraft versions, and as such are detailed in their own sections. However, an aircraft with wing-mounted engine-driven propellers will benefit from an increased lift slope ($C_{L\alpha}$) and increased maximum lift coefficient ($C_{L_{max}}$) while the engines are running. This is most relevant at takeoff, when maximum engine thrust is required.

Lockheed's C-130 Aerodynamic Data for Structural Loads report [4] includes two charts that document this effect. The charts, included on pages 30 and 31 of the report, plot lift coefficient vs. angle of attack for different values of C_{Δ} (power coefficient⁵). It can be seen that both $C_{L\alpha}$ and $C_{L_{max}}$ are significantly higher when the engines are on. Equation (6), estimated using data from these charts, was then implemented in a function called `CLmax_increment`:

$$\Delta C_{L_{max}} = 0.3 + 2C_{\Delta} \quad (6)$$

⁵ It is more typical to use a different definition of power coefficient: $C_p = \frac{P}{\rho n^3 D^5}$, where P is the power, ρ is the air density, n is the propeller rotational velocity in rev/s, and D is the propeller diameter [15]. Thrust coefficient ($C_T = \frac{T}{\rho n^2 D^4}$) is also used in the literature. However, the C-130 Aerodynamics report uses the following definition of power coefficient: $C_{\Delta} = \frac{T}{qS} = \frac{T}{\frac{1}{2}\rho V^2 S}$. Since data was obtained from this report, the C_{Δ} definition was used here.

$\Delta C_{L_{max}}$ is the increment in maximum lift due to the engines. Equation (6) can return inordinately high $C_{L_{max}}$ estimates at low speeds, so $\Delta C_{L_{max}}$ was capped at 2 (i.e. `CLmax_increment` cannot return a value of $\Delta C_{L_{max}}$ greater than 2).

Engine-on maximum lift coefficient is a function of airspeed through the C_{Δ} term in Equation (6). For this reason, stalling speed and maximum lift coefficient are dependent on each other, and must be solved for simultaneously. A function called `stalling_speed` was written in MATLAB for this purpose. `stalling_speed` uses MATLAB's `fzero` function, along with `CLmax_increment`, to iteratively solve for the airspeed at which the lift coefficient is equal to the maximum. The function returns both stalling speed and maximum lift coefficient, and is used throughout the performance estimates.

6.3.3 *Maximum Rate of Climb*

The RFP requires that the maximum rate of climb be greater than 1,500 fpm at 10,000 feet and maximum takeoff weight (MTOW). To solve for the maximum rate of climb, a function called `max_rate_of_climb` was written in MATLAB. This function uses MATLAB's `fmincon` nonlinear minimization function to maximize the aircraft rate of climb (given altitude), using airspeed as an optimization variable. A constraint was included to ensure that the lift coefficient is less than the maximum. Rate of climb (given airspeed and altitude) was computed using Equation (17.39) from Raymer [19].

6.3.4 *Service Ceiling*

The RFP requires that the service ceiling be greater than 33,000 feet with the container empty, but present. To solve for the service ceiling, a function called `service_ceiling` was written in MATLAB. This function uses MATLAB's `fmincon` function, with velocity and altitude as

design variables. The objective function is altitude, and two constraints are implemented: a rate of climb of 100 fpm, and a stalling-speed constraint.

6.3.5 *Takeoff Distance*

The RFP imposes a takeoff-distance requirement of 3,500 ft. Since the C-85 is a military aircraft, reference was made to Military Standard MIL-C5011A, which requires takeoff distance over a 50-ft obstacle [19]. A function called `takeoff_distance` was written in MATLAB for this purpose; the function returns stalling speed, maximum lift coefficient, and climb angle as well as the takeoff distance. Rolling-coefficient, takeoff-speed, and climb-speed requirements in MIL-C5011A were all adhered to.

All takeoff-distance calculations (except for stalling speed and maximum lift coefficient, which were computed using `stalling_speed`) used methods from Raymer [19]. Ground roll was computed by numerically integrating Equations (17.100) and (17.101) from Raymer, with an adjustment for the $C_{L_{min}}$ term in Equation (3) in this report. Rotation was assumed to take 3s at takeoff speed, while transition and climb distances were computed using Equations (17.110) and (17.112) from Raymer respectively. A detailed breakdown for the C-85-3 (the final aircraft version) is given in Table 26 (Appendix F).

6.3.6 *Landing Distance*

The RFP imposes a landing requirement of 3,500 ft. As with takeoff distance, reference was made to Military Standard MIL-C5011A, which requires landing distance over a 50-ft obstacle [19]. A function called `landing_distance` was written in MATLAB for this purpose; it returns stalling speed, maximum lift coefficient, and approach angle as well as the takeoff distance. Rolling-coefficient, approach-speed, and touchdown-speed requirements in MIL-C5011A were all adhered to.

As landing is essentially takeoff in reverse [19], `landing_distance` uses most of the same equations as `takeoff_distance`. However, there are a few key differences. First of all, since the engines are not used for approach, there is no benefit to $C_{L_{max}}$. Secondly, reversible-pitch propellers are used for the ground roll, which are assumed to provide 50% of the normal engine thrust in reverse during the ground roll⁶. Finally, `landing_distance` incorporates two different landing techniques: normal and max. If normal is selected, the approach angle is limited to 3° as per transport-aircraft requirements [19], and the delay between touchdown and application of brakes and reversible propellers is assumed to be 2s. If max technique is used, the approach angle is the maximum possible (about 12°), and the delay is reduced to 1s. A detailed breakdown for the C-85-3 (the final aircraft version) is given in Table 27 (Appendix F)⁷.

6.4 Mission-Profile Analysis

To determine whether the C-85 is capable of flying the mission profile in Table 23, a program called `mission_maindriver` was written in MATLAB. This function solves for the fuel burn for each mission segment. For simplicity, the same weight fractions given in Table 23 for warmup/takeoff, climb, descent, and reserves were used. The Breguet range equation is used to compute the fuel burn in cruise, with L/D ratio obtained using `aero_parameters` and TSFC from `T56_A_15_thrust`.

It is assumed that in some cases, the C-85 will have to fly out with a full payload (such as during a medical evacuation, or an aborted mission). For this purpose, `mission_maindriver` solves for the fuel burn under two different conditions: one with a payload drop, and one without.

⁶ Raymer recommends using 60% for turboprops [19], but `T56_A_15_thrust` cannot separate jet and propeller thrust. Moreover, thrust reversers cannot be used to reverse the jet thrust for landing for regulatory reasons [19].

⁷ Ground effect was not included for either takeoff or landing distances.

7 C-85-1 Analysis

7.1 Weight & Balance

A preliminary layout of the C-85 (the Dash-One) was created in Vehicle Sketch Pad (VSP). Weight estimates were also obtained, using methods from Chapter 15 of Raymer [19]. The layout is shown in Figure 15, while weight summary and dimensions are given in Table 6 and Table 7 respectively. Component weights are given in Appendix B.

Table 6 contains a parameter called the “design weight margin” which is the percentage by which the design takeoff weight is greater than the calculated takeoff weight. All performance calculations and component weight estimates use the design takeoff weight; this provides insurance against weight growth later in the design process. A design weight margin of 3-10% is typical for conceptual design [19].

Table 6: C-85-1 weight summary. The design takeoff weight is 175,800 lbs, close to the C-130J value of 175,000 lbs [6].

Component	Weight (lbs)
Empty weight	76,991.2
Fuel weight	40,783
Crew weight	600
Payload weight	45,140
Gross takeoff weight (calculated)	163,514.5
Gross takeoff weight (design)	175,800
Design weight margin	7.51%

Note from Table 7 that the tailplane volume coefficient is 1.6, much higher than Raymer’s recommended value of 1.0 [19]. This was required because the unusual payload means that the C-85 has a center of gravity that is relatively far back, as compared to the C-130. A large horizontal tail was required to ensure a reasonably large static margin.

Table 7: C-85-1 dimensions.

Wing	Wing area	1789 ft ²
	Wing aspect ratio	11.1
	Wingspan	141 ft
	Taper ratio	0.45
	Aileron area	193.2 ft ²
	Flap area	166.3 ft ²
	Spoiler area	133.1 ft ²
Fuselage	Length	100 ft
	Width	12 ft
	Height	11 ft
Tailplane	Tail moment arm	50.4 ft
	Tailplane aspect ratio	5
	Tailplane taper ratio	0.5
	Volume coefficient	1.6
	Tailplane area	772.2 ft ²
	Tailplane span	62.1 ft
	Elevator area	185.3 ft ²
Vertical Fin	Vertical fin aspect ratio	1.4
	Volume coefficient	0.08
	Vertical fin area	400.0 ft ²
	Vertical tail height	20.4 ft
	Rudder area	108.8 ft ²

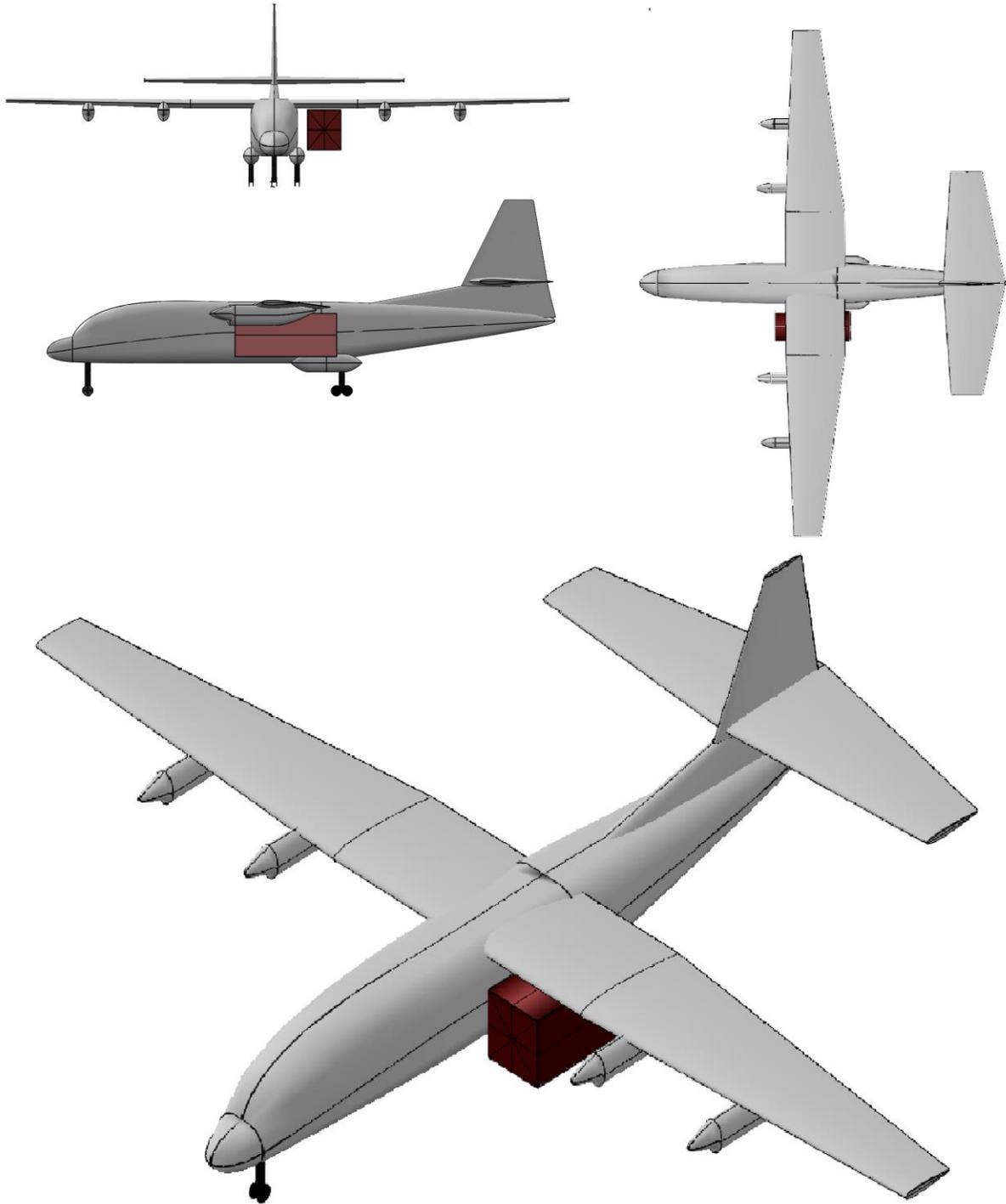


Figure 15: 4-view image of the C-85-1.

7.2 Aerodynamic Analysis

The inviscid Oswald efficiency of the C-85-1 was estimated at 0.8. Figure 16 is a comparative drag polar, showing the C-85-1 and C-130. C-130 aerodynamic parameters were obtained from the Aerodynamic Data report [4]. The drag polars of the two aircraft are comparable, validating the analysis technique.

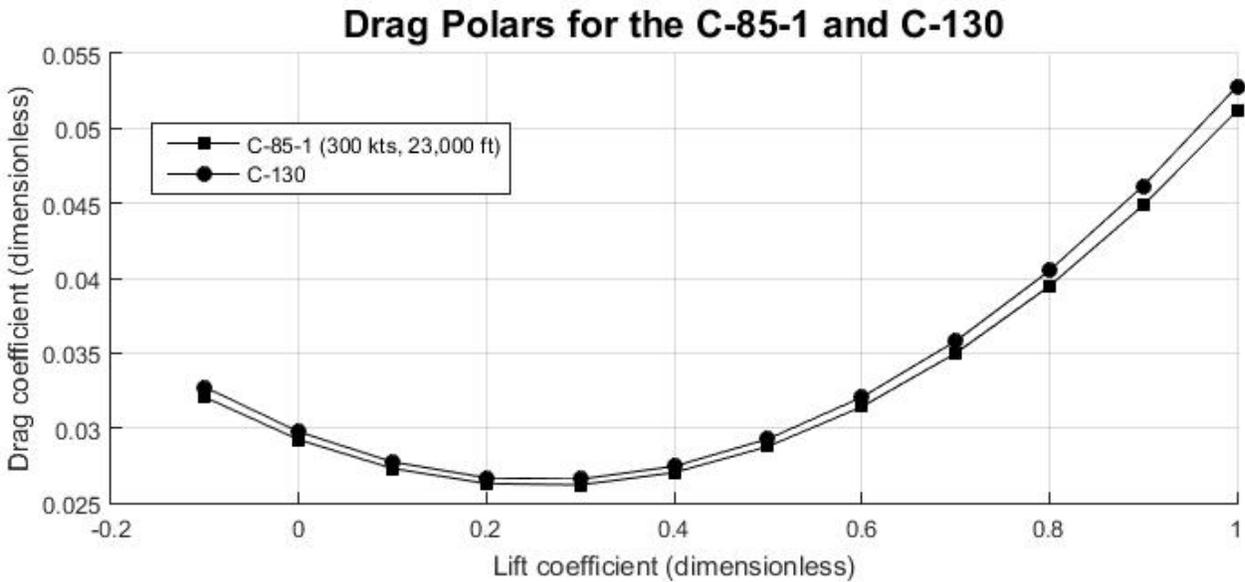


Figure 16: Drag polars for the C-85-1 and C-130.

7.3 Performance Analysis

A performance summary for the C-85-1 is given in Table 8. All requirements are met.

Table 8: Summary of performance requirements and results.

	RFP Requirement	Actual Value	
Maximum speed at 23,000 ft. and MTOW (knots)	>250	332.7	Requirement met
Maximum rate of climb at 10,000 ft. and MTOW (fpm)	>1,500	1,648	Requirement met
Service ceiling (container empty, but present; ft.)	>33,000	35,549	Requirement met
Takeoff distance (ft.)	<3,500	2,097	Requirement met
Landing distance (ft.)	<3,500	2,846	Requirement met

7.3.1 Maximum Speed

The C-85-1 has a maximum speed of 332.7 knots at 23,000 ft., easily meeting the 250-knot requirement⁸. For comparison, the C-130J has a maximum speed of 355 knots at 25,000 ft. [13].

