Persistence, Coupled with Performance Pays Off â€“ the A-10 â€œWarthogâ€•

Description

The A-10 Thunderbolt II has long been the red-headed step child in the Air Force Inventory. Maybe military mythology, but back in the early 70s, I heard the plane being referred to as being shoved down the throats of the USAF by Congressmen, with interests in keeping jobs in their districts. Later, I heard the USAF was scrapping it and the Army enthusiastically stepped up, wanting to take them over. The â€œMission Envyâ€• entered the argument and the USAF informed the Army that offensive fixed wing stuff was the domain of the blue suiters and the Army couldnâ€™t have them.

So, hereâ€™s the good news: The USAF finally gets it (geezâ€¦what slow learners they are!).

> Well, after years of a fighter mafia dominance that kicked the A-10 to the curb, Air Force officials finally woke up and realized all anyone cares about these days is putting warheads on foreheads, not shooting down MiGs from 10 miles away. So the blue-suiters have finally given the Hog its due and funneled some much-needed money to the workhorse CAS platform. And now theyÃ¢â‚¬â„¢re accelerating the Warthog renaissance.

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More news at Defense Industry Daily on the details of the A-1oC Precision Engagement Program. I like that sound of that. Too bad Capt Lex is retiring and wonâ€™t get the pleasure of precision engagement with the GAU-8.

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