

**Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515**

July 23, 2013

General Paul J. Selva  
Commander  
Air Mobility Command  
United States Air Force  
402 Scott Drive  
Unit 3EC  
Scott Air Force Base, IL 62225

Dear General Selva:

As members of the Kansas Congressional delegation, we write in support of the 190<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing at Forbes Field as a future location for KC-135 flight simulators. Earlier this month, Kansas Adjutant General Lee Tafanelli wrote to the Director of the Air National Guard, National Guard Bureau, Lieutenant General Stanley Clarke to advocate for this transfer. We wholeheartedly support the Kansas National Guard's request.

As you know, during Air Mobility Command's recent Main Operation Base site selection process, Forbes Field was among five National Guard bases reviewed for beddown of the KC-46A. As a top location for air refueling aircraft, Forbes Field offers the Air Force a centrally located training base with space available for two KC-135R Weapon System Trainers (WST) and one Boom Operator Weapons System Trainer (BOWST).

Forbes Field is located in Topeka, Kansas and provides a principle location for multiple regional training requirements, including driving distance from the 155<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing in Lincoln, Nebraska, the 185<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing in Sioux City, Iowa, the 138<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and the Kansas City International Airport. Reduced travel costs in addition to training flown in simulators rather than aircraft could result in annual cost savings of more than \$6 million. At a time when the Department of Defense is facing deep budgetary cuts, including distressing reductions to flight training hours, dramatic decreases in Army and Marine Corps end-strength, and furloughs for the civilian workforce, moving trainers to a location convenient for other KC-135 units to meet their training qualifications makes it not only a practical solution, but a smart solution.

The 190<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing has a strong history of excellence, including training the 185<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing during their transition from F-16s to tankers and currently, providing the 168<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing aircrew with Block 40 and requalification training. While we respect the Air Force's decision to not recommend Forbes Field as the Main Operation Base #2 decision this past spring, we hope the Air Mobility Command will choose Forbes Field as the

Guard KC-135 units, maintaining 12 Primary Aircraft Authorizations (PAA), the 190<sup>th</sup> is ready and capable of handling these additions.

Thank you for your time and full consideration of this request. We look forward to hearing back from you regarding your Command's decision pertaining to the simulators location.

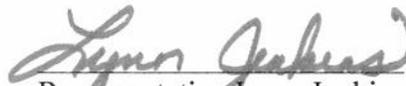
Sincerely,



Senator Pat Roberts



Senator Jerry Moran



Representative Lynn Jenkins