

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 29, 2012

The Honorable Michael B. Donley
Secretary
U.S. Air Force
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1670

Dear Secretary Donley:

We are writing to express our strong support for your consideration of the 108th Wing on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (JB MDL) as a location for the KC-46A Main Operating Base 2. We are confident that after a careful and objective review of the 108th's strengths and capabilities, you will determine that JB MDL is the ideal location for the KC-46A tankers assigned to an Air National Guard base.

As you assess each installation's ability to meet the basing criteria, we respectfully request that you take into account the following benefits our state can provide as a home for MOB2. As the nation's only tri-service joint installation and host to active, Reserve and Guard units, JB MDL's existing assets and facilities will enhance synergy and provide unparalleled capabilities as the National Guard's main tanker location.

Existing Assets and Facilities: The 108th Wing is based on a \$70M premier tanker base campus with the most advanced infrastructure and fueling system of all tanker units. JB MDL has the available airspace, runway, and airfield assets described in your criteria and is collocated with units operating the variety of aircraft needed for training missions. The 108th's facilities were designed to support as many as 20 tanker aircraft and could therefore seamlessly absorb additional tankers without investing significant Air Force dollars.

Fuel Dispensing, Storage and Receipt: Given the 108th's location on JB MDL, the unit maintains the most advanced fueling system of all tanker units and is currently the only ANG unit with bulk fuel deliveries to the fuel farm from a secure pipeline. Other units under consideration for housing MOB2, continue to have fuel delivered by tractor trailers that can be impacted or disrupted by a number of factors, including weather and vehicle availability. In addition to raising security concerns while in transport, we believe that bulk fuel delivery via secure underground pipeline is the model in efficiency and safety and most easily accommodates surge operations.

Location and Mission: The geographical location of JB MDL and its role as AMC's premier east coast hub uniquely positions it to perform its strategic airlift mission. Presently, JB

MDL is closer to both Northeast Tanker Task Force and Operation NOBLE EAGLE Combat Air Patrol tracks than all other participating locations and is only 30 minutes flying time from Dover AFB's "Super" Aerial Port. This proximity conserves scarce Air Force dollars by reducing flight time and lowering fuel costs.

In addition to being perfectly suited to support homeland defense at the major Washington-New York-Boston metropolitan region, the 108th Wing is a key player in air bridge operations to refuel fighter, cargo and transport missions across the Atlantic to Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and Southwest Asia, as well as in strategic missions under US Strategic Command's OPLAN 8010.

As a result of the 108th's location and superior performance, the unit is frequently called on by AMC's Tanker Airlift Control Center to provide short notice refueling from an alert posture (averaging one out of the every six days for the past six months).

Expertise and Unit Readiness: By basing the KC-46A at the 108th Wing, the required infrastructure, expertise and command chain are in place from day one. The 108th is currently the only ANG unit that flies the KC-46A's sister aircraft, the Boeing 757. The avionic components and existing dual type rating of pilots would provide the wing with unparalleled interoperability within both the Operations and Maintenance fields. Currently manned at over 100 percent, the unit consists of a highly qualified, combat-proven force and hosts 32 pilots that are type rated in the modern Boeing series with an average of 1,600 flying hours.

Further, while the 108th does not currently have an active associate mission, the potential is compelling and there is ample reason to believe that an association would be absorbed quickly with limited investment to the Air Force—and to the benefit of airmen and their families. Utilizing the 108th's experienced aircrew and maintenance force as a complement to one of the 305th Air Mobility Wing's air refueling squadrons is an excellent force multiplier while fostering a positive Air National Guard mission easily recruited to. JB MDL also contains existing facilities and family support services for the thousands of military personnel stationed at the base that are not found on exclusively Guard installations.

Finally, we would like to express our concerns regarding the lack of criteria relating to weather conditions and the impact on operations. The 108th's location relieves it from the more severe winter weather experienced in the more northern section of the United States. The other members of the North East Tanker Task Force can experience as much as nine times as many days of freezing precipitation annually than JB MDL. In fact, in recent years during severe weather, many units have traveled to JB MDL for training purposes while their installations were unusable. Given the costs associated with aircraft de-icing, cancelled mission and the fuel costs to travel to JB MDL, we are therefore respectfully requesting that you give consideration to weather conditions throughout this process.

Again, with a strong track record in Boeing's 757 airframe and an ideal location, the 108th Wing is strategically located, combat-proven and ready and willing to accept this enhancement to its mission. We are confident that after taking a clear look at the numerous

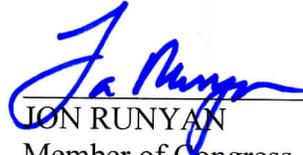
positive factors detailed above you will determine that New Jersey's 108th Wing is the obvious choice to host Main Operating Base 2.

We look forward to working with you during the decision making process and are ready to provide any additional information or assistance you require.

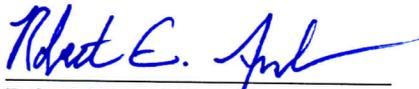
Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER H SMITH
Member of Congress



ION RUNYAN
Member of Congress



ROBERT ANDREWS
Member of Congress



FRANK LOBIONDO
Member of Congress



RODNEY FRELINGHUYSEN
Member of Congress



STEVE ROTHMAN
Member of Congress