7.3.2 Maximum Lift Coefficient

The C-85-1 is similar to the C-130 in many respects (dimensions, powerplant, airfoils, and high-lift system⁹). Therefore, as a first approximation, the C-85 performance analysis used the same engine-off maximum lift coefficients as the C-130, obtained from the Aerodynamics report [4]:

- $C_{L_{max}}$ (*cruise*) = 1.6
- $C_{L_{max}}$ (*takeoff*) = 2.0
- $C_{L_{max}}$ (*landing*) = 2.6

These coefficients were adjusted for engine-on effects as discussed in Section 6.3.2.

7.3.3 Maximum Rate of Climb

Table 8 shows that the C-85-1 has a maximum rate of climb of 1,648 fpm at 10,000 feet, which meets the 1,500 fpm requirement. However, this could only be achieved with engines at the takeoff setting. With engines at the normal setting, the maximum rate of climb drops to 1,368 fpm, which does not meet requirements.

7.3.4 Service Ceiling

The C-85-1 has a service ceiling of 35,549 ft., which meets the 33,000 ft. requirement. This was achieved with engines at the normal setting; takeoff power was not required.

⁸ This was computed with engines at the normal setting (as opposed to the takeoff setting, which would have yielded an even higher maximum speed if used).

⁹ The C-85-1, like the C-130, uses a single-slotted Fowler flap system.

7.3.5 Takeoff Distance

The C-85-1 has a takeoff distance of 2,097 ft., easily meeting the 3,500 ft. requirement. However, this low takeoff distance was achieved with the increase in $C_{L_{max}}$ from the engines. Equation (5.55) from Brandt et al. [31] reveals that ground roll is approximately inversely proportional to $C_{L_{max}}$. A lower $C_{L_{max}}$ would also increase rotation distance due to the higher takeoff speed. By taking these two effects into account, the takeoff distance of the C-85-1 without the engine $C_{L_{max}}$ increase is approximately 3,400 ft, which still meets requirements.

A similar trend can be noted by examining the C-130J takeoff-distance data from Jane [13]. The takeoff distance of the C-130J is given as 3,050 ft. at maximum takeoff weight (4,700 ft. is required to get to a 50-ft. altitude), but this drops to only 1,800 ft using “max effect procedures” [13]. The author’s best guess is that “max effect procedures” includes rotating at a speed determined by $C_{L_{max}}$ with engines on, which would explain the enormous discrepancy between the two distances.

7.3.6 Landing Distance

The C-85-1 landing distance using the normal technique is 2,846 ft, meeting the 3,500 ft. requirement. The landing distance using max technique is 2,311 ft.

7.4 Mission-Profile Analysis

The mission-analysis code solves for the fuel burn for two different missions: one with a payload drop, and one without. Results for both conditions are given in Table 9.

Table 9 reveals that the C-85-1 is capable of flying for 770 nm both in and out while carrying a full payload both ways, easily meeting the 500-nm requirement used for initial sizing. Moreover, the distance increases to 1,050 nm if the payload is dropped. Recall that the C-85 was sized to a $\left(\frac{L}{D}\right)$ ratio of 13, obtained from Raymer (see Section 2.1). However, aerodynamic analysis revealed

that the C-85-1 is capable of the much higher L/D ratios in Table 9. Furthermore, examination of the C-130 drag polar from the Aerodynamics report [4] reveals that the C-130 has a $\left(\frac{L}{D}\right)_{max}$ of approximately 19, much greater than the value of 13 given by Raymer¹⁰.

Table 9: Summary of mission-analysis results.

	With payload drop	No payload drop
Cruise-in distance (nm)	1,050	770
Cruise-in airspeed (knots)	300	300
Cruise-in L/D ratio	19.5	19.5
Cruise-out airspeed (knots)	250	300
Cruise-out L/D ratio	18.3	18.6
Mission fuel burn (lbs)	40,771	40,461
Fuel carried (lbs)	40,783	40,783

7.5 Lessons

The C-85-1 is capable of meeting all of the performance requirements, as well as flying the mission. However, it is by no means an optimal design. From a configurational perspective, the main problem with the C-85-1 is the wasted space in both the forward and rear fuselage. Most of the space between the cockpit and the cargo bay is essentially unused; the same goes for the rear fuselage. This results in a fuselage that is much larger and heavier than necessary.

In addition, as mentioned in Section 7.1, the horizontal tail is very large for static-stability reasons. This problem can be solved by adding a fuel tank in the forward fuselage, which would move the center of gravity forwards and therefore allow for a smaller horizontal tail.

¹⁰ It is possible that the Raymer value is for a different flight condition (ex. lower or higher altitude), which would entail flying well away from $\left(\frac{L}{D}\right)_{max}$. This would help to explain the enormous discrepancy between the two values.

8 C-85-2 Analysis

One interesting way of solving both problems inherent to the C-85-1 is with a tailless configuration. Such an aircraft would have strongly swept outer-wing panels, a much shorter fuselage, and no tail. The C-85-2 configuration incorporates these features. Although it is much trickier to design from an aerodynamic and stability & control perspective, significant savings in terms of both weight and drag are possible.

8.1 Weight & Balance

The C-85-2 weights were estimated using the same methods as for the C-85-1, with a 10% penalty to wing weight due to the compound sweep. The layout is shown in Figure 17, while weight summary and dimensions are given in Table 10 and Table 11 respectively. Component weights are given in Appendix B.

Table 10: C-85-2 weight summary.

Component	Weight (lbs)
Empty weight	63,864.2
Fuel weight	37,379
Crew weight	600
Payload weight	45,140
Gross takeoff weight (calculated)	146,983.5
Gross takeoff weight (design)	158,000
Design weight margin	7.50%

Table 11: C-85-2 dimensions.

Wing		Entire wing	Inner wing panel	Outer wing panel
	Area	1620 ft ²	354 ft ²	456 ft ²
	Aspect ratio	7.5	-	-
	Wingspan	110 ft	18 ft	37 ft
	Taper ratio	0.25	1	0.25
	Quarter-chord sweep ¹¹	17.99°	0°	32°
	Root chord	19.7 ft	19.7 ft	19.7 ft
	Elevon area	175.0 ft ²	-	-
	Flap area	150.7 ft ²	-	-
	Spoiler area	120.5 ft ²	-	-
Fuselage	Length	70 ft		
	Width	12 ft		
	Height	11 ft		

¹¹ The sweep of the entire wing is an average (weighted by area) between the inner and outer wing panels. This value was needed for weight and maximum-lift estimates.

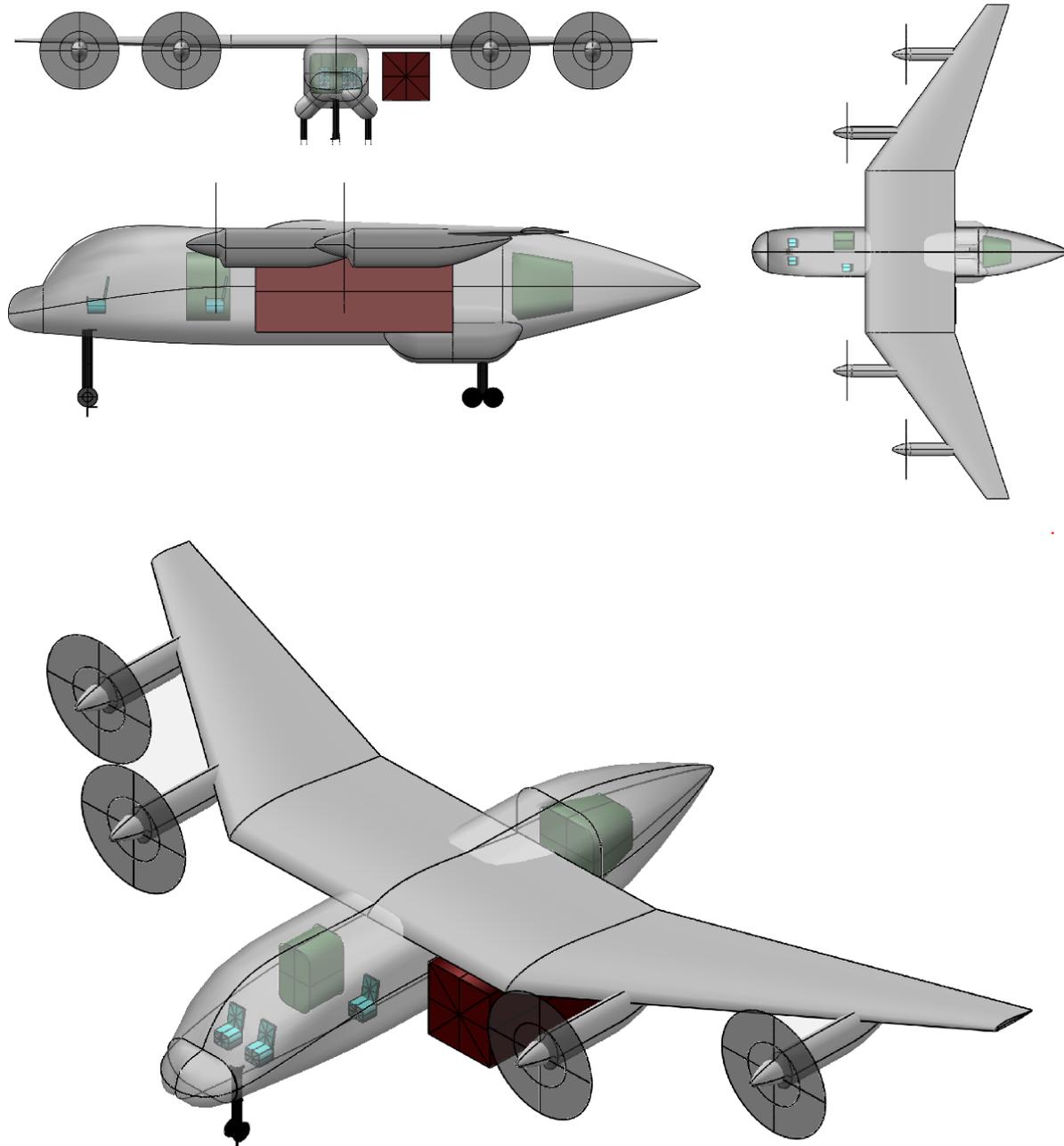


Figure 17: 4-view image of the C-85-2. Note the fuel tanks in the forward and rear fuselage. The two seats in the front are for the pilot and co-pilot respectively, while the third seat is for the loadmaster.

As the C-85 is of a tailless configuration, close attention must be paid to balance. The aft CG limit is set by the static-margin requirement; the forward CG limit is set by required control power, typically from a maneuver pull-up case at maximum takeoff weight. Tailless aircraft tend to have trouble with balance, because their small elevator (elevon) moment arms mean a very restrictive limit on the forward CG location is required. This in turn means there is a relatively small acceptable center-of-gravity range as compared to a conventional aft-tailed aircraft.

To address this issue, the C-85-2 incorporates two additional fuel tanks. In addition to wing tanks, there is a fuel tank in the forward fuselage and another in the rear fuselage. Taken together, the two fuselage tanks contain about 15,120 lbs of fuel (about 40% of the total). An automated fuel transfer system ensures that the CG can be moved to ensure sufficient control power.

The worst-case conditions for balance are with either full fuel or no fuel. In these cases, the CG location cannot simply be controlled by moving fuel around. Static-margin values for various loading conditions were computed using handbook methods from Raymer [19], and are shown in Table 12.

Table 12: Longitudinal static margin under various loading conditions.

		Full payload	No payload
Full fuselage tanks	Full wing tanks	12.9%	6.0%
	Empty wing tanks	16.5%	9.6%
Empty fuselage tanks	Full wing tanks	17.7%	12.0%
	Empty wing tanks	22.6%	18.5%

It can be seen from Table 12 that the same limits on static margin used for the C-85-1 (+5% and +25%) can be retained.

8.2 Aerodynamic Analysis

The propulsive analysis for the C-85-2 is the same as for the C-85-1, while the aerodynamic analysis differs only in terms of the deleted tail and the changed dimensions. The same inviscid Oswald efficiency as for the C-85-1 ($e_{theo} = 0.8$) was used.

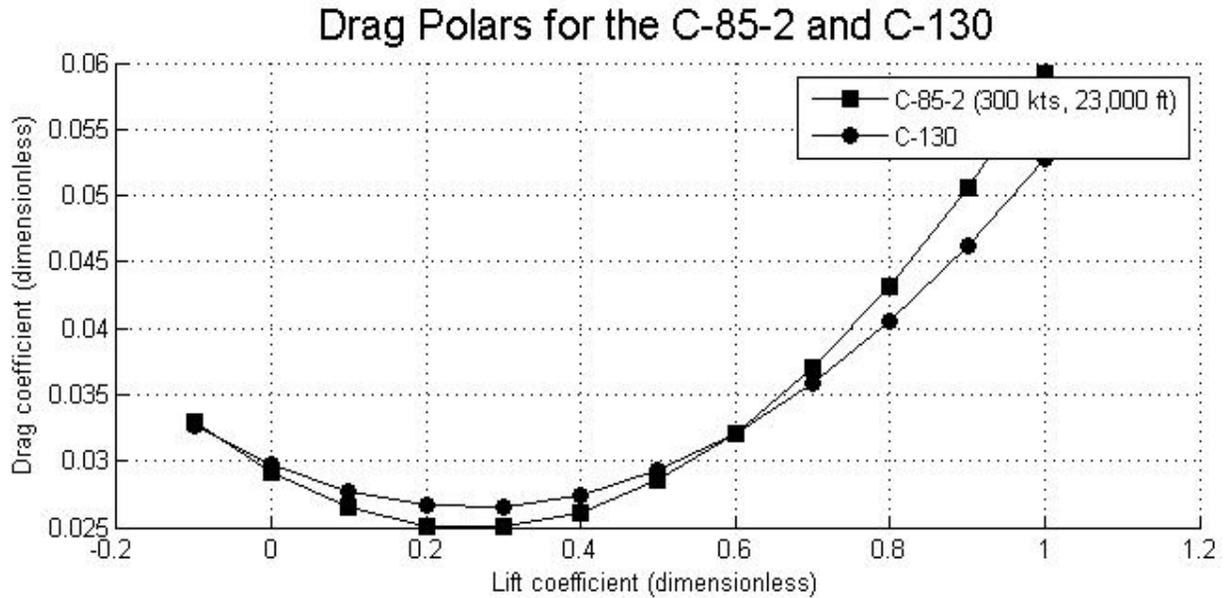


Figure 18: Drag polars for the C-85-2 and C-130.

A comparative drag polar is presented in Figure 18. It can be seen that the C-85-2 has lower zero-lift drag due to the smaller fuselage and the deleted tail, but has higher induced drag due to the lower aspect ratio. A lower aspect ratio was required to prevent pitch-up problems according to Figure 4.21 in Raymer [19].

The HS12B airfoil was selected for the C-85 wing. This airfoil is reflexed, and has a thickness-to-chord ratio of 12%. Data for this airfoil, obtained from XFOil [32], is given in Appendix D; a coordinate plot, cruise data, and takeoff/landing data are all included.

The HS12B is primarily intended for large tailless gliders, and as such it makes a good starting point. However, airfoil optimization should be performed later in the design process, to develop an airfoil better suited to the high-Re compressible flow regime¹².

Engine-off maximum lift coefficients were estimated using Equations 12.15 and 12.21 from Raymer [19], which adjust the airfoil maximum lift coefficient (from Figure 40) to reflect 3-dimensional effects. The following values were obtained¹³:

- $C_{L_{max}} (\text{cruise}) = 1.454$
- $C_{L_{max}} (\text{takeoff}) = 1.904$
- $C_{L_{max}} (\text{landing}) = 2.355$

These values are lower than those of the C-130 and C-85-1, primarily due to the wing sweep. Note that the landing value is higher, which reflects different flap settings for takeoff. They were adjusted for power-on effects in the same manner as for the C-85-1.

8.3 Performance Analysis

Performance analysis was completed using the same methods as for the C-85-1; the results are presented in Table 13. As with the C-85-1, the rate-of-climb requirement could only be met with engines at the takeoff setting. The cruising-speed and service-ceiling requirements were met with engines at the normal setting. All other requirements are met.

¹² The cruise condition for the C-85 corresponds approximately to a wing Reynolds number of 22 million and a Mach number of 0.5. These are much higher values than would typically be encountered by a glider.

