

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 29, 2015

General Carlton D. Everhart
Commander
Air Mobility Command
Headquarters
402 Scott Drive, Unit 3EC
Scott Air Force Base, Illinois 62225-5310

Dear General Everhart,

As the United States Air Force (USAF) changes and modernizes to meet new mission requirements and emerging national security challenges, we remain committed to ensuring that the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station (NFARS) continues to play an integral role in this process by providing it with an enduring mission that effectively leverages its high quality workforce, infrastructure and location.

Since transitioning to the C-130 mission, the 914th Airlift Wing of the Air Force Reserve and the 107th Airlift Wing of the Air National Guard have made immense contributions to USAF's global mobility mission, conducting thousands of cargo lift operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and domestically. The 914th currently flies 8 C-130 H2 aircraft while the 107th is transitioning to a Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) mission.

However, as the USAF endeavors to draw down its aging C-130 fleet, we believe it is an opportune time to consider a new and enduring mission that will take advantage of NFARS' existing capabilities.

To that end, along with New York State, we strongly supported NFARS' selection as the site for the KC-46A's third main operating base (MOB-3). While NFARS was not down-selected to host this new generation of refueling tankers, key tanker infrastructure exists at the base that would make NFARS an ideal candidate for the KC-135, which will remain a key cog in the USAF's air refueling capability as efforts to recapitalize the tanker fleet undergo acquisition delays.

Enhancing its merit, the 107th Air Refueling Wing previously supported the KC-135 mission, having flown this airframe for over a decade until it transitioned to the cargo lift mission following the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process. To that end, NFARS retains much of the key tanker infrastructure, including fuel storage, fuel dispensing, and reinforced runway and ramp. We believe that an USAF review of the infrastructure would confirm that

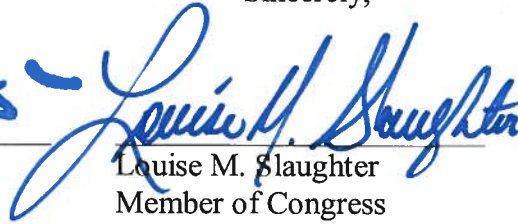
minimal expenditures would be required to reprise these assets. We invite you to visit NFARS in the near future in order to examine these capabilities, and are confident you will see its viability for the KC-135 mission.

As the largest employer in Niagara County and a key part of our national security infrastructure, we remain committed to ensuring NFARS is well positioned to contribute to the national defense now and in the future. We greatly appreciate your continued support and look forward to working with you as the rebasing of the KC-135 moves forward.

Sincerely,



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress



Chris Collins
Member of Congress

CC: Lieutenant General James Jackson
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