

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 6, 2009

General Norton Schwartz
Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330

Dear General Schwartz:

We write to express our strong support for the basing of the Air Education and Training Command's new cyber training programs at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas. As the Air Force prepares to train the warriors of the future, Sheppard should remain at the cutting edge of this effort. In addition, we ask you to fully consider the potential for the Air Force to expand the set of missions currently conducted at Sheppard.

Sheppard AFB has a long and distinguished history of service to our nation and our Air Force. At the forefront of Air Force training for over 60 years, Sheppard has prepared hundreds of thousands of airmen to serve in our national defense. Locating the proposed cyber training courses at Sheppard would serve to strengthen this already outstanding legacy.

The imminent departure of Air Force medical training courses currently located at Sheppard presents a golden opportunity: the training facility that is being vacated is well suited to house the new cyber training programs. This high-quality building offers substantial classroom facilities, auditoriums, ample space for a server farm, and sizeable room for growth – making it an ideal home for the cyber training program.

The Sheppard Military Affairs Committee, the surrounding communities, and Wichita County have demonstrated a remarkable level of commitment to the Air Force and to the future of Sheppard by generously offering to offset construction costs and other expenses that would be incurred in converting the facility for cyber training. While many communities support our nation's military personnel and installations, the level of support and commitment demonstrated by the residents of North Texas is truly extraordinary.

We urge you to consider Sheppard's significant advantages when deciding where to locate the new cyber training program and, in the future, where to base new missions or relocate existing missions.

As you move forward with this basing decision, we request that you keep us fully informed of the process. We look forward to hearing from you at the earliest opportunity and working with you to ensure that our airmen receive the finest training in the world.

Thank you for your service to our nation, your continued leadership of the Air Force, and your tireless dedication to our airmen and their families.

Sincerely,


KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON
United States Senator


JOHN CORNYN
United States Senator


MAC THORBERRY
Member of Congress