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# Report: Iowa Air National Guard To Lose F-16 Squadron?

**20 Jets, 1000 Personnel and \$50 Million Budget At Stake**

[Todd Magel, KCCI.com](#)

POSTED: 8:54 pm CST January 31, 2012  
 UPDATED: 7:39 am CST February 1, 2012

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**DES MOINES, Iowa** -- A popular military news website is reporting the Iowa Air National Guard F-16 fighter squadron based at the Des Moines Airport may be decommissioned.

Military.com reports unnamed sources tell them the 124th Fighter Squadron is on a list of potential cuts in the latest Air Force budget.

The squadron is composed of 20 jets, 1,000 personnel and a budget of \$50 million, which includes a \$35 million payroll.

An Iowa National Guard spokesman says they've heard the rumors too, but at this point any cutbacks at the Air Guard are not confirmed.

"The information published in that article is pure speculation. The information we've received on an official basis from the Department of Defense doesn't go into any specificity whatsoever. That information will come out February 13, when President Obama releases his budget," said Col. Greg Hapgood.

Iowa Sen. Tom Harkin has also heard the rumors and is asking the Air Force to give him more information. He also says the 124th Fighter Squadron is the best in the country and that he will do everything in his power to keep them in Iowa.

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