

United States Senate

March 10, 2015

The Honorable Deborah L. James
Secretary of the Air Force
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1670

Dear Secretary James:

I am writing to express my support for Joint-Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ (JBMDL) in hosting the KC-46A tanker. If selected as a KC-46A Air National Guard Main Operating Base (MOB), JBMDL will provide the Air Force with premier aerial refueling and strategic transportation services, and bring jobs and economic opportunity to JBMDL and the State of New Jersey.

As you know, the Air Force selected Boeing KC-46A the winner of the KC-X tanker competition, to replace some of the older KC-135s. This competition produced nine active duty and Air National Guard candidate bases to host the first KC-46As, one of which is JBMDL.

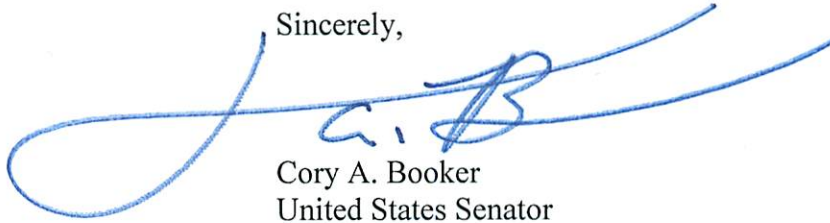
I understand the Air Force favors bases that have operational and training infrastructure already in place, such as flight simulators and other aircraft related supplies. To this end, JBMDL offers a unique array of facilities, capabilities, and personnel that make it an ideal KC-46A MOB. JBMDL is home to both active Air Force and Air National Guard units responsible for aerial refueling and strategic transportation. The 108th Wing (National Guard) and 305th Air Mobility Wing (Active) maintain 9 KC-135s and 32 KC-10s, respectively. These units have provided aerial refueling support to Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps aircraft in addition to aircraft of allied nations.

JBMDL is unique as the only military installation in the Middle Atlantic Region with the capability to provide combat training and deployment. In addition to training its own units, JBMDL also provides pre-deployment training for air-units from other bases. Furthermore, JBMDL is among the largest strategic aerial ports, supporting delivery of cargo to combat theaters around the world.

Additionally, JBMDL is the nation's only tri-service military base, the largest military installation in New Jersey, and it is home to the second largest workforce in the state of New Jersey. JBMDL has experienced, proven, and time-tested aerial refueling professionals that provide Rapid Global Mobility and help extend America's global reach. I am confident the Air Force and the nation will be well served if Joint-Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst is selected as a KC-46A Main Operating Base and receives the first KC-46As.

I urge you give this request your full consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (973) 639-8700 to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. A. B.', is written over the word 'Sincerely,'. The signature is stylized and fluid.

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

CC: General Mark A. Welsh III, Air Force Chief of Staff