

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 8, 2012

General Raymond E. Johns
Commander, Air Mobility Command
HQ AMC/CC
402 Scott Dr Unit 3EC
Scott Air Force Base, Illinois 62225

Dear General Johns,

We write today in strong support of placing an active associate unit with the 139th Airlift Wing in St. Joseph, Missouri. As you are well aware, the 139th has an outstanding record of providing critical airlift support to our warfighters. The 139th is an asset to Air Mobility Command, and the addition of an active associate unit would enhance the capability of this valuable airlift wing.

The 139th has clear advantages for incorporating an active associate unit at Rosecrans Air National Guard Base. In addition to the main runway, Rosecrans has both a drop zone and an assault zone located on site. This enables air crews to complete critical training missions without having to spend time and costly fuel flying far from the base.

Rosecrans is also home to the Advanced Airlift Tactics Training Center (AATTC). This school trains airlift air crews from the Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, active duty Air Force, and allied nations in the latest combat flying tactics. Active duty personnel assigned to an active associate unit at Rosecrans would gain valuable knowledge and skills through being co-located with the staff of the AATTC.

Active duty personnel would also benefit from joining the community that hosts the 139th Airlift Wing. The people of St. Joseph, Missouri, are second-to-none in their support for our nation's Armed Forces, and would welcome the arrival of active duty airmen and their families. In addition, St. Joseph is located a short distance from the recreational and entertainment opportunities offered by the Kansas City area, including professional sports teams, museums, and award-winning barbeque.

The addition of an active associate unit to the 139th Airlift Wing would benefit the unit, the airmen, and the mission of Air Mobility Command. We believe the 139th is an exceptionally strong candidate to receive this mission, and stand ready to provide whatever additional information or assistance you may require as you make a final decision. Thank you for your consideration and your continued dedication to our nation's security.

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill
United States Senator



Roy Blunt
United States Senator