¹³ Raymer recommends calibrating the estimates of maximum lift coefficient using aircraft test data if possible. When applied to the C-130, it was discovered that Equation 12.21 from Raymer [19] predicted an increase in maximum lift coefficient less than half that given in the C-130 Aerodynamics report [4]. Therefore, the increase in maximum lift coefficient due to flaps was doubled, to better reflect the values obtained from the C-130.

Table 13: Summary of C-85-2 performance requirements and results.

	RFP Requirement	Actual Value	
Maximum speed at 23,000 ft. and MTOW (knots)	>250	352.4	Requirement met
Maximum rate of climb at 10,000 ft. and MTOW (fpm)	>1,500	1,790	Requirement met
Service ceiling (container empty, but present; ft.)	>33,000	36,125	Requirement met
Takeoff distance (ft.)	<3,500	2,055	Requirement met
Landing distance (ft.)	<3,500	2,969	Requirement met

8.4 Mission-Profile Analysis

Results of the mission analysis (the same as for the C-85-1) are presented in Table 14. The performance of the C-85-2 is comparable to that of the C-85-1 in most respects, although it burns less fuel due to its lower weight.

Table 14: C-85-2 mission-analysis results.

	With payload drop	No payload drop
Cruise-in distance (nm)	1,080	790
Cruise-in airspeed (knots)	300	300
Cruise-in L/D ratio	18.7	18.7
Cruise-out airspeed (knots)	250	300
Cruise-out L/D ratio	17.7	18.2
Mission fuel burn (lbs)	37,256	37,315
Fuel carried (lbs)	37,379	37,379

8.5 Comparison

Table 15 is a comparison of key design data between the C-85-1 and C-85-2.

Table 15: Comparison between the C-85-1 and C-85-2.

Parameter	C-85-1	C-85-2	Change
Empty weight (lbs.)	76,991	63,864	17.1% lower
Fuel weight (lbs.)	40,783	37,379	8.3% lower
Max payload weight (lbs.)	45,140	45,140	Identical
Maximum speed (<i>kts</i>)	332.7	352.4	5.9% higher
MIL-C5011A takeoff distance (<i>ft</i>)	2,097	2,055	2.0% lower
MIL-C5011A landing distance (<i>ft</i>)	2,846	2,969	4.3% higher
Range ¹⁴ (nm)	2,236	2,212	1.1% lower

Table 15 clearly shows that the C-85-2 is a superior design. Most of the performance metrics are comparable; the C-85-2 has a slightly higher maximum speed and a slightly lower takeoff distance, at the cost of small penalties to landing distance and range. This is accomplished at a 17.1% lower empty weight and while burning 8.3% less fuel. The tailless configuration will therefore be used.

9 C-85-3 Analysis

9.1 Summary of Changes

A significant number of changes were made to the C-85-2 to create the C-85-3. The most important changes are the following:

- The landing gear was moved from the fuselage to the wing; it now retracts into large sponsons positioned just outside of the compound-sweep junction.
- A vertical tail was added, both to improve lateral stability and to add control power.
- Control surfaces were sized, using the results from the stability & control analysis.

¹⁴ Fuel is deducted for takeoff, climb, and landing, and a 6% fuel reserve is assumed.

- The wing fuel tanks were eliminated; all of the fuel is now carried in two fuselage tanks.
- The ultimate load factor was reduced from 4.5 to 3.75. The value of 4.5 was used for both earlier aircraft versions to be conservative, but 3.75 is the value used by most military transports, including the C-130H [33].

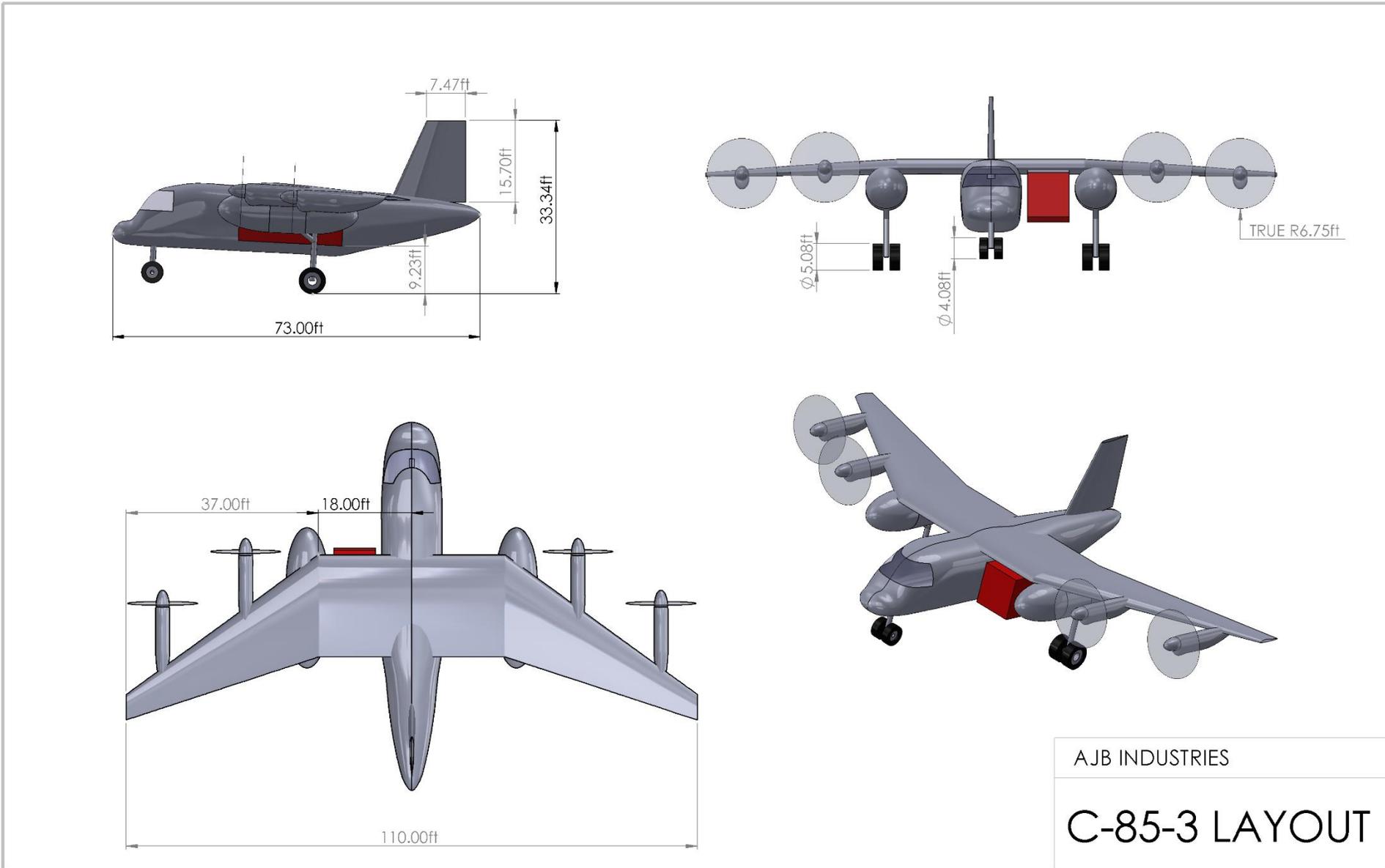
9.2 Layout

9.2.1 Design Overview

A CAD model of the C-85 is shown in Figure 19. Key dimensions are given in Table 16.

Table 16: C-85-3 dimensions.

Wing		Entire wing	Inner wing panel	Outer wing panel
	Area	1620 ft ²	355 ft ²	456 ft ²
	Aspect ratio	7.5	-	-
	Wingspan	110 ft	18 ft	37 ft
	Taper ratio	0.25	1	0.25
	Quarter-chord sweep	17.99°	0°	32°
	Root chord	19.7 ft	19.7 ft	19.7 ft
	Twist	3°	0°	3°
	Elevon area	315.9 ft ²		
	Flap area	102.1 ft ²		
	Spoiler area	81.6 ft ²		
	MAC	16.0 ft		
Fuselage	Length	73 ft		
	Width	12 ft		
	Height	13 ft		
Vertical Fin	Aspect ratio	1.40		
	Taper ratio	0.5		
	Area	176 ft ²		
	Height	15.7 ft		
	Rudder area	79.2 ft ²		



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C-85-3 LAYOUT

Figure 19: C-85-3 layout, created using SolidWorks.

9.2.2 V-n Diagram

The V-n diagram is shown in Figure 20, including both maneuver and gust loads. The diagram was prepared using limit load factors of +2.5 and -1. Cruise and dive speeds are 438.8 and 614.4 ft/s respectively (260 and 364 knots). The diagram assumes a maximum turbulence speed of 307.2 ft/s (70% of cruising speed), while vertical gust velocities at turbulence, cruise, and dive speed were taken from Raymer [19].

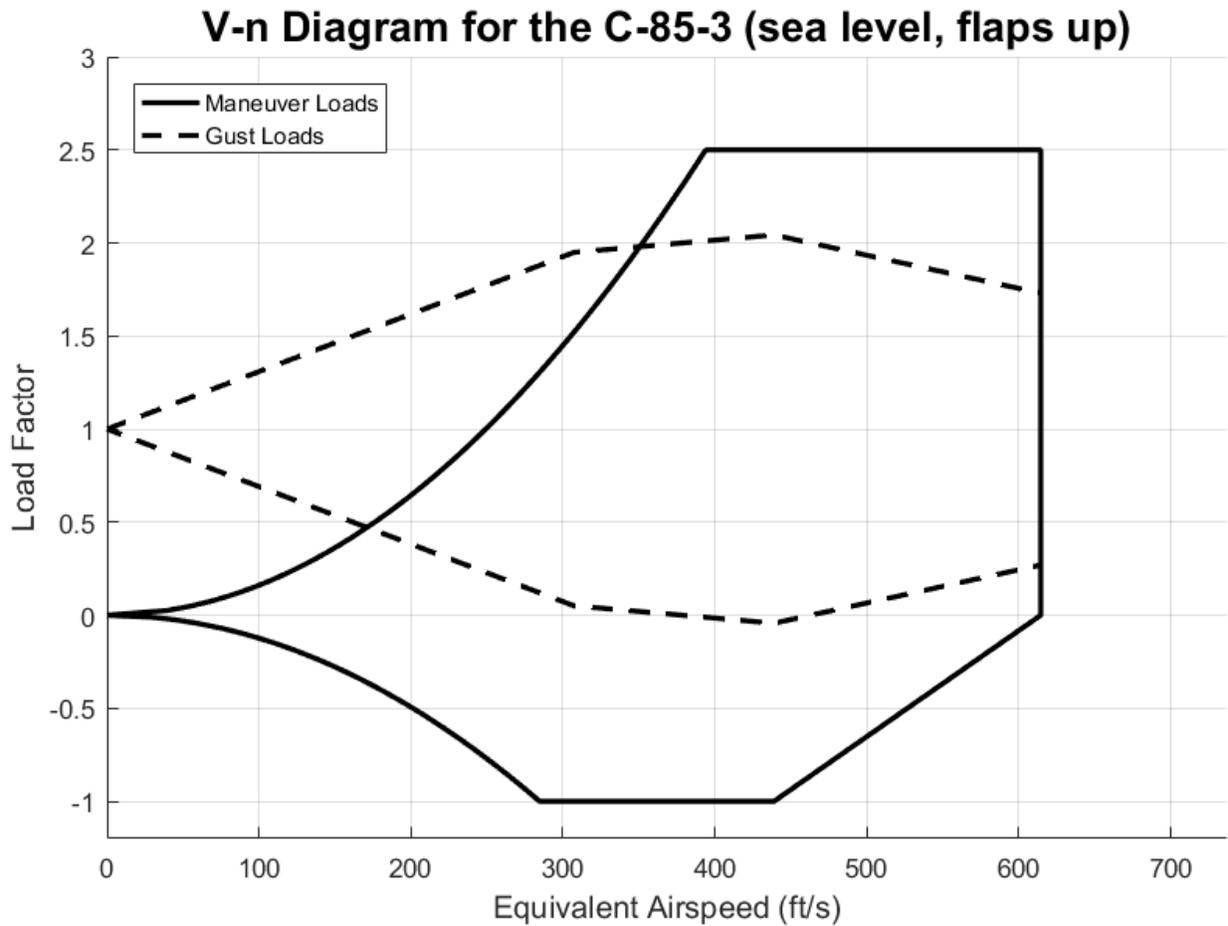


Figure 20: V-n diagram for the C-85-3.

9.2.3 Structural Layout and Materials Selections

The C-85 utilizes a thoroughly modern structural philosophy. Most of the structure is made up of carbon-fiber-reinforced polymer (CFRP), with additional materials (aluminum, titanium, other composites, etc.) used where necessary. A structural cutaway can be seen in Figure 21.

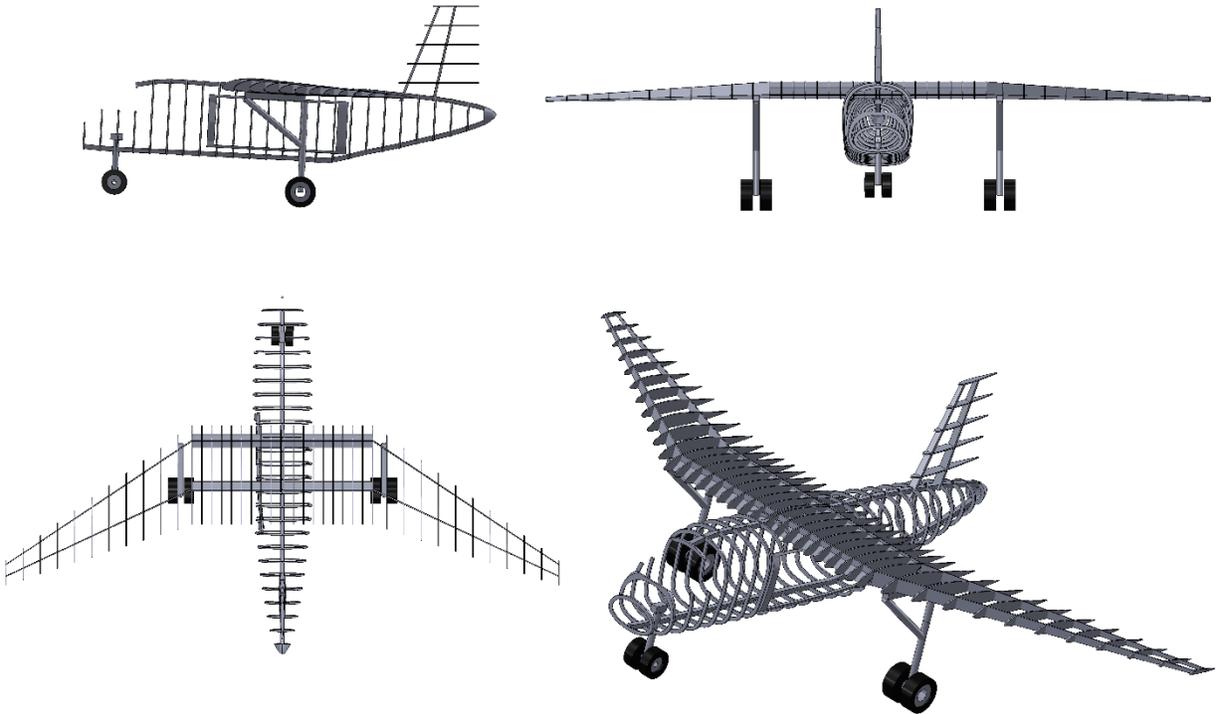


Figure 21: C-85-3 structural cutaway.

Aside from the rails incorporated into the inner wing spars, the wing structure is relatively conventional. It is of a two-spar fail-safe design, with the front and rear spar located at 15% chord and 65% chord respectively. These spar positions were selected based on guidelines from Roskam [34]. The outer-wing spars are made of high-strength CFRP. However, the inner wing spars double as rails for the cargo, and as such are subjected to highly unusual cyclical loading conditions. CFRP is not a particularly good choice for this application, as it is not very damage tolerant and tends to fail without warning [35]. Therefore, the inner wing spars (both front and rear) are made out of titanium.

Behind 15% chord, the wing skin is made out of high-modulus CFRP. The skin is integrally stiffened, so stringers are not required [35]. However, forwards of 15% chord, aluminum is used instead of CFRP. This is in order to reduce the vulnerability of the skin to damage, in the event of either bird strikes or drone strikes. A recent example of a collision between a C-130 and a drone in which the C-130 wing leading-edge was badly damaged is given in [36]. Using aluminum would make similar damage easier both to diagnose and to repair.

