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FORESTS AND FOREST HEALTH



**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives**

August 16, 2005

JEFF FLAKE

6TH DISTRICT, ARIZONA

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515
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WESTERN CAUCUS
VICE CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

I am forwarding you a letter conveyed to my office from Advanced Training Systems International (ATSI), a fighter combat and maintenance training company, concerning the Department of Defense recommendation to the Base Closure and Realignment Committee that the Air Force Research Lab should be moved to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio.

Sincerely,

JEFF FLAKE
Member of Congress

JF:bpc



Tactical Jet Training and Support Services
Williams Gateway Airport - 6159 South Sassaman Road - Mesa, AZ 85212
P.O. Box 1900 - Higley AZ 85236-1900 - Phone: 480 988 9204 - Fax: 480 988 9203

Congressman Jeff Flake
United States Congress
Cannon Building Rm 424
Washington, D.C. 20515

16 August 2005

Dear Congressman Flake;

I have concerns that there are unanswered questions about the proposed rationale for the realignment of the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) at Williams Gateway Airport.

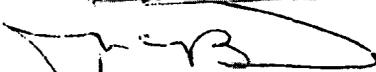
As President of Advanced Training International (ATSI) at Williams Gateway, a private company specializing in fighter pilot training, I have had a working relationship with the AFRL. Both our organizations share similar goals, in that we provide high quality warfighter training and instruction. For that reason, there has been a synergistic relationship between ATSI and the AFRL, which will be lost if the lab moves out of its current location. ATSI and the AFRL have had a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRDA) in place since 1999 and the relationship has strengthened both of our organizations.

The Department of Defense's rationale for the realignment of the AFRL raises some serious questions. It is my understanding that the Department of Defense expects the mission of AFRL to continue after moving to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. However, there are mounting concerns that an overwhelming majority of the civil contractors at AFRL conducting the bulk of the research will not relocate to Ohio. In addition, concerns have been raised that there is no facility constructed at Wright-Patterson to house the Mesa lab, or the other research labs from across the nation.

How can the lab continue its research, as the Department of Defense expects, at Wright-Patterson without a majority of the civilian researchers and no facility constructed? In addition, what cost savings can be accrued if a new facility has to be constructed at Wright-Patterson, as opposed to moving to another base where facilities are present, or leaving the bases in their current location?

Any assistance in getting answers to these questions would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Jon A. McBride
President/CEO

*"We're not waiting for our industry to set standards,
we're setting the standards for our industry."*

