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May 19, 2005

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The Honorable Anthony Principi
Chairman, Base Realignment and Closure Commission
Attn: Christine Hill
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Secretary Principi:

I write to you today in support of General Mitchell Air Reserve Station and its 440th Airlift Wing and Fort McCoy and its 84th Army Reserve Regional Training Center, which are currently slated to be closed and realigned, respectively, through the Base Realignment and Closure process.

As you may have seen, the 440th Airlift Wing, dubbed the "Flying Badgers," has proven its military might often in recent missions to Honduras, Haiti, Somalia, Rwanda, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Kuwait, and several trips to Iraq. With over 1,100 reservists and 500 year-round employees, the 440th is a major military installation in Wisconsin. Additionally, since May 2003, over 200 Flying Badgers have been stationed in the Middle East flying support missions for Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

The members of the 440th also play a vital role in the greater Milwaukee Community. These troops and their families, not to mention all the reservists who spend frequent time at this air reserve station, are a major source of economic support for the Southside Milwaukee community and its surrounding suburbs. Moreover, the 440th is also a vital part of the response to full-scale fires and hazardous materials in its community.

It's easy to see the military value of the 440th Airlift Wing and her 1,100 Flying Badgers, and I strongly encourage you to visit the General Mitchell Air Reserve Station to see, first-hand, the role these brave men and women serve in their community. I'm confident that you will share the pride that I have in this unit and I'm hopeful that you and the other commissioners will opt not to realign the 440th but increase its mission.

Additionally, the 84th Army Reserve Regional Training Center at Fort McCoy has proved invaluable in recent years. Managed by the U.S. Army Reserve Command, this Regional Training Center has become a training site for all three components of the Army. With reserve units being activated for the War on Terrorism with little time to mobilize, it's vital that they have previously received the best training possible – the 84th Army Reserve Regional Training Center does just that.

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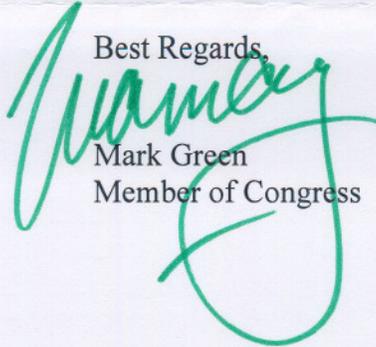
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While reports have varied as to whether the relocation of the 84th Army Reserve Regional Training Center and other actions at Fort McCoy will actually result in a reduction of jobs, I ask that you remove the 84th from the list of units to be relocated and allow it to continue its impressive service in Wisconsin. Surely, Fort McCoy's lengthy history of exemplary military service proves it should be strengthened and its mission increased. Just as with General Mitchell Air Reserve Station, I encourage you to visit Fort McCoy to see, first-hand, the amazing work being done by the men and women at the 84th Army Reserve Regional Training Center and Fort McCoy.

Thank you for taking the time to personally review my support for the 440th Airlift Wing and the 84th Army Reserve Regional Training Center. I look forward to your reply.

Best Regards,



Mark Green
Member of Congress

MAG:cb