The wing ribs are all made out of high-modulus CFRP. The outer wing uses a rib spacing of 36 inches. Roskam recommends a 24-inch rib spacing for transports [34], but fewer ribs are required due to the integrally stiffened skin [35]. A 24-inch rib spacing is used for the inner wing, due to the higher loads encountered from the cargo container.

The engine nacelles are made out of CFRP sandwich, the same material used for the 787 nacelles [37]. As stiffness is a priority in this application, high-modulus CFRP is used instead of high-strength CFRP. The landing-gear nacelles are made out of E-glass, a type of fiberglass. E-glass is relatively inexpensive [35], and lends itself well to this application due to the fact that the landing-gear nacelles are non-structural (the landing gear is attached directly to the wing spars). The landing gear itself is of conventional aluminum-and-steel construction to lower technical risk, while all wing control surfaces (elevons, flaps, and spoilers) are made out of high-modulus CFRP. Finally, although wing-fuselage fairings were not defined in the CAD model, they will also be made of E-glass.

The vertical fin uses a similar structural philosophy to that of the fuselage. It incorporates two spars of high-strength CFRP, one at 15% and the other at 50% of the chord. The ribs are made of high-modulus CFRP, with a rib spacing of 24 inches. The skin is made of high-modulus integrally-

stiffened CFRP, with aluminum used forwards of 15% of the chord. Finally, the rudder (which extends to 50% of the chord) is made of high-modulus CFRP.

Like the wing skin, most of the fuselage skin is made of high-modulus integrally-stiffened CFRP, with no stringers. However, the nose is made out of E-glass, in order to accommodate a weather radar. As an auxiliary power unit (APU) is mounted in the tail, the skin in this area is made of titanium for better heat resistance. An upper and lower keel, both made out of high-strength CFRP, are included to transfer the loads from the wing.

The fuselage frames are spaced 30 inches apart. As with the wing ribs, this is greater than Roskam recommends, but the integrally-stiffened wing skin means fewer frames are required. Most of the frames are made out of high-modulus CFRP, but the last frame (to which the APU is attached) is made of titanium. The nose landing gear, like the mains, uses conventional aluminum-and-steel construction. Finally, the structural cutout required for the cargo container is made out of aluminum, for better damage tolerance.

9.3 Stability & Control Analysis

Stability & control analysis was carried out, using the vortex-lattice software AVL [38]. An image of the input geometry is shown in Figure 22.

AVL, like all vortex-lattice codes, tends to struggle with nonlifting surfaces; for this reason, the engine nacelles and landing-gear sponsons were not included. AVL also does not have an actuator-disk model for propellers, so engine effects were neglected. Finally, a vertical tail was required, in order to obtain a positive value of $C_{N\beta}$. The rudder also helps trim during cargo drops (where the aerodynamics are strongly asymmetric) and during one-engine-out (OEI) situations¹⁵.

¹⁵ The engines are positioned very far out along the wing, resulting in large engine-out yawing moments. For this reason, particular attention must be paid to OEI.

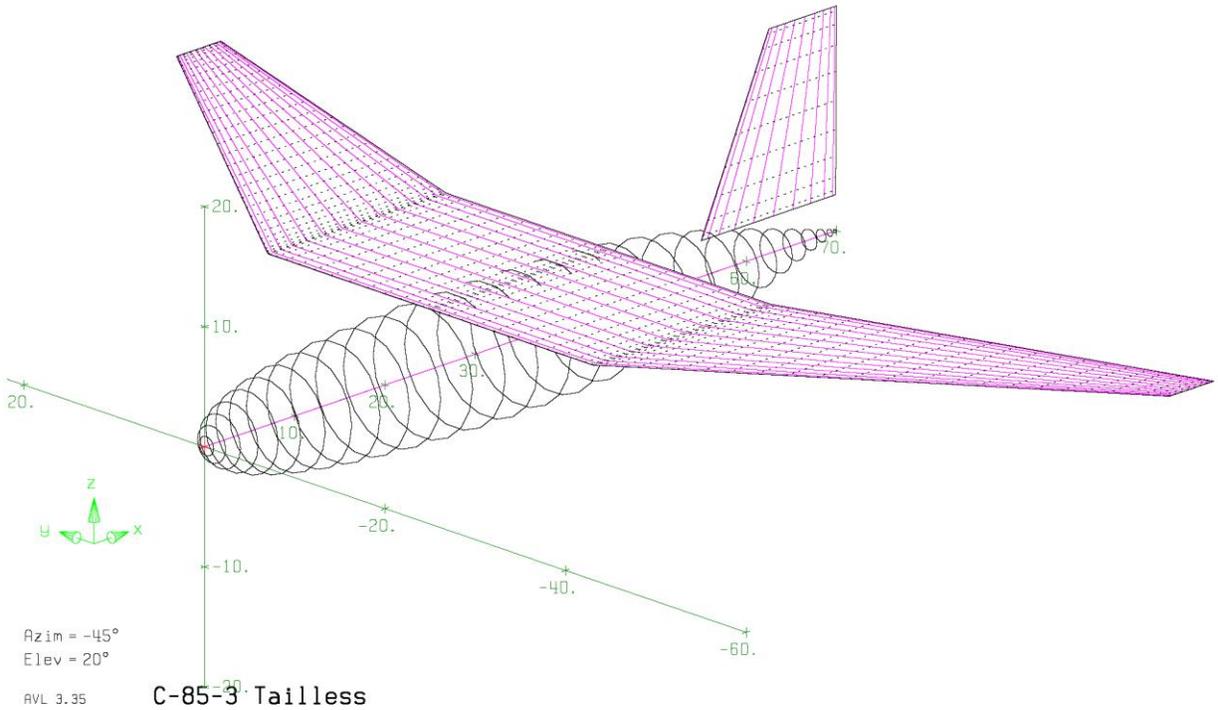


Figure 22: AVL input geometry.

Two cases were analyzed: a symmetric trimmed case, and a maneuver pull-up case. AVL calculated the cruise lift coefficient from the input data (weight, altitude, cruising speed, wing area), while the maneuver pull-up lift coefficient was set to be equal to the maximum lift coefficient in cruise. Input conditions are summarized in Table 17, while output data is given in Table 18.

Table 17: Input conditions for stability & control analysis in AVL.

Case	Cruise	Maneuver pull-up
Weight (lbs)	159,000	159,000
Velocity (knots)	260	235.4
Altitude (ft)	23,000	0
Load factor	1	2.5
Lift coefficient	0.894	1.306
CG X-location (ft)	34.5	34.5
Mach number	0.428	0.355

Table 18: Output data from AVL.

Case	Cruise	Maneuver pull-up
Neutral-point location (ft)	35.0	35.9
Static margin	3.4%	9.0%
α ($^\circ$)	6.26	12.17
$\delta_{elevator}$ ($^\circ$)	0.44	-2.86
e_{theo}	0.997	0.991
$C_{L\alpha}$ (rad^{-1})	5.134	4.813
$C_{M\alpha}$ (rad^{-1})	-0.174	-0.433
$C_{l\beta}$ (rad^{-1})	-0.207	-0.261
$C_{N\beta}$ (rad^{-1})	0.0137	0.0455
$C_{M_{elevator}}$ (rad^{-1})	-0.01252	-0.01212
$C_{l_{aileron}}$ (rad^{-1})	-0.00734	-0.00689
$C_{N_{rudder}}$ (rad^{-1})	-0.000746	-0.000694

The C-85-3 is statically stable in all axes; this can be seen from the signs of the pitch, roll, and yaw derivatives. In addition, the elevator deflection required to trim in cruise is only 0.44 degrees (down), meaning that trim drag in cruise is essentially negligible. The maneuver pull-up case required 2.86 degrees of up elevator. Finally, the theoretical Oswald efficiency in cruise is 0.997, much higher than the value of 0.8 used previously. This was used in the performance analyses, using Equation (5) to account for viscous effects.

In order to obtain these results, the C-85-3 utilizes near-neutral static stability. This is reflected in the static-margin value (only 3.4% in cruise) and the $C_{N\beta}$ value of 0.0137 rad^{-1} (Raymer recommends values of 0.1-0.2 [19]). For this reason, the C-85 requires a stability augmentation system (SAS). A similar design philosophy (near-neutral static stability; stability augmentation system) was used on the B-2 bomber, and is described by Britt et al [28].

9.4 Weight & Balance

9.4.1 Weight Statement

Weights analysis for the C-85-3, like all of the aircraft designs in this report, was performed using the equations in Chapter 15 of Raymer [19]. Fudge factors were used to adjust the calculated component weights to compensate for various effects, such as the compound wing sweep, use of advanced composites, etc. Table 19 contains the fudge factors used for the C-85-3. A weight summary is given in Table 20; a complete weight statement is given in Appendix B.

Table 19: C-85-3 weights fudge factors.

Effect	Component	% Weight Increase
Active load alleviation	Wing	-8.2%
Rail-type wing spar	Wing	10.0%
Cargo-container trucks	Wing	5.0%
Compound wing sweep	Wing	5.0%
Unusual engine locations	Wing	10.0%
Advanced composites	Wing	-10.0%
Large structural cutout	Fuselage	10.0%
Advanced composites	Fuselage	-10.0%
Advanced composites	Engine nacelles	-10.0%
Advanced composites	Vertical fin	-12.0%

Component	Weight (lbs)
Empty weight	64,336.0
Fuel weight	37,728
Crew weight	600
Payload weight	45,140
Gross takeoff weight (calculated)	147,803.8
Gross takeoff weight (design)	159,000
Design weight margin	7.58%

Table 20: C-85-3 weight summary.

9.4.2 CG Envelope

The C-85 was designed to fly two different missions: one with a payload drop, and one without. CG envelopes for both missions are given in Figure 23 and Figure 24 respectively. The mission itself is given in Figure 1, with more details in Table 23 (Appendix A). A significant advantage of the fuselage fuel tanks is the relatively small CG excursion as opposed to wing tanks. Based on these plots, the following static-margin range was defined¹⁶: $-1.36\% < SM < 8.64\%$.

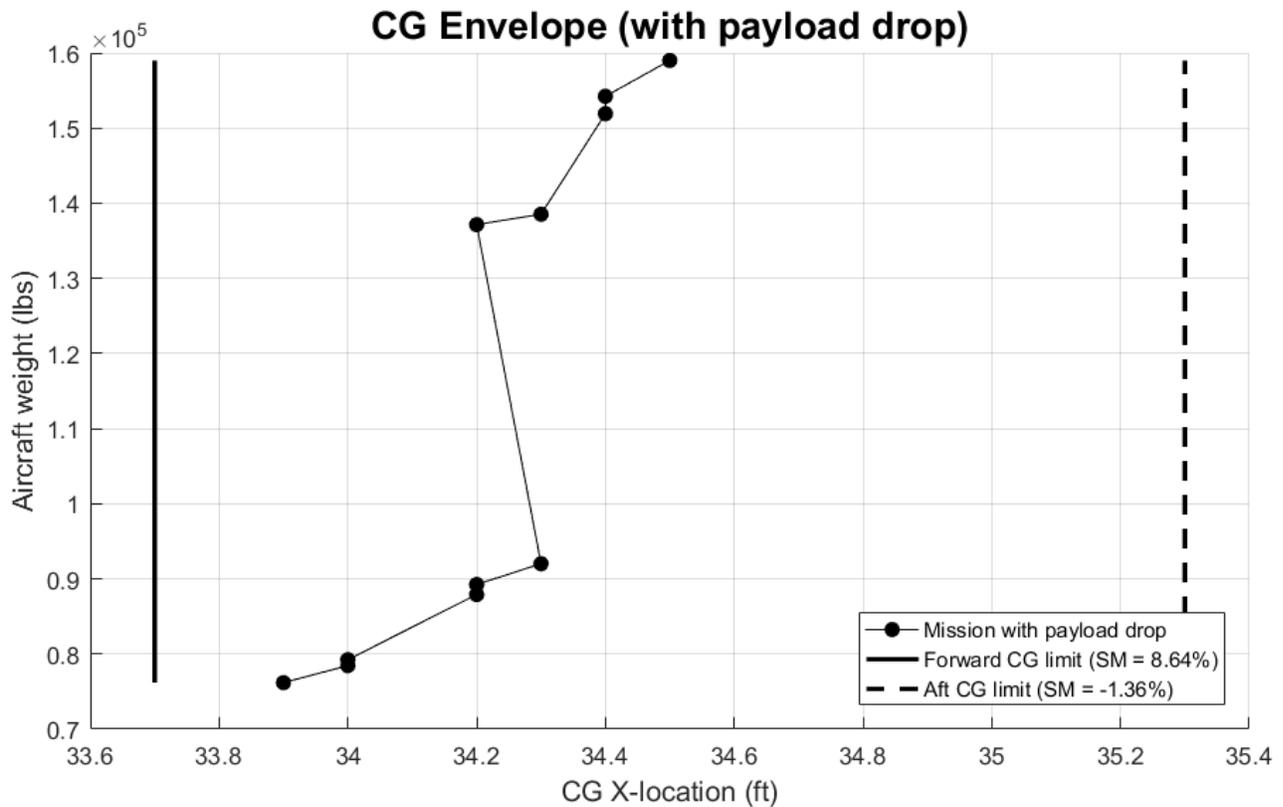


Figure 23: CG envelope (with payload drop).

¹⁶ These static-margin values are based on the neutral-point location at cruise; the neutral point during a 2.5g maneuver pull-up is farther back, resulting in a larger static margin. See Table 18 for the neutral-point locations.

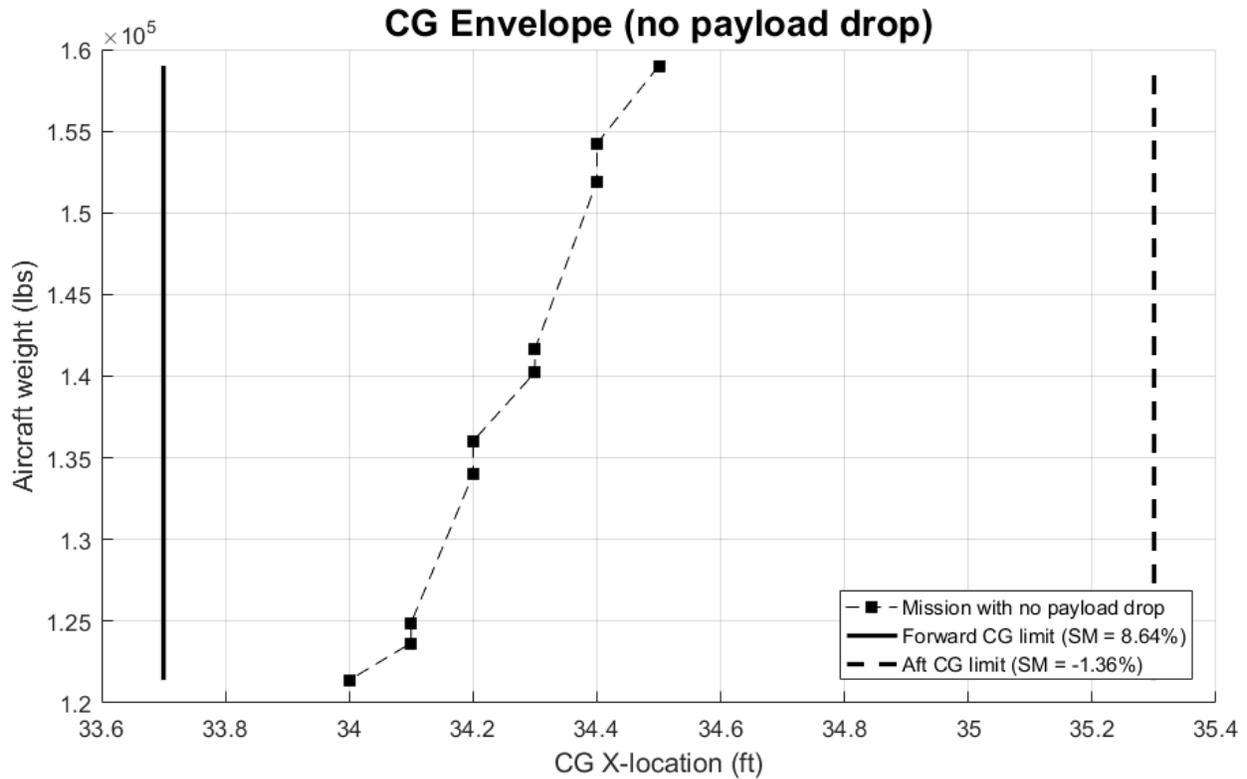


Figure 24: CG envelope (no payload drop).

