

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 16, 2010

General Norton A. Schwartz
Chief of Staff, Air Force
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1670

Dear General Schwartz,

We write to request an update with respect to current and future missions at the Springfield Air National Guard base for the 866 military authorizations and the 391 full-time personnel at the base.

We urge you to officially designate and fund the follow-on missions to the Springfield Air National Guard (SANG) Base and the military authorizations as follows:

- Remotely-piloted Aircraft (MQ-9 Reaper)
- Distributed Ground System (DGS)
- Robust National Air and Space Intelligence Center (NASIC) footprint in Springfield

As you know, the contract with the Royal Netherlands Air Force Foreign Military Sales (FMS) F-16 pilot training at the base will be up at the end of this fiscal year. Without the clarity of knowing what the base's next missions will be, we encourage you to work with the Dutch in extending their training for another year or two at Springfield.

It is critically important that the 391 full-time personnel be maintained at Springfield and that any increased staffing requirements at the Mansfield Air National Guard Base should be funded by the Air Force and not taken from Springfield. Additionally, we believe that the \$12.8 million that Congress appropriated in 2009 for the construction of a new facility for the 251st Combat Communications Group and the 269th Combat Communications Squadron co-located at the SANG should be released.

Finally, we encourage you to maintain support for the firefighters and tower operators at the Springfield-Beckley airport. Those services are currently provided by the National Guard as part of their joint-use agreement. The local community will be hard-pressed to find sufficient funding to maintain those functions.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

George V. Kinovich

Shirley Brown

Steve Aust

Frank Schmidt

Gene Smith

John

Chh Wtr

E. C. Smith

Marcy Keptur

Mary Jo Libroy

Tim Ryan

John A. Bunn

Robert E. Jatta

Betty Sutton