



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

MARK E. SOUDER
THIRD DISTRICT
INDIANA

May 3, 2005

ORIGINAL

*Send DCN: 1333
to all
commissioners*

Dear Commissioner Principi:

As you prepare to review the list of recommended base closures and realignments, I wanted to draw your attention to a few of the reasons why Fort Wayne, Indiana, should remain the home of the 122nd Air National Guard Fighter Wing.

The people of Northeast Indiana are highly patriotic, and this is reflected in the fact that it has one of the highest military recruiting rates in the country. Army recruiting rates have consistently been in the top 10% in the country, and the Fort Wayne Air National Guard ranks 9th in recruiting out of all Air National Guard bases in the country. It is presently at nearly 104% of its manning strength. These high recruiting rates, in addition to the area's large highly-skilled workforce, make Fort Wayne a prime location for maintaining and potentially expanding the 122nd Fighter Wing.

Another significant advantage of the 122nd is its co-location with the Fort Wayne International Airport, a Level 7 airport with an FAA flight tower that operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The co-location with the airport allows the National Guard to utilize the excellent runways at a nominal cost, saving the military money in the long-run. The 12,000-foot runway is the longest commercial runway in the state and can be used by all sizes of planes. Additionally, the airport has reserved 90 acres adjacent to the base for use by the military, ensuring there will never be any land encroachment issues should the base need to expand.

I understand you will be making very difficult decisions in the coming weeks and ask that you give strong consideration to keeping the 122nd Fighter Wing intact in Fort Wayne, Indiana. I have enclosed additional information on the base for your review.

Sincerely,

*Thanks for
your consideration.*

Mark

Mark Souder
Member of Congress

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5/7/05



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ORIGINAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

MARK E. SOUDER
THIRD DISTRICT
INDIANA

May 3, 2005

Dear Commissioner Hansen:

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*Thank you for your
consideration. My area
is among the most patriotic
in the nation. The health
of America should not
be forgotten.*

Sincerely,

Mark Souder
Member of Congress

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ORIGINAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

MARK E. SOUDER
THIRD DISTRICT
INDIANA

May 3, 2005

Dear Commissioner Gehman:

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Mark Souder
Member of Congress

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ORIGINAL



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

MARK E. SOUDER
THIRD DISTRICT
INDIANA

May 3, 2005

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Dear Commissioner Kicklighter:

As you prepare to review the list of recommended base closures and realignments, I wanted to draw your attention to a few of the reasons why Fort Wayne, Indiana, should remain the home of the 122nd Air National Guard Fighter Wing.

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Mark Souder
Member of Congress

ORIGINAL



PCN: 1333

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

MARK E. SOUDER
THIRD DISTRICT
INDIANA

May 3, 2005

RECEIVED
5/6/05

Dear Commissioner Turner:

As you prepare to review the list of recommended base closures and realignments, I wanted to draw your attention to a few of the reasons why Fort Wayne, Indiana, should remain the home of the 122nd Air National Guard Fighter Wing.

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Mark Souder
Member of Congress

Fort Wayne, Indiana: The Ideal Community to Support Current and Future Needs of the Air National Guard

Northeast Indiana is an ideal location for the Department of Defense and the Indiana Air National Guard. Northeast Indiana and the Fort Wayne International Airport, home of the 122nd Fighter Wing (FW), provides mission critical and physical attributes that cannot be replicated anywhere else in the Midwest region of the United States. In addition to having the largest commercial runway in the State of Indiana, the City of Fort Wayne, Allen County and Fort Wayne International Airport have designated over 225 acres of land for use by the Indiana Air National Guard.

Physical Size and Capabilities Make It Attractive to Consolidate Future Missions: With over 3,400 acres of land, including 1,250 acres of undeveloped property, and the largest commercial runway in the State of Indiana at 12,000 feet, the Fort Wayne International Airport is an attractive location for the Air National Guard to consolidate like missions.

No Encroachment or Environmental Concerns: As the Airport continues to develop, the City, County and Airport Authority have reserved over 225 acres for the 122nd FW to ensure they have the land necessary to accommodate future mission capabilities and requirements.

Readily Available Range Complexes & Special Use Airspace for Training: The 122nd is fortunate to have a variety of special use airspace and range complexes nearby and readily available for training. There are four locations within the State of Indiana available for use by the Air National Guard, including: Hilltop MOA, 12 Mile MOA, Atterbury Range Complex and Jefferson Proving Grounds.

State of the Art Facilities: Thanks to the strong support from the Indiana Congressional Delegation over the last five years, the 122nd FW and the Airport have completed over \$50 million in construction for the following projects and new facilities:

- **New Air Traffic Control Tower (offers 24 hour services)**
- **New Parking Ramp and Taxiway**
- **New Fuel Cell and Corrosion Facility**
- **New Medical Training Facility**
- **New Dining Hall**
- **New Hanger for on-loading and off-loading equipment and munitions**
- **New Security Gate Entrance**
- **Realignment and Repair of Perimeter Base Roads Completed**

Commercially Viable Airport: The Airport is easily accessible to the U.S. and world markets, as it currently serves American, Continental, Delta, Northwest, and United Airlines. Daily commercial flights are offered to the following hub destinations: Atlanta, Chicago O'Hare, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dallas, and Detroit.

Strong Community Support and Recruitment: Northeast Indiana, the City of Fort Wayne and Allen County have a proud tradition of supporting the needs of our warfighters. At a time when the National Guard and the armed services are having difficulty attracting new recruits, the 122nd FW is currently manned at 104.2% man strength.