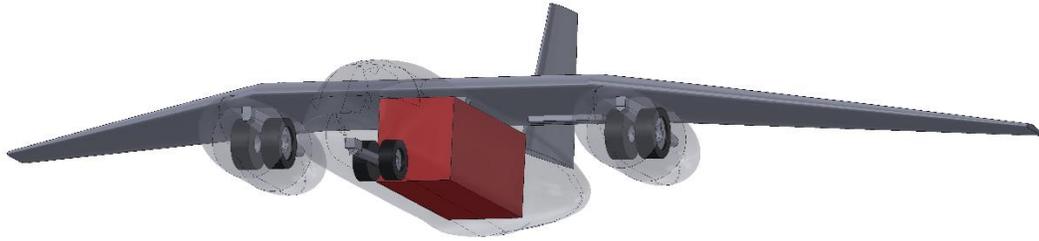
9.5 Systems Layout

9.5.1 Cargo Loading System

The key to the C-85 design is its cargo-loading arrangement. The arrangement is shown in Figure 25 and Figure 26.

Both the front and rear spars are in the shape of rails. Each spar holds a cargo truck, with multiple wheels to spread out the load (16 in the diagram). Since the inner wing has no taper and no twist, the cargo container can be pulled in and out of the fuselage, along the rails. The trucks lock to the four corners of the container, in the same manner as a straddle carrier. The left side of the cargo container is exposed while in flight, to avoid violating the external-payload requirement.

Cargo in Fuselage



Cargo Ready for Loading/Unloading

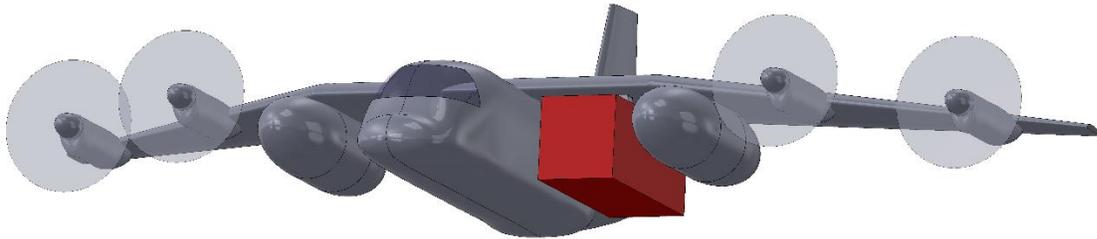


Figure 25: Cargo in vs. cargo out.

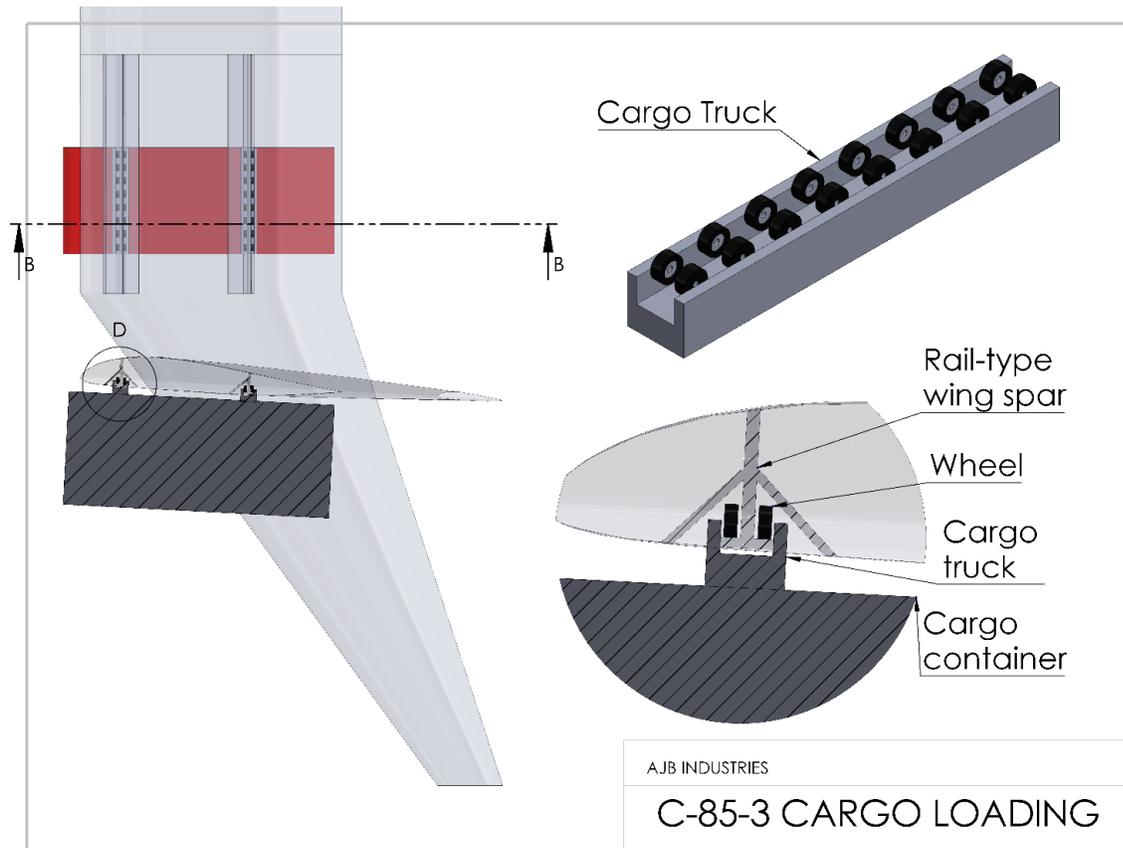


Figure 26: Cargo loading arrangement.

Three important mechanisms are not shown in the diagrams. The first is the plate which covers the hole in the fuselage when the cargo container is removed, while the second is the doors which cover the rails in flight. Both are sketched in Appendix C. However, some means of raising and lowering the container is also required. This would most likely be accomplished by a winch system built into the trucks, but the required mechanism has not yet been defined.

9.5.2 *Landing Gear*

The main landing gear was moved from the fuselage to the wing; it now retracts into large sponsons positioned just outside of the compound-sweep junction. This was done for two main reasons. First of all, as discussed in Section 5.4, the aircraft with fuselage-mounted main gear is prone to tipping over sideways when the cargo pod is removed. Moving the gear to the wings solves this problem. In addition, preliminary sizing of the landing gear using methods in Chapter 11 of Raymer [19] revealed that the ideal location for the main landing gear was about 39 ft. from the nose. If fuselage-mounted gear was retained, this would have meant placing the gear directly underneath the cargo container and its associated structural cutout, greatly increasing weight. This problem is also solved by moving the main gear to the wings.

The main gear is 15 feet long. It incorporates four tires, two on each strut; the tires are 61 inches in diameter and 23 inches wide. This is somewhat larger than the C-130 main-gear tires, which are each 56 inches in diameter and 20 inches wide. The tires were sized including a 30% margin on diameter (for rough surfaces), and a 25% margin on load (to allow for future weight growth in the design). The tipback angle is 22°.

The nose gear is 7 feet long. It has two tires, which were assumed to be 80% of the size of the main tires. They are each 49 inches in diameter and 18 inches wide.

Both the main and nose gear retract using four-bar linkages. The nose gear retracts rearward, with the tires rotating 90° to better fit beneath the fuel tank. Due to its simplicity, the four-bar linkage for the nose gear is not shown. The main gear incorporates a more involved mechanism; its tires also rotate 90° to fit inside the sponsons. Figure 27 shows the landing gear in both the retracted and extended positions.

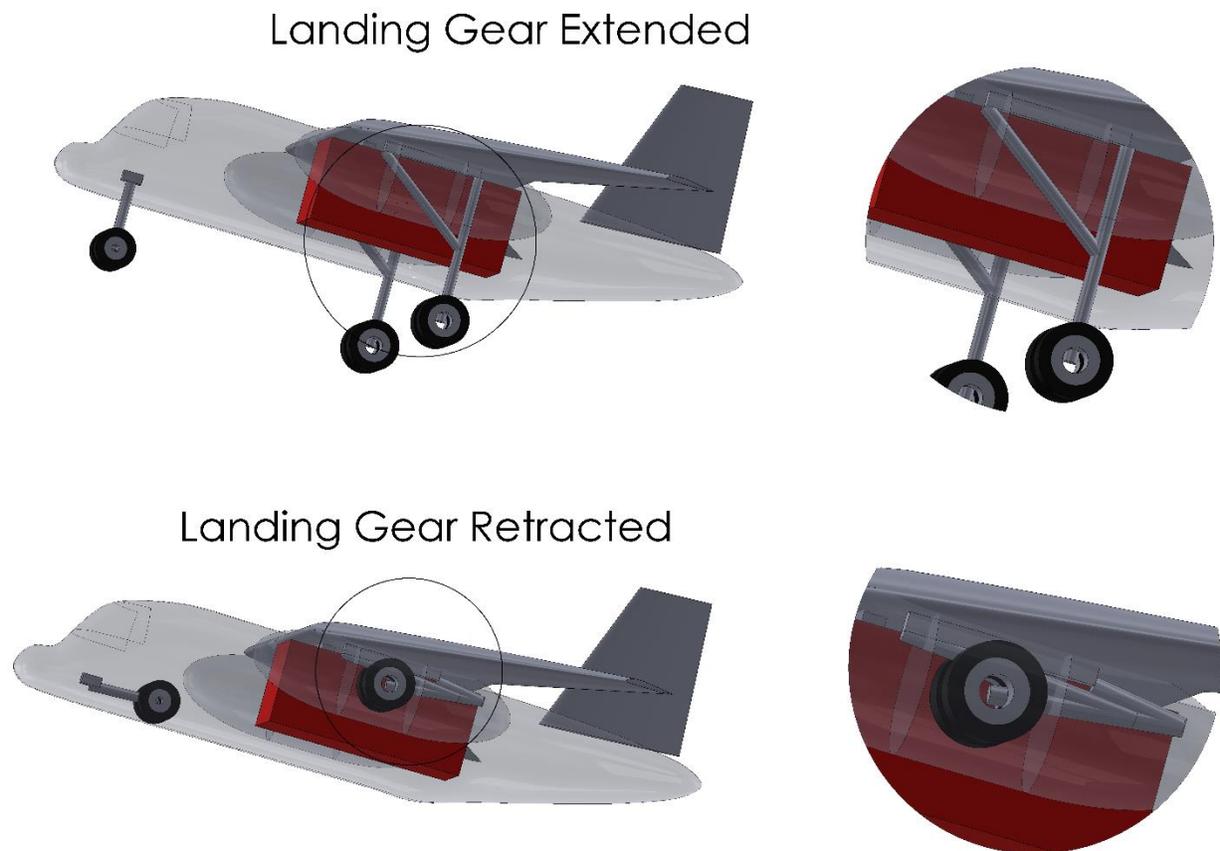


Figure 27: C-85-3 landing gear, both retracted and extended.

9.5.3 Fuel System

The C-85-2 carried about half of its fuel in the wings. These tanks were behind the center of gravity, leading to a large difference in CG location for empty tanks vs. full tanks. As balance is

critical for a tailless configuration due to the short elevator moment arms, a decision was taken to eliminate the wing tanks and move all of the fuel to the fuselage.

The C-85-3 carries 37,728 lbs. of fuel, about 40% of which is stored in the forward-fuselage tank. The rear-fuselage tank carries the remainder. CG positions with the tanks both empty and full are defined in Section 9.4.2, while an automated fuel-transfer system ensures that the CG is kept within the desired range in all other cases. The cargo container fits in between the two tanks. An image of the C-85 fuel tanks is given in Figure 28.

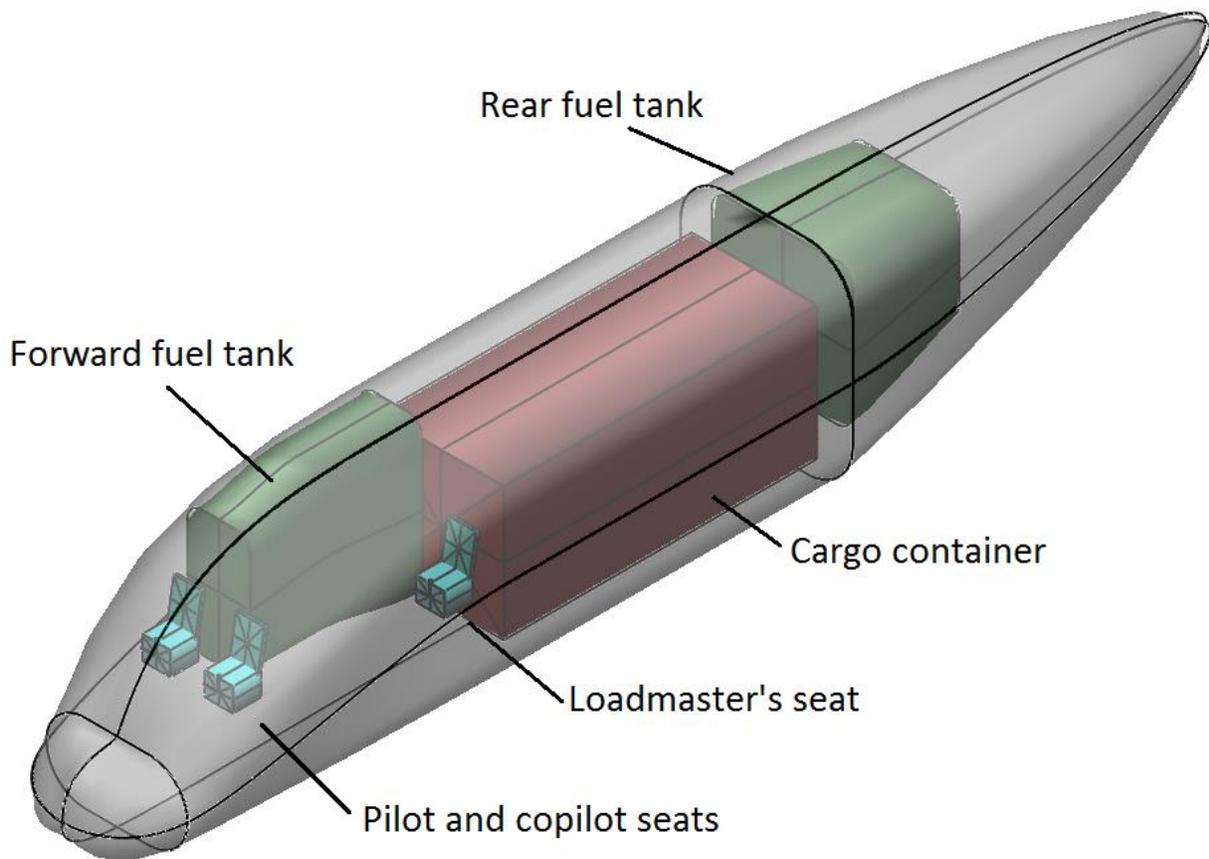


Figure 28: Isometric view of the C-85-3 fuselage, showing the seating, fuel tanks, and cargo container.

It is generally inadvisable to locate fuel tanks in the fuselage. The forward fuel tank is in a particularly dangerous position, as both pilots would be bathed in jet fuel if the tank were to rupture

in a crash [19]. To alleviate these concerns, both tanks are self-sealing. The resulting weight penalty was taken into account during weights analysis.

9.5.4 Cockpit and Personnel

The C-85-3 requires three crew members: pilot, copilot, and loadmaster. The pilot and copilot are located in the forward fuselage, while the loadmaster is located further back. A corridor, passing through the fuselage between the fuel tank and the loadmaster's seat, permits access to the cargo container during flight. This is essential if paratroops or civilian passengers are to be carried in the container (discussed in Section 4.6). As the forward fuselage is to be pressurized, a large pressure bulkhead (not shown) is included behind the loadmaster's seat. The internal arrangement of the C-85-3 is shown in the isometric view in Figure 28, as well as the side view in Figure 29.

