

**Air Force Statement on ANG response to Senator Chambliss' letter
(Attributable to Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley)**

“We assessed the F-22 by taking into account competing strategic priorities and complementary programs within the context of available resources. After carefully considering a full range of views and alternatives, we recommended to Secretary Gates that other priority Air Force programs should not be reduced in order to fund additional F-22s beyond the program of record.

“The Air National Guard is charged with providing homeland aerial defense for the nation, making them primarily responsible for executing the Air Sovereignty Alert mission. Their role in the total fight is important and through several total force integration initiatives, both the Guard and Reserve will be integrated into the F-22 total force missions. Today, there are ANG and AFRC personnel in the F-22 Flight Training Unit at Tyndall AFB, Fla., and an ANG classic association at Langley AFB, Va. In addition, we are currently executing a Reserve association at Holloman AFB, N.M., and we are building a Reserve association at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska. The Air Force continues to work with U.S. Northern Command to ensure the Air Sovereignty Alert mission requirements are met.”