

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 10, 2009

The Honorable Michael B. Donley
Secretary of the Air Force
1670 Airforce Pentagon
Rm 4E878
Washington, D.C. 20330

Dear Secretary Donley:

We are writing in strong support of standing up a Numbered Air Force for cyber operations at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois.

For over 75 years, Scott AFB has played an important role in our nation's defense. One unique feature of Scott is that it exemplifies the Department of Defense plan to create a "Future Total Force," by pulling together all branches of the military and active duty, Reserve and Guard units. It is home to the U.S. Transportation Command (TRANSCOM), Air Mobility Command, the 18th Air Force, the Army Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC), an Air Force Logistics Support Center, the Air Force Communications Agency, the 375th Airlift Wing, the 932nd Airlift Wing (Reserve) and the 126th Refueling Wing (Guard). Everything that moves in the military is coordinated and tracked from Scott. It is truly a global hub.

As a result, the synergies that would be created by adding the Cyber Command to Scott AFB are endless. On base and within the St. Louis metropolitan area, we have the scientific and technical expertise needed in the Cyber Command workforce. In addition, because of the already strong command presence, the security and force protection exceed Air Force standards and guidelines and are well suited to support Cyber Command requirements and high-speed network capacity. Further, Scott's location allows aircraft to reach any CONUS location in under 4 hours flight time allowing for efficient and secure movement of personnel and senior leaders. Finally, Scott has the space to grow and accept the assets.

The 14,000-plus men and women of Scott AFB are also an integral part of our communities and enrich life in the Metro East. Because of this strong presence, we have one of the most active community relations organizations in the nation. The Belle-Scott Committee was implemented in January of 1951. This committee offers a direct means for the local communities and the base to work together to promote matters of mutual interest, including the promotion and encouragement of participation in religious and educational programs, housing opportunities, and other projects of interest between the base and the communities. For example, the committee created a job shadowing program for enlisted personnel and promoted and worked towards the development of a historic Air/Park Museum.

Another important aspect is the quality of our schools and education system. Over 20 public school districts and many private school districts serve our military children, including Mascoutah District for those children living on base. There are many unique issues for military children, especially when transitioning to and from new schools, and our school districts excel in meeting those challenges. Many of our schools are top ranked public schools at the state and national level.

Again, we strongly support and urge you to locate Cyber Command at Scott AFB and stand ready to work with you on this endeavor. We are happy to coordinate a base visit for you at the appropriate time.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

<u>Rich Hill</u>	<u>Jimmy P. Costello</u>
<u>Donna Korman</u>	<u>JL BR II-19</u>
<u>Don Starks</u>	<u>Donald M. Mulla</u>
<u>Paul Gray</u>	<u>David Trimini</u>
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