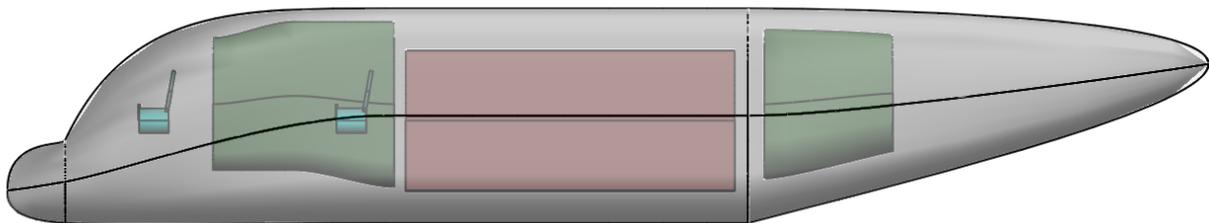


Figure 29: C-85-3 side view, showing the internal arrangement.

The C-85-3 has a maximum approach angle of 12° (see Table 27 in Appendix F), while the angle of attack at stall is 12.17° (Section 9.3). Crudely assuming a 40% higher angle of attack to account for engine effects on the lift slope (Section 6.3.2), the required overnose angle is at least 29.0° .

The C-85-3 has an overnose angle of 33° , more than meeting this requirement.

The cockpit instrumentation was not defined as part of this work, due to time considerations. However, it is expected that the C-85 will make use of a modern “glass cockpit,” with multiple large LCD screens. An example glass cockpit (from the Boeing 787) is shown in Figure 30.



Figure 30: A modern glass cockpit, from the 787 [39].

9.5.5 Flight Control System

The C-85 incorporates single-slotted Fowler flaps and spoilers on the inner wing, with three-element elevons on the outer wing. A two-element rudder is also incorporated. Control-surface dimensions are given in Table 16, with a diagram in Figure 31. All control surfaces are hydraulically powered.

The C-85 incorporates a fully fly-by-wire flight control system (FCS), quadruplexed¹⁷ with no mechanical backup. The FCS includes a stability augmentation system (SAS), as well as an active load alleviation system (both maneuver and gust). Required sensors include: angle-of-attack sensors, sideslip-angle sensors, accelerometers, dynamic-pressure sensors, etc.

¹⁷ Four independent channels.

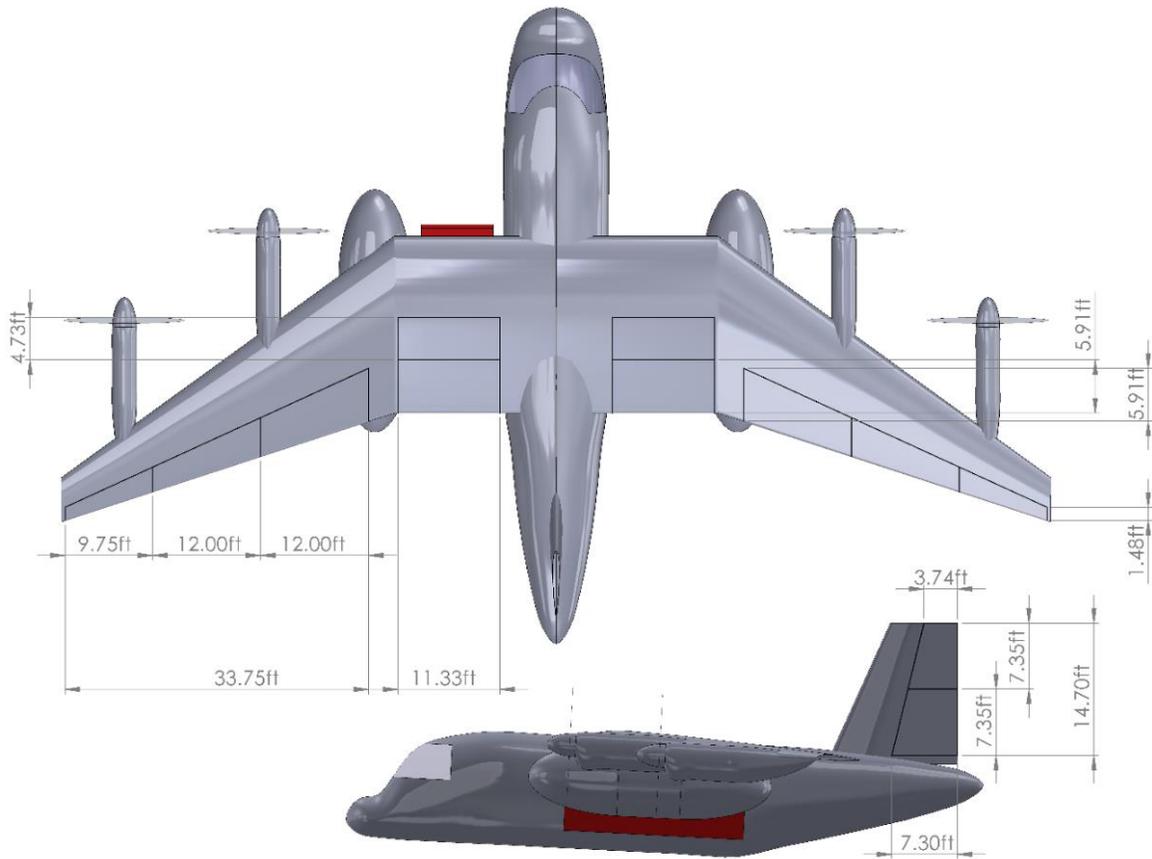


Figure 31: C-85-3 control-surface dimensions.

9.5.6 Anti-Ice

The C-85-3 incorporates a pneumatic anti-ice system, which takes bleed air from the engines to de-ice the engine inlets and the wing leading edges. Bleed air to de-ice the vertical-fin leading edge is obtained from the APU (discussed in the next section). This reduces the length of the pneumatic lines; a line between the wing and the vertical fin is not required.

An electrical anti-ice system was considered, similar to that used by the 787. However, the two most modern turboprop-powered military transports (C-130J and A-400M) both use pneumatic anti-icing systems [13]. It is unknown to this author whether electric anti-ice systems are reliable

in austere environments with limited maintenance. Given that the RFP requires operation from rough surfaces, a pneumatic system was retained to reduce technical risk.

9.5.7 Auxiliary Power Unit

The C-85-3 uses an auxiliary power unit (APU), mounted in the tail. This is in contrast to the C-17 and the C-130J, both of which have an APU in the starboard landing-gear sponson. The APU is used to provide power to start the engines. It also powers the electrical and hydraulic systems while in flight; bleed air from the APU is used to de-ice the vertical-fin leading edges.

9.6 Aerodynamic Analysis

Aerodynamic-analysis data is shown in Figure 32, Figure 33, and Figure 34. Due in large part to the landing-gear sponsons and the vertical tail, the zero-lift drag coefficient is significantly greater relative to the C-85-2. However, the higher estimate of e_{theo} from the stability & control analysis results in lower induced drag.

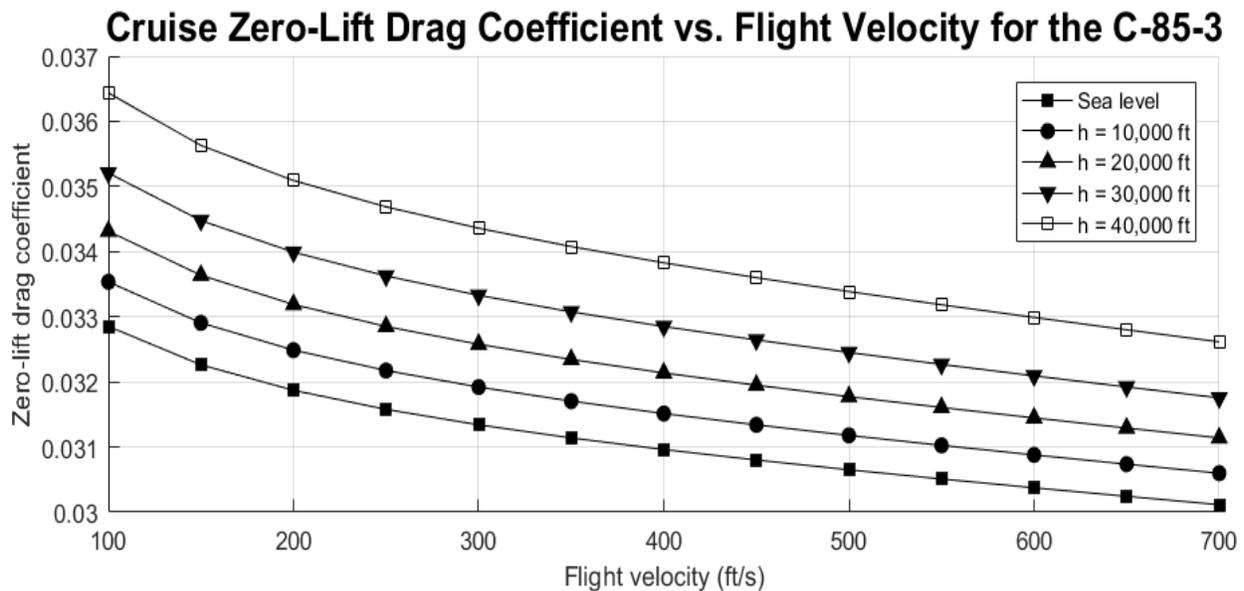


Figure 32: Cruise zero-lift drag coefficient data for the C-85-3.

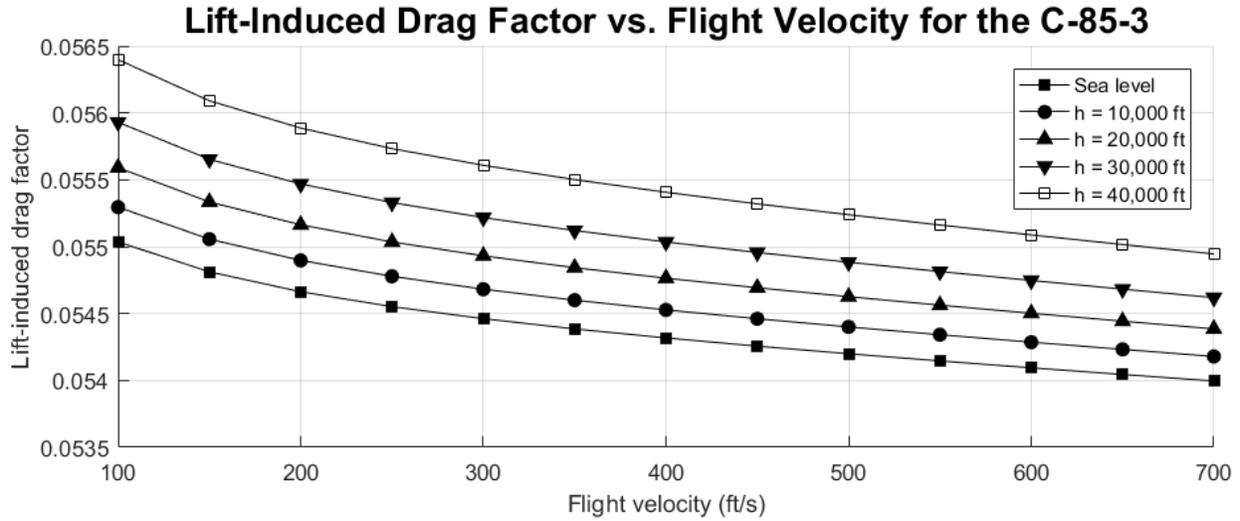


Figure 33: Lift-induced drag factor data for the C-85-3.

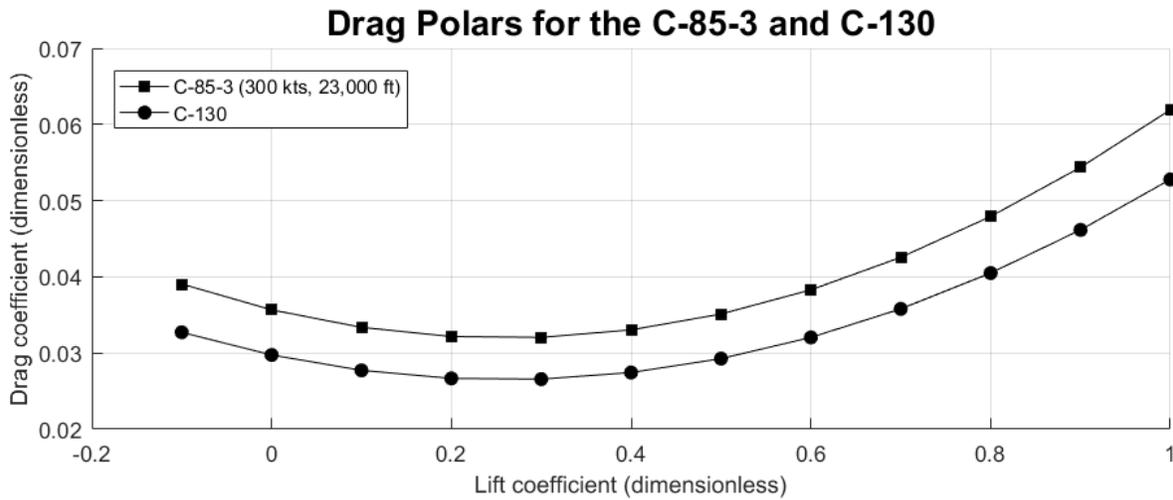


Figure 34: Drag polars for the C-85-3 and C-130.

The maximum lift coefficients are lower than those obtained for the C-85-2, for two main reasons. First of all, the C-85-2 used an estimated airfoil maximum lift coefficient obtained from XFOIL [32], with free laminar-turbulent transition assumed. However, the rest of the aerodynamic analysis assumed a laminar-turbulent transition location of 10% of chord. This mistake was corrected with the C-85-3, for which the XFOIL analysis was performed with laminar-turbulent transition fixed at 10% for both the upper and lower airfoil surfaces. Secondly, it was discovered during the stability

& control analysis that the C-85-3 required larger elevons due to the small elevator moment arm. The size of the single-slotted Fowler flaps was correspondingly reduced. Maximum engine-off lift coefficients are as follows:

- $C_{L_{max}} (cruise) = 1.305$
- $C_{L_{max}} (takeoff) = 1.681$
- $C_{L_{max}} (landing) = 2.057$

9.7 Performance Analysis

Performance results are presented in Table 21. As with the C-85-1 and C-85-2, the rate-of-climb requirement could only be met with engines at the takeoff setting. The cruising-speed and service-ceiling requirements were met with engines at the normal setting. All requirements are met.

Note that in large part due to the extra drag from the vertical tail and landing-gear sponsons, the performance of the C-85-3 is significantly degraded relative to the C-85-1 and C-85-2. This is true for maximum speed, takeoff and landing distances, and range, calling into question whether the tailless design is really better. However, given that all performance requirements are met (including range), and that significant weight savings are still obtained, a decision was made to stick with the tailless configuration.

Table 21: Summary of C-85-3 performance requirements and results.

	RFP Requirement	Actual Value	
Maximum speed at 23,000 ft. and MTOW (knots)	>250	314.1	Requirement met
Maximum rate of climb at 10,000 ft. and MTOW (fpm)	>1,500	1,700	Requirement met
Service ceiling (container empty, but present; ft.)	>33,000	35,047	Requirement met
Takeoff distance (ft.)	<3,500	2,127	Requirement met
Landing distance (ft.)	<3,500	3,311	Requirement met

The performance flight envelope is shown in Figure 35. It was prepared assuming an aircraft at maximum takeoff weight, with flaps retracted. Two limits were defined: the stall limit, and the zero- P_s (specific excess power) limit. A maximum dynamic pressure was also defined, equal to the dive speed (Section 9.2.2) at sea level. However, this limit fell well outside the zero- P_s limit, and as such was not included.

