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UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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The Honorable Ash Carter  
Secretary of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
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Dear Mr. Secretary,

On behalf of Arizona's 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional district, I invite you to visit Davis-Monthan (D-M) Air Force Base and Fort Huachuca, two of our nation's national security treasures, as soon as your schedule allows. Southern Arizona offers a premier training environment, state-of-the-art network capabilities, streamlined test and evaluation facilities, and the ability to meet combatant commander requirements at a moment's notice. Seeing these facilities first-hand is the best way to gain a full understanding of Southern Arizona's critical importance to our military and the value of its one-of-a-kind attributes.

Located in Tucson, AZ, D-M is a national security asset that leverages Southern Arizona's unique geography, topography, and climate to support the Air Force's Close Air Support, Combat Search and Rescue, Command and Control (C2), and Electronic Attack missions. I commanded the 354th Fighter Squadron at D-M and know from personal experience how Southern Arizona's unique terrain, weather, airspace, ranges, and proximity to other military installations ensures Airmen are ready to fly, fight and win when called to deploy. Southern Arizona features thousands of square miles of high- and low-altitude military airspace and close proximity to the Barry M. Goldwater training ranges, where pilots can conduct realistic training with inert and live munitions at seven expansive and sophisticated ranges.

D-M benefits from over 300 days of sunshine each year which allows our pilots to train in high and low altitude during day or night. These conditions make D-M one of the best bases in the country for tactical air-to-ground strike training which is why it is home to over 80 A-10s and hosts dozens of visiting tactical aircraft from all over the nation and world. The dry climate, altitude, and hard alkali soil also allow Tucson to host the "boneyard," the world's largest aircraft storage facility. These characteristics are inherent to Southern Arizona and cannot be replicated.

In 2012, D-M won the Commander-In-Chief's (CINC) Annual Award for Installation Excellence, which recognizes the ongoing commitment to the airmen and their families at D-M. D-M was named the top installation in Air Combat Command for 2016.

The same Southern Arizona attributes that make D-M well suited to its missions also provide Fort Huachuca with unparalleled advantages. Huachuca is located in Sierra Vista, about 15 miles north of the border with Mexico. It is a vital national security treasure that one would be remiss to overlook. Fort Huachuca is home to the Army's Electronic Proving Ground (EPG) which provides vast, isolated electronic ranges with no spectrum encroachment or foreign surveillance for both controlled conditional testing and mission critical training. The Fort is the only U.S. location where aggressive electronic warfare testing can be conducted, and is the only test range protected by coordinated state efforts and a federal mandate.

The Fort is also home to Libby Army Airfield which has access to 964 square miles of restricted airspace from ground level to 30,000 feet, and is the fifth busiest Army Airfield in the country. This restricted airspace provides the only C-130 high altitude certification location in the country, the only high elevation dirt assault airstrip, and four high-altitude drop zones ideal for Special Operations Forces training. The Fort, D-M, and the AZ Air National Guard team together to provide synergies for manned aircraft and Unmanned Aerial System training using Libby. I could not have readied my A-10 squadron without training available at Libby. Once you see it first-hand, I am sure you will consider it a model for leveraging future joint and total force synergies.

Our military must be prepared to confront sophisticated adversaries and operate in 21<sup>st</sup> century battlegrounds, such as in cyberspace. Fort Huachuca is prepared for this task and, as the home of the Joint Interoperability Test Command (JITC), it provides critical, high-end capabilities and technology to the warfighter. The Fort also hosts the Network Enterprise Command, which defends Army computer systems, and the Army's Information Systems Engineering Command, which integrates information systems for the Army. Because JITC is co-located with the EPG and the Army's Intelligence Center of Excellence at Fort Huachuca, DOD enjoys major cost and time savings, and Huachuca's soldiers and civilians are able to provide strong communication links and networked intelligence for our military and our allies. The Fort is poised to grow, add new missions, test new technologies, and support our future military needs. All of the missions at the Fort are critical asymmetric capabilities that will be required for the full spectrum of combat operations our troops may be called to in the future.

In the effort to improve interagency synergy, Fort Huachuca boasts a strong working relationship with other federal agency partners, such as Customs and Border Protection (CBP). The Fort provides CBP with intelligence training including combat tracking and source operations, and the airfield provides training for CBP Unmanned Aerial Systems. The Fort's interagency efforts are poised to grow by expanding intelligence training to include tactical battlefield intelligence, improving CBP search and rescue capabilities, and assisting CBP with testing and training with signals intelligence assets. DM is also a strong example of interagency partnerships with co-location of CBP ground and air assets.

Both D-M and Fort Huachuca are engaged in the fight against ISIS, the European Reassurance Initiative, and the re-balance to the Pacific. In 2015, D-M completed its largest deployment since World War II by sending the 354<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron to Europe to support our allies in the face of Russian aggression, and has deployed Airmen from every active duty unit on base in support of operations worldwide. A-10s are currently deployed in the Middle East, Europe, and South

Korea and all the pilots were trained here. D-M also hosts the EC-130H Compass Call, which is continuously requested by combatant commanders for its airborne electronic attack capabilities.

Southern Arizona is home to some of the finest national security assets in the nation, and I invite you to visit Arizona's 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District and see its one-of-a-kind attributes first-hand. We look forward to hosting you as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Martha McSally  
Member of Congress