

DCN: 7675

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BRAC Commission

AUG 17 2006

Received



WILLIAMS
GATEWAY
AIRPORT

MESA, ARIZONA

RESOLUTION NO. 05-27

WHEREAS, the Williams Gateway Airport Authority ("Authority"), a joint powers airport authority, was formed pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes § 28-8521 *et seq.* for the purpose of, among other things, redeveloping portions of the former Williams Air Force Base as a civilian airport known as the Williams Gateway Airport ("Airport"); and

WHEREAS, the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) at Williams Gateway Airport has been recommended for closure, with its functions reassigned to Wright Patterson Air Force Base; and

WHEREAS, the AFRL has contributed significantly to the national defense and has won many awards for its scientific achievements; and

WHEREAS, the AFRL has significant positive impact on the local economy, supporting over 400 scientific and high-technology jobs in the private sector beyond the 88 military employees acknowledged in the closure announcement; and

WHEREAS, the AFRL has an extremely close working relationship with the Arizona State University (ASU) Polytechnic Campus and the Williams Gateway Airport; and

WHEREAS, the synergies that exist between and among the AFRL, ASU Polytechnic, Williams Gateway Airport and the eight on-airport private contractors which support the AFRL are irreplaceable in Ohio and elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, the AFRL has also developed outstanding working relationships with their military test subjects and other research participants who visit the Lab on a regular basis so that the work of the Lab is unimpeded being on a civilian airport; and

WHEREAS, the AFRL's distributive mission training research is, by its very nature, multi-locational and depends on physical separation, linked by electronic communication technologies, in order to accomplish its mission; and

WHEREAS, co-location of the AFRL, with other research facilities at Wright Patterson AFB may actually decrease effectiveness of the distributive mission training research, since the research facilities will no longer be distributed and the synergies that currently exist will be lost; and

WHEREAS, no appropriate vacant research space exists elsewhere, and reconstruction of the AFRL facilities in Ohio or at any other location is projected to cost at least \$30 million, easily negating any cost savings identified in the closure announcement;

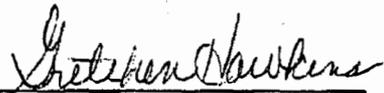
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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of Williams Gateway Airport Authority as follows:

The Williams Gateway Airport Authority Board of Directors hereby urges the Base Realignment and Closure Commission to rescind the Department of Defense recommendation to close the Air Force Research Laboratory at Williams Gateway Airport and to encourage the AFRL to continue its award-winning research efforts in a cost-effective and collaborative manner with Arizona State University Polytechnic Campus, Williams Gateway Airport and its private contractors in Arizona.

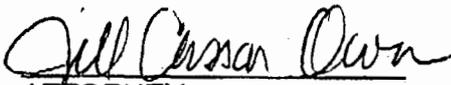
Passed and adopted by the Williams Gateway Airport Authority this 20th day of June 2005.

ATTEST:


CLERK


CHAIRMAN

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


ATTORNEY