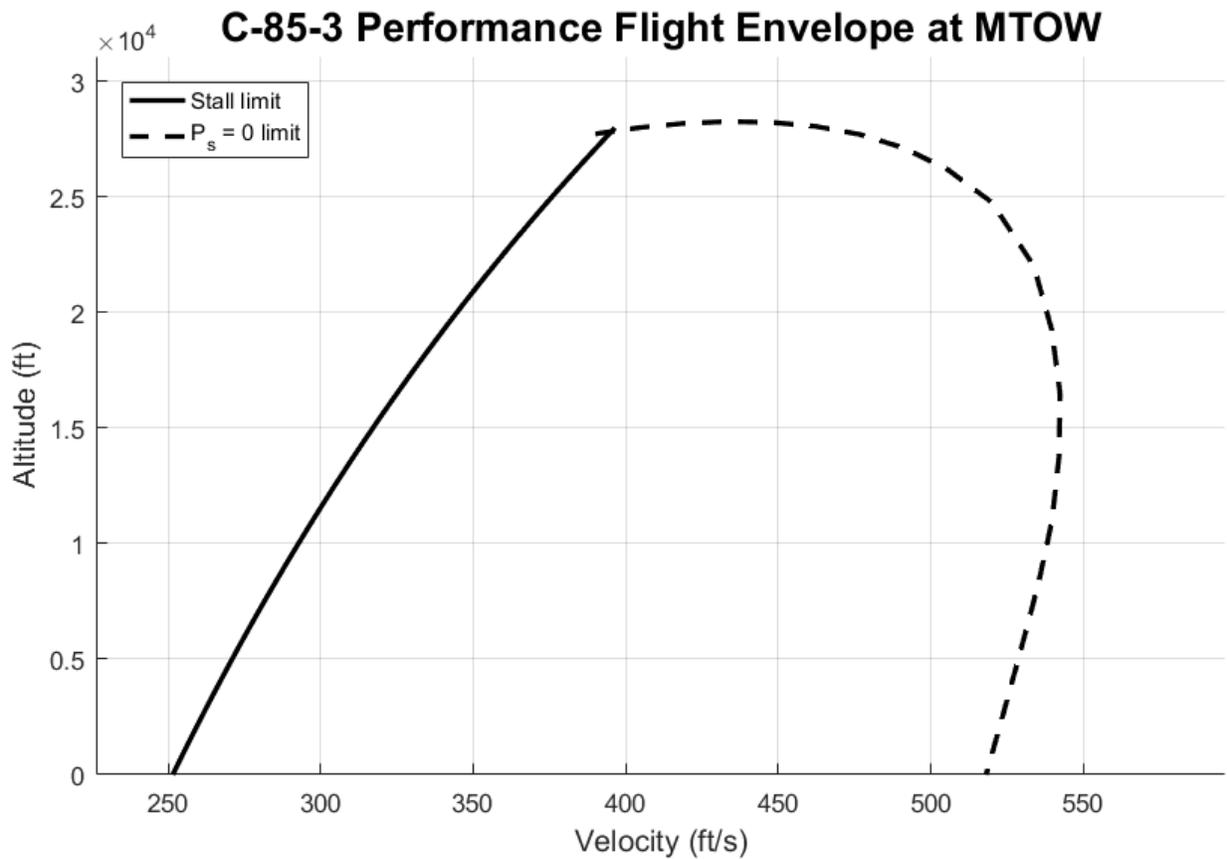


Figure 35: C-85-3 performance flight envelope (flaps up).

9.8 Mission Analysis

9.8.1 Mission Summary

The performance of the C-85-3 is inferior to that of the C-85-2. This is in large part due to the additional zero-lift drag from the vertical tail and sponsons, which significantly reduced the L/D

ratio in cruise. Results for both design missions are given in Table 22; fuel burn by mission segment is given in Appendix E.

Table 22: C-85-3 mission-analysis results.

	With payload drop	No payload drop
Cruise-in distance (nm)	935	710
Cruise-in airspeed (knots)	260	260
Cruise-in L/D ratio	16.5	16.5
Cruise-out airspeed (knots)	250	260
Cruise-out L/D ratio	14.6	16.4
Mission fuel burn (lbs)	37,670	37,601
Fuel carried (lbs)	37,728	37,728

9.8.2 Payload-Range Chart

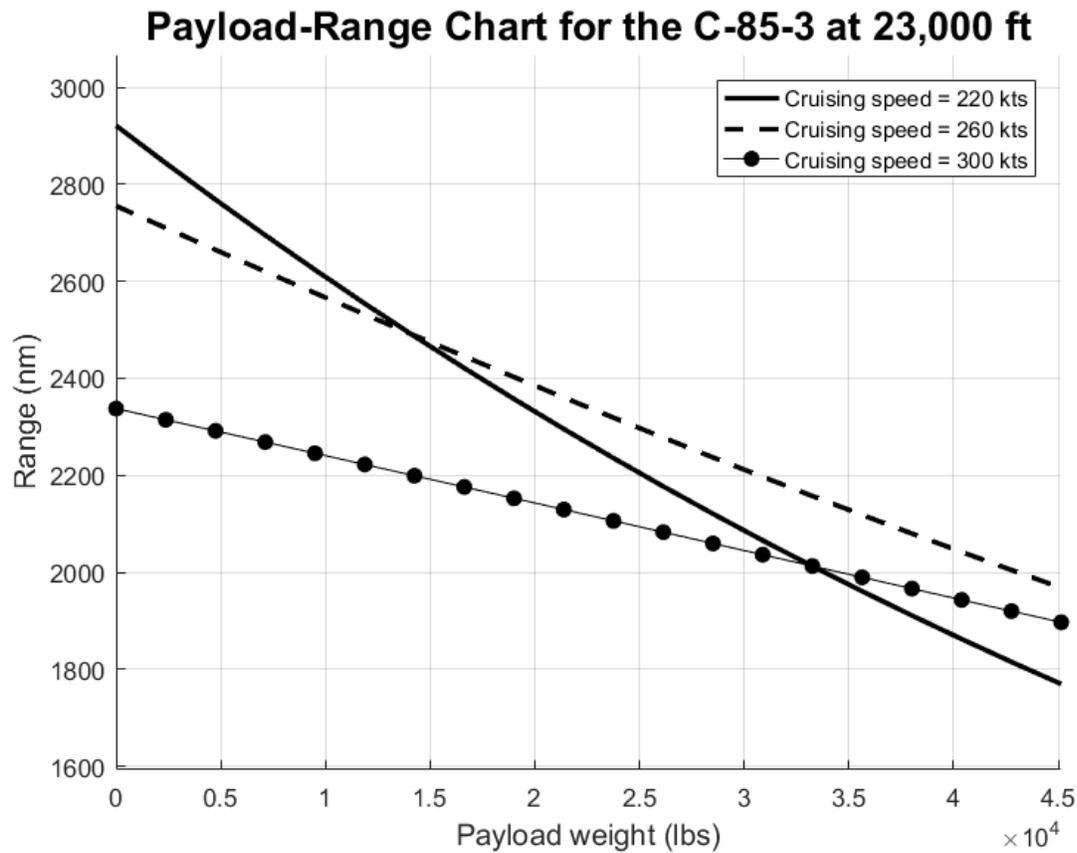


Figure 36: Payload-range chart for the C-85-3.

The payload-range chart is shown in Figure 36. The chart was prepared using the Breguet range equation, with deductions for warm-up, takeoff, climb, descent/landing, and reserves from Table 23 (Appendix A). It becomes more efficient to cruise at a lower speed (220 knots in this case) for small payloads, although the 260-knot cruising speed is more efficient for large payloads. Note that the RFP requires a minimum cruising speed (with maximum payload) of 250 knots.

The C-85 has a range of 1,968 nm with maximum payload at the selected 260-knot cruising speed, which more than meets the 1,000 nm RFP requirement.

10 Additional Work

10.1 Cost Analysis

It was stated in Section 4.7 (Design for Export) that a low unit price and operating cost for the C-85 would be highly desirable. However, cost analysis was not conducted as part of this report due to time considerations. Cost analysis is recommended as a next step, using the modified DAPCA IV (Development and Production Costs of Aircraft) model found in Raymer [19].

10.2 Engine Trade Studies

A number of design features related to the engines can be improved. Firstly, as discussed in Section 4.4 (Design for Propulsion), the Pratt & Whitney PW150A engine outperforms the Allison T56-A-15 by a wide margin in terms of size, weight, power, and fuel economy. The Allison engines were used in this work as per RFP requirements; however, the Pratt & Whitney engines are strongly recommended for any design work going forward.

Secondly, the landing-gear sponsons add significantly to the drag of the C-85-3. One way of reducing drag would be to combine them with the inner engine pods. The Bombardier Dash-8 uses a similar arrangement (see Section 3.4.2). This should be considered in a trade study.

Finally, the engines are mounted very far out along the wing, in order to prevent interference with the cargo container. Mounting the engines at the wing tips should be considered in a trade study. This approach suffers from problems due to OEI (one-engine-out), but the engine provides both bending load alleviation and a reduction in induced drag. A similar approach was applied to the design of a strut-braced wing transport aircraft in Gundlach et al [40]; a circulation-control system on the vertical tail was used to counteract engine-out yawing moments.

10.3 Landing-Gear Height

The main landing gear is about 15 feet long, while the nose gear is about 7 feet long. This results in the cargo container being more than 9 feet off the ground, more than enough for a flatbed truck to pull up next to the aircraft for loading/unloading of the cargo (see Section 9.2.1). However, as the maximum height of a flatbed truck is less than 5 feet [29], a 3-foot reduction in the landing-gear height should be considered. The shorter landing gear would save weight, without impairing loading/unloading of cargo.

10.4 Note on the Drag Polar

One of the most important equations in this work is the drag polar, which is given in Equation (3) as: $C_D = C_{D_0} + K(C_L - C_{L_{min}})^2$. C_{D_0} and K are typically used in aircraft conceptual design; almost all aircraft design textbooks contain techniques for the estimation of these two parameters. However, the $C_{L_{min}}$ term is unusual. Both Torenbeek [41] and Gudmundsson [35] include $C_{L_{min}}$ in their respective drag-polar approximations (Torenbeek in Equation 4.24, page 96; Gudmundsson in Equation 15-6, page 667). Neither author includes a technique for its estimation. Instead, Torenbeek states that a three-term approximation for the drag polar ($C_{D_0}, K, C_{L_{min}}$) is usually obtained from test data. $C_{L_{min}}$ is often assumed to be 0 during conceptual design, when test data is often not available.

Four different methods for obtaining an estimate of induced drag were consulted as part of this work: a semi-empirical Oswald-efficiency method, a vortex-lattice method (AVL), a two-dimensional airfoil viscous panel code (XFOIL), and test data (from the C-130). The first two of these methods yielded a $C_{L_{min}}$ of 0, while the last two yielded values that were positive. See Appendix D for the XFOIL data, and Reference [4] for the C-130 test data. Since the last two methods include the effects of viscosity, while the first two do not, it seems clear that a viscous model is required to estimate $C_{L_{min}}$. Therefore, as a first approximation, a value of $C_{L_{min}} = 0.255$ (the same value as the C-130) was used throughout the performance analyses, for all three aircraft versions. This estimate should be validated with higher-fidelity estimates.

11 Conclusion

The C-85 Flying Forklift, a tailless military transport with four turboprop engines, is presented. The design is capable of meeting all of the requirements for the 2015-2016 AIAA Undergraduate Individual Aircraft Design Competition, including payload, service ceiling, rate of climb, takeoff distance, and landing distance. Furthermore, the tailless design is shown to be superior to a conventional (aft-tailed) design in terms of both weight and fuel consumption, while offering similar performance. It has been given the provisional designation C-85, and the provisional public-relations name Flying Forklift.

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Appendix A Mission-Profile Details

Table 23: Mission profile details, used for initial sizing.

Segment	Description	Notes
1	Warm-up and takeoff	Fuel-fraction estimate of 0.97, from Raymer [19]
2	Climb to altitude	Fuel-fraction estimate of 0.985, from Raymer [19]
3	Cruise in 500 nm	Estimated cruise conditions (for initial sizing only): 23,000 ft. and 300 knots (same cruise speed as C-130H [2]). Cruise L/D = 13 (same value as C-130 [19]); cruise ESFC 0.45 hr ⁻¹ estimated from data on T56-A-15 engine (used on the C-130H) given in [15].
4	Descent and landing	Fuel-fraction estimate of 0.995, from Raymer [19]
5	Drop payload	Not counted for initial sizing. In worst-case scenario, aircraft will have to fly out with payload.
6	Warm-up and takeoff (again)	Fuel-fraction estimate of 0.97, from Raymer [19]
7	Climb to altitude	Fuel-fraction estimate of 0.985, from Raymer [19]
8	Cruise out 500 nm	Same conditions as for cruise in (segment 3)
9	Descent and landing	Fuel-fraction estimate of 0.995, from Raymer [19]
10	Reserves	6% fuel reserves assumed

Appendix B Component Weight Breakdowns

Table 24: Component weight breakdowns.

Component	C-85-1 Weight (lbs)	C-85-2 Weight (lbs)	C-85-3 Weight (lbs)
Wing	16,167.8	13,215.9	14,314.5
Horizontal tail	2189.3	n/a	n/a
Vertical tail	1187.9	n/a	671.1
Fuselage	24,685.0	19,269.4	16,602.3
Main landing gear	7724.4	7,025.8	8,215.1
Nose landing gear	1144.6	1,068.3	1,158.6
Engines	13,366.3	13,366.3	13,366.3
Nacelle group	2306.1	2,197.1	2,073.6
Engine controls	245.4	196.0	196.0
Pneumatic starter	144.2	144.2	144.2
Fuel system	140.5	285.5	376.6
Flight controls	333.5	333.5	333.5
APU Installed	880.0	880.0	880.0
Instruments	402.2	347.7	349.6
Hydraulics	319.1	242.8	245.3
Electrical	900.7	789.9	798.2
Avionics	2141.4	2,141.4	2,141.4
Furnishings	1682	1,389.0	1,495.9
Air conditioning	242.6	224.2	224.2
Anti-ice	351.6	316.0	318.0
Handling gear	52.7	47.4	47.7
Military cargo handling system	384.0	384.0	384.0
Total empty weight	76,991.2	63,864.2	64,336.0
Fuel weight	40,783.0	37,379.0	37,727.7
Crew weight	600	600	600
Payload weight	45,140	45,140	45,140
Gross takeoff weight (calculated)	163,514.5	146,983.5	147,803.8
Gross takeoff weight (design)	175,800	158,000	159,000
Design weight margin	7.51%	7.50%	7.58%

Appendix C C-85 Cargo-Loading Sketches

The diagrams in this Appendix show the key features of the C-85 cargo-loading arrangement.

