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BRAC Commission



WILLIAMS
GATEWAY
AIRPORT
MESA, ARIZONA

AUG 17 2005

Received

August 17, 2005

Mr. Anthony J. Principi, Commission Chairman
2005 Defense Base Closure
and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark Street Suite 600
Arlington VA 22202

Dear Commissioner Principi:

Williams Gateway Airport has a wonderful working relationship with the Air Force Research Laboratory here in Mesa, Arizona. Both the Airport and the Research Laboratory were carved out of the former Williams Air Force Base. In the 12 years since the closure of Williams Air Force Base, the Airport, the Laboratory, and Arizona State University at the Polytechnic Campus (also created out of the closed Air Force base) have prospered, each winning numerous awards, and together creating hundreds of millions of dollars of economic activity and hundreds of highly skilled technical jobs. This synergy is critical to the continuing success of all three entities.

The Air Force Research Laboratory Warfighter Training Research Division should remain in place in Mesa, Arizona, and I urge the Base Closure and Realignment Commission to remove it from the closure list.

The Williams Gateway Airport Authority Board of Directors and the Mesa City Council have passed resolutions of support for the Laboratory, both of which are enclosed. Those resolutions reference the existing collaborative work being accomplished here in Arizona and they point out that relocation of the Laboratory to Ohio or any other location will require at least \$50 million of new construction, easily negating any cost savings identified in the Department of Defense closure recommendation.

In the event that the Commission agrees with the Department of Defense recommendation to close the Laboratory and relocate its function, I urge the Commission to consider a privatization in place, allowing for enhanced collaboration between the Laboratory, ASU, Williams Gateway Airport, and the other private and not-for-profit entities already heavily engaged with the Laboratory here in Arizona. This creative option would preclude the degradation of the critical training research work thus far so brilliantly advanced.



Anthony J. Principi
August 17, 2005
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Please give the Air Force Research Laboratory every opportunity to continue its award-winning efforts by removing it from the closure list, or alternatively, considering an enhanced collaborative relationship with ASU at the Polytechnic Campus.

Very truly yours,

Mr. Lynn F. Kusy, C.M., C.A.E.
Executive Director

Enclosures: *City of Mesa Resolution Number 8521*
WGAA Resolution No. 05-27 (with backup material)

5635 South Sossamon Road
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WILLIAMS
GATEWAY
AIRPORT
MESA, ARIZONA



August 17, 2005

The Honorable James H. Bilbray, Member
2005 Defense Base Closure
and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark Street Suite 600
Arlington VA 22202

Dear Commissioner Bilbray:

Williams Gateway Airport has a wonderful working relationship with the Air Force Research Laboratory here in Mesa, Arizona. Both the Airport and the Research Laboratory were carved out of the former Williams Air Force Base. In the 12 years since the closure of Williams Air Force Base, the Airport, the Laboratory, and Arizona State University at the Polytechnic Campus (also created out of the closed Air Force base) have prospered, each winning numerous awards, and together creating hundreds of millions of dollars of economic activity and hundreds of highly skilled technical jobs. This synergy is critical to the continuing success of all three entities.

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James H. Bilbray
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Mr. Lynn F. Kusy, C.M., C.A.E.
Executive Director

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WILLIAMS
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MESA, ARIZONA



August 17, 2005

The Honorable Philip Coyle, Member
2005 Defense Base Closure
and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark Street Suite 600
Arlington VA 22202

Dear Commissioner Coyle:

Williams Gateway Airport has a wonderful working relationship with the Air Force Research Laboratory here in Mesa, Arizona. Both the Airport and the Research Laboratory were carved out of the former Williams Air Force Base. In the 12 years since the closure of Williams Air Force Base, the Airport, the Laboratory, and Arizona State University at the Polytechnic Campus (also created out of the closed Air Force base) have prospered, each winning numerous awards, and together creating hundreds of millions of dollars of economic activity and hundreds of highly skilled technical jobs. This synergy is critical to the continuing success of all three entities.

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Philip Coyle
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Executive Director

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WGAA Resolution No. 05-27 (with backup material)

5035 South Bossman Road
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WILLIAMS
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August 17, 2005

Admiral Harold W. Gehman, Jr., Member
2005 Defense Base Closure
and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark Street Suite 600
Arlington VA 22202

Dear Commissioner Gehman:

Williams Gateway Airport has a wonderful working relationship with the Air Force Research Laboratory here in Mesa, Arizona. Both the Airport and the Research Laboratory were carved out of the former Williams Air Force Base. In the 12 years since the closure of Williams Air Force Base, the Airport, the Laboratory, and Arizona State University at the Polytechnic Campus (also created out of the closed Air Force base) have prospered, each winning numerous awards, and together creating hundreds of millions of dollars of economic activity and hundreds of highly skilled technical jobs. This synergy is critical to the continuing success of all three entities.

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WILLIAMS
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August 17, 2005

The Honorable James V. Hansen, Member
2005 Defense Base Closure
and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark Street Suite 600
Arlington VA 22202

Dear Commissioner Hansen:

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General James T. Hill, Member
2005 Defense Base Closure
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2521 S. Clark Street Suite 600
Arlington VA 22202

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**WILLIAMS
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MESA, ARIZONA



August 17, 2005

General Lloyd W. Newton, Member
2005 Defense Base Closure
and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark Street Suite 600
Arlington VA 22202

Dear Commissioner Newton:

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General Lloyd W. Newton
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August 17, 2005

Mr. Samuel Knox Skinner, Member
2005 Defense Base Closure
and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark Street Suite 600
Arlington VA 22202

Dear Commissioner Skinner:

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Samuel Knox Skinner
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Brig. Gen. Sue E. Turner, Member
2005 Defense Base Closure
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2521 S. Clark Street Suite 600
Arlington VA 22202

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