

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 11, 2016

Honorable Deborah Lee James  
Secretary of the Air Force  
1670 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310-0101

General Mark Welsh  
Air Force Chief of Staff  
1670 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310-0101

Dear Secretary James and General Welsh,

We are extremely pleased with your recent announcement of both Robins and Moody Air Force Bases as possible candidates for the new MQ-9 Reaper Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Wing. Both installations and community partners are eager to help your teams as they assess each location. Upon review of the publically released grading criteria, our delegation feels both Robins and Moody will grade-out favorably.

We remain lock-step in our opposition to retiring the A-10 aircraft until a replacement becomes fully operational. If the schedule published in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Presidential Budget Force Structure Actions slide comes to fruition, Moody Air Force Base will start losing 24 A-10s and associated personnel in FY21. A loss of that magnitude will undoubtedly result in negative impacts across the surrounding communities.

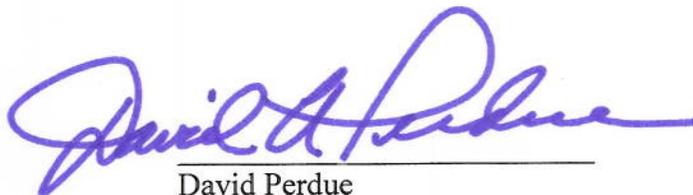
It is our understanding that the Air Force is currently assessing bases for the Battlefield Airman Consolidation initiative. With Moody already having a significant presence of battlefield Airmen in the 93<sup>rd</sup> Air Ground Operations Wing, it would be an ideal location for this consolidation effort.

Lastly, even though Georgia has yet to be considered for F-35 Joint Strike Fighter basing, please know we would be honored to serve as a home for the fifth-generation fighter and its Airmen. We have signed on to a bipartisan effort to add 11 Joint Strike Fighters to the FY17 Presidential Budget request. We must remain ahead of our adversaries as they strive to rapidly develop and proliferate their own versions of advanced stealth fighter aircraft and weapons systems. Maintaining air dominance through the mid-2020s and beyond is non-negotiable for our national security objectives.

Sincerely,



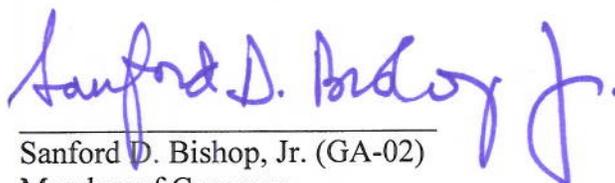
Johnny Isakson  
United States Senator



David Perdue  
United States Senator



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter (GA-01)  
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. (GA-02)  
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson (GA-04)  
Member of Congress



Austin Scott (GA-08)  
Member of Congress



Tom Graves (GA-14)  
Member of Congress