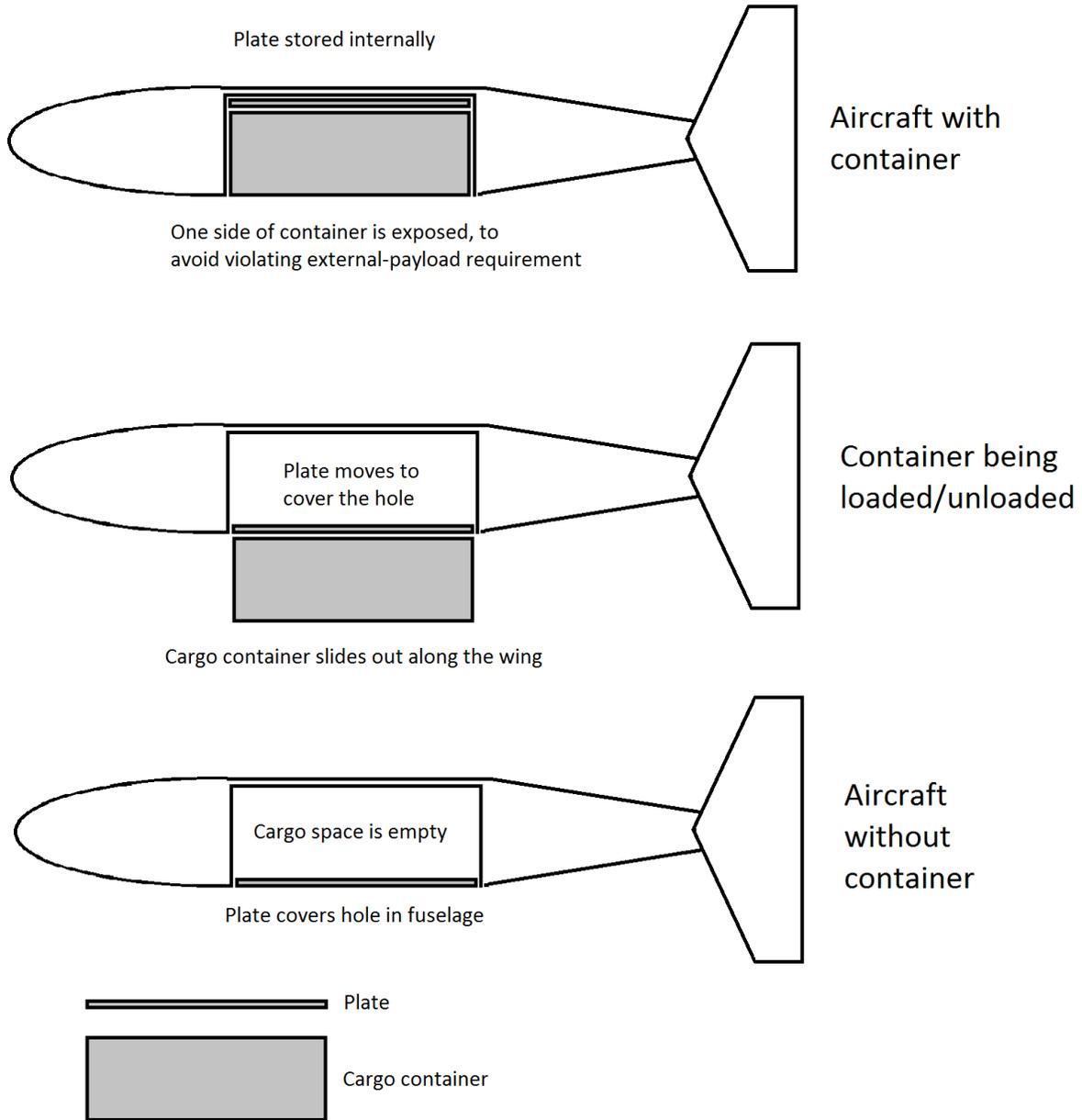
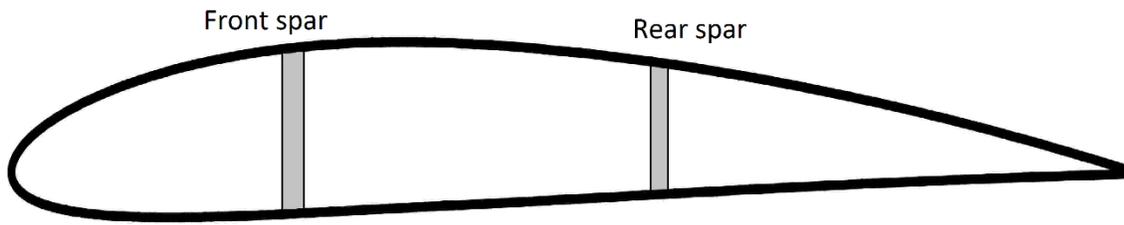


Figure 37: Top view of the C-85, showing the cargo-loading arrangement.

Conventional wing box



C-85 wing box

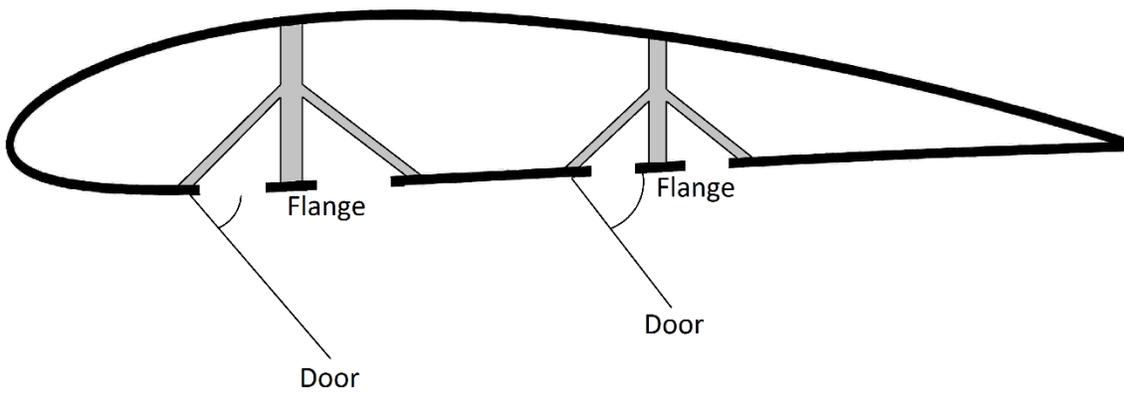


Figure 38: Diagram of the C-85 wing box. The flanges are the key to the design; they serve as rails along which the cargo container slides during loading/unloading (like a monorail).

Appendix D Airfoil Data

This appendix contains data for the HS12B airfoil, used for the C-85-2 and C-85-3 wings. All data was obtained from XFOil [32], with laminar-turbulent transition fixed at 10% of the chord on both the upper and lower airfoil surfaces. The maximum lift coefficient and quarter-chord moment were obtained from these plots; wing drag for the aerodynamic, performance, and mission analyses was computed using a wetted-area method.

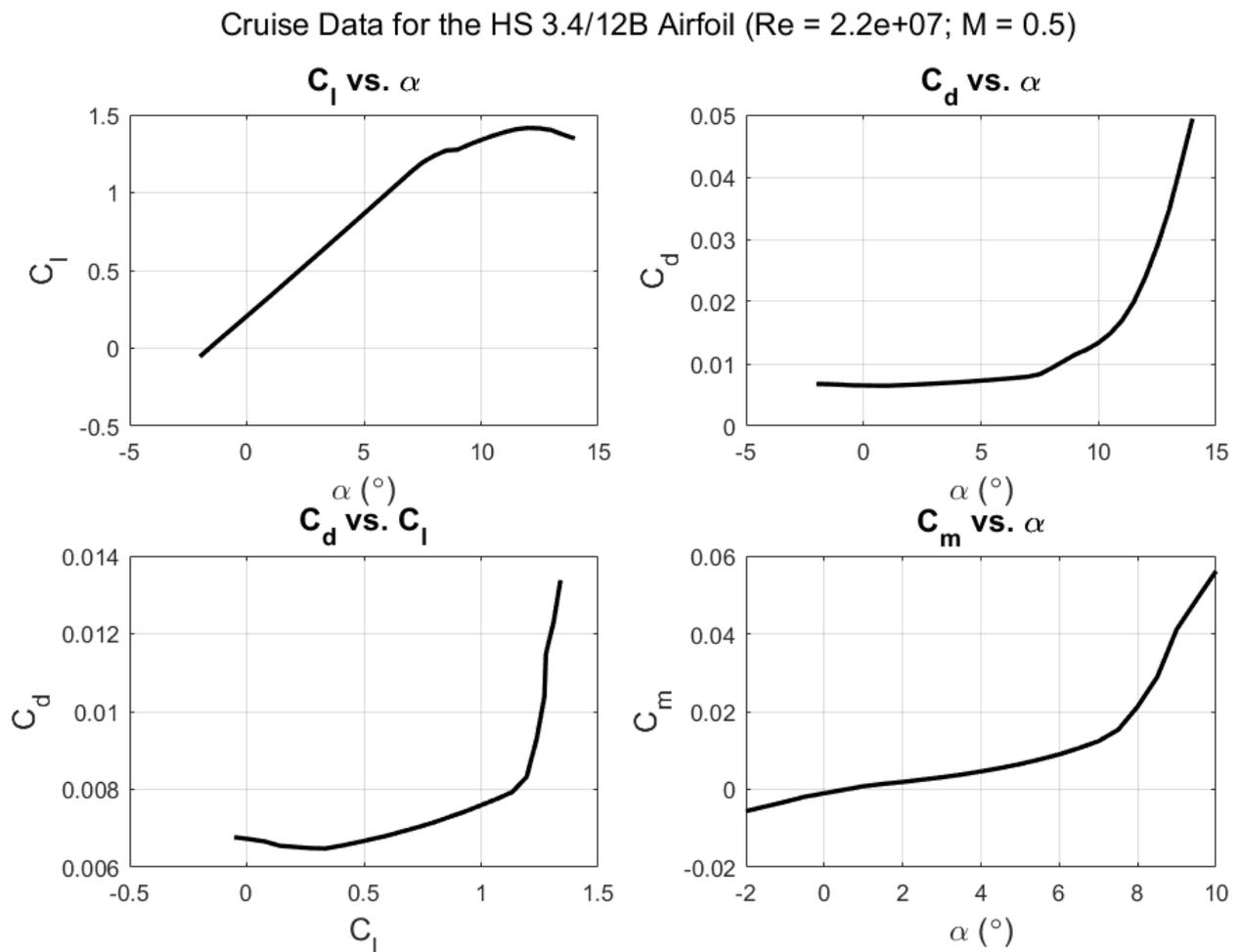


Figure 39: HS12B airfoil cruise data.

Takeoff Data for the HS 3.4/12B Airfoil ($Re = 1.8e+07$; $M = 0.16$)

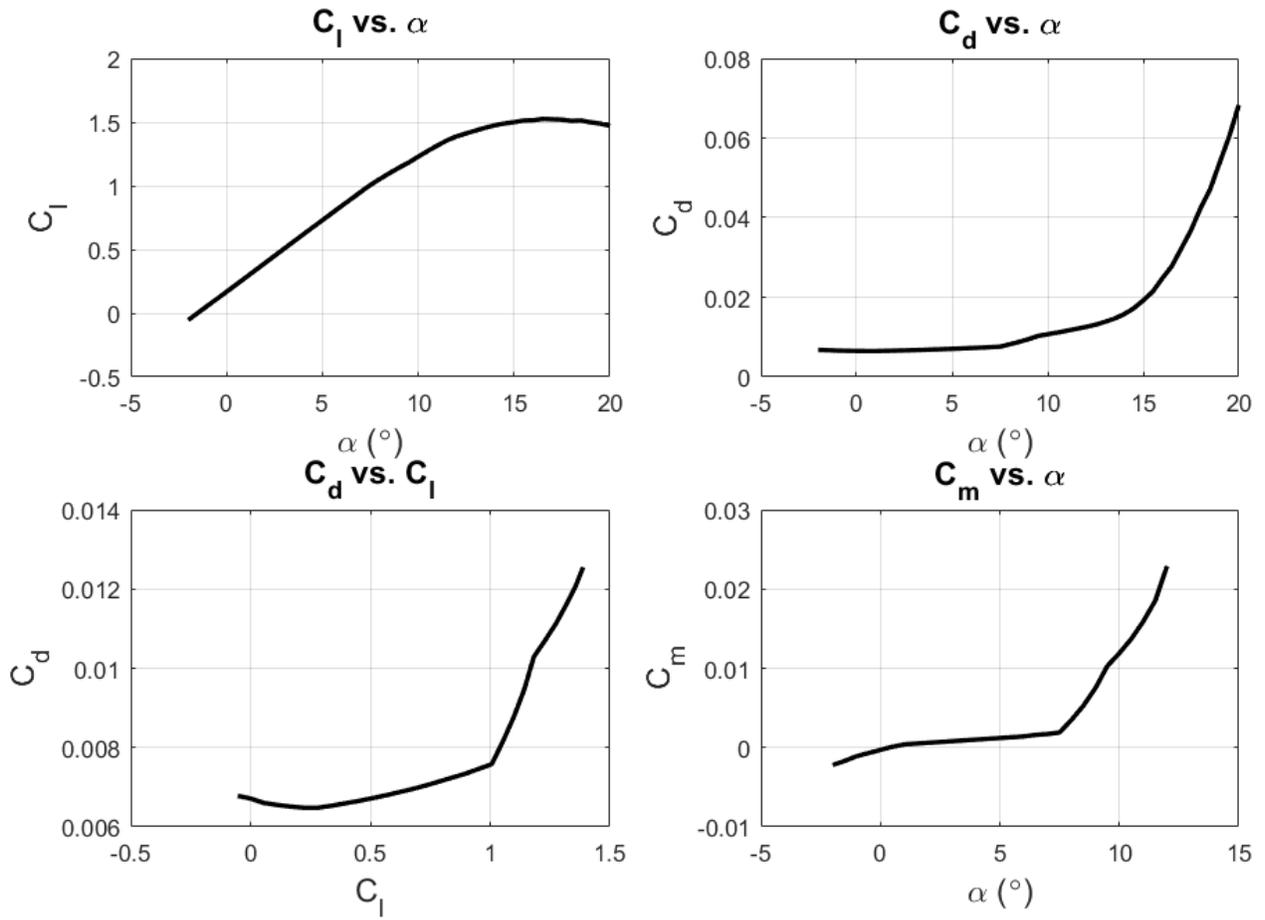


Figure 40: HS12B airfoil takeoff data.

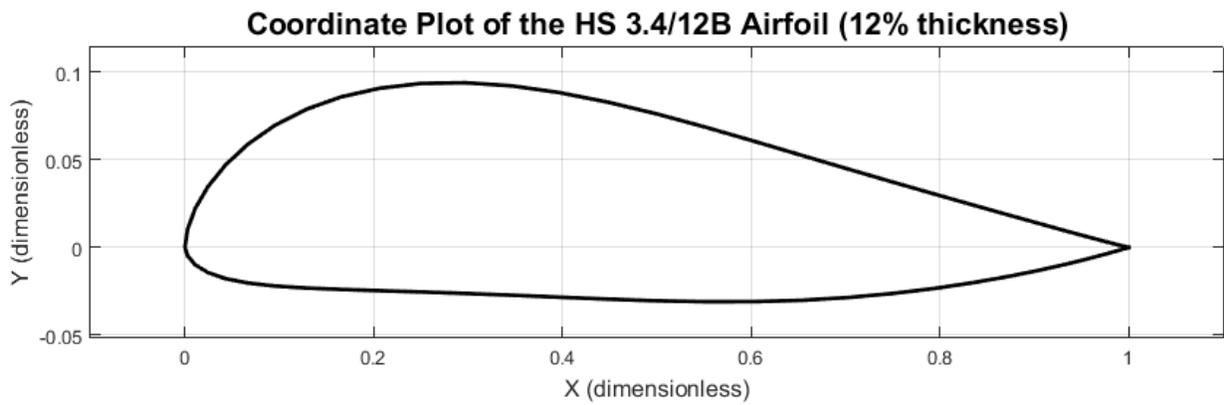


Figure 41: HS12B airfoil coordinate plot

Appendix E Fuel Burn by Mission Segment

Table 25 contains fuel-burn data by mission segment for the C-85-3, for both design missions. See Table 22 for cruise-in and cruise-out distances.

Table 25: Fuel burn by mission segment for the C-85-3.

Segment	Description	Fuel Burn (lbs)	
		With payload drop	No payload drop
1	Warm-up and takeoff	4,770.0	4,770.0
2	Climb to altitude	2,313.5	2,313.5
3	Cruise in	13,377.0	10,269.7
4	Descent and landing	1,385.4	1,416.5
5	Drop payload	0.0	0.0
6	Warm-up and takeoff (again)	2,760.4	4,206.9
7	Climb to altitude	1,338.8	2,040.4
8	Cruise out	8,668.6	9,071.8
9	Descent and landing	792.5	1,249.1
10	Reserves	2,263.7	2,263.7

Appendix F Detailed Performance Data for the C-85-3

This appendix contains a more detailed breakdown of the C-85-3 takeoff and landing distances.

Section 6: Analysis Methods contains a discussion of the methods used.

Table 26: Detailed breakdown of the C-85-3 takeoff-distance analysis.

Stalling speed (ft/s)	149.8
Maximum lift coefficient	3.68
Climb angle (°)	7.0
Ground roll (ft.)	943
Rotation distance (ft.)	494
Transition distance (ft.)	562
Climb distance (ft.)	127
Total takeoff distance (ft.)	2,127

Table 27: Detailed breakdown of the C-85-3 landing-distance analysis.

Technique	Normal	Max
Stalling speed (ft/s)	200.4	200.4
Maximum lift coefficient	2.06	2.06
Approach angle (°)	3.0	12.0
Approach distance (ft.)	757	0
Flare distance (ft.)	395	867
Delay distance (ft.)	441	220
Ground-roll distance (ft.)	1,718	1,718
Total landing distance (ft.)	3,311	2,806