

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 2062

Whereas, the F-35A Lightning II is the Air Force's newest generation fighter that represents an enduring, long-term mission for the Air Force; and

Whereas, the United States Air Force announced in April 2016 it will be considering where to locate its first Air Force Reserve F-35A Lightning II mission; and

Whereas, the Air Force announced it will consider four locations — Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona; Homestead Air Reserve Base, Florida; Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, Fort Worth, Texas; and Whiteman AFB, Missouri — as candidates to host the Air Force Reserve F-35A; and

Whereas, the Air Force expects to select the preferred and reasonable alternatives in the Fall of 2016 with aircraft slated to begin arriving at the first location by the summer of 2023; and

Whereas, the 442nd Air Force Reserve Fighter Wing currently operates the A-10 close air support fighter aircraft and has served numerous deployments with the utmost distinction and dedication; and

Whereas, 2023 is when the Air Force Reserve is planning to first operate the F-35 which extends well beyond the planned mission conversion from the currently operated A-10 Thunderbolt; and

Whereas, the State of Missouri is committed to ensuring that the incredible men and women of the 442nd Air Force Reserve Fighter Wing have an enduring mission; and

Whereas, the State of Missouri has shown its resolve and commitment to support the military's missions and personnel, having passed a series of military family support initiatives, personnel benefits and infrastructure improvements to support mission operations; and

Whereas, Missouri's Congressional Delegation are well positioned and work together effectively in bipartisan unison with the General Assembly on initiatives aimed at supporting the Department of Defense in the State of Missouri; and

Whereas, Whiteman Air Force Base has the capacity, low operating costs, lack of encroachment and would best support the execution of the F-35 mission; and

Whereas, Whiteman Air Force Base has access to unencumbered airspace, more than sufficient runway length, ramp space and future installation expansion capacity; and

Whereas, Whiteman Air Force Base's resident expertise in stealth technology and operations associated with the B-2 Stealth Bomber would create beneficial and unmatched synergies with the F-35

stealth fighter being located at Whiteman Air Force Base; and

Whereas, the State of Missouri and the surrounding Whiteman Air Force Base communities will remain supportive partners and committed to helping the Air Force assess Whiteman Air Force Base's strengths throughout this selection process; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-eighth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, hereby urge the United States Air Force to consider strongly all of the benefits of basing and operating the F-35A Lightning II at the 442nd Air Force Reserve Fighter Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base ; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Secretary of the Missouri Senate be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force and Chief of the Air Force Reserve.

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