

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 1, 2016

The Honorable Deborah Lee James  
Secretary of the Air Force  
1670 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20330-1670

Dear Secretary James:

As members of Ohio's Congressional delegation, we request that the 180<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing (180<sup>th</sup> FW) in Toledo, Ohio, be the next assignment for the F-35A mission. The strategic advantages of the 180<sup>th</sup> FW, in addition to the support from the State of Ohio, the City of Toledo and surrounding communities, and the 180<sup>th</sup> FW's record of accomplishments make it the best choice for the F-35A mission. Once you compare the 180<sup>th</sup> FW with all other basing alternatives, we are confident that Toledo and the 180<sup>th</sup> FW will serve as a superb, cost-effective choice.

The 180<sup>th</sup> FW's strategic location in the northern Midwest places it within 600 miles of 60 percent of the U.S. population. Accordingly, since October 2008 the 180<sup>th</sup> FW has been charged with the 24/7/365 Aerospace Control Alert (ACA) mission protecting skies over major metropolitan areas, railway transportation hubs, nuclear power plants, freshwater ports and shipping lanes, and has done so with distinction. The 180<sup>th</sup> FW has unique access to airspace and ranges in both Michigan and Indiana that allow the wing to find favorable weather necessary to maintain training requirements and these ranges already meet the training requirements for the F-35A.

The airmen of the 180<sup>th</sup> FW have consistently served our country with distinction both at home and abroad. Furthermore, the 180<sup>th</sup> FW has been tasked with protecting some of the country's most critical infrastructure, and also has deployed overseas multiple times in support of wartime contingency operations with coalition partners. To support these missions, the 180<sup>th</sup> FW regularly participates in Close Air Support training exercises at Alpena, Michigan, contributing to their reputation as a Center of Excellence. Additionally, the 180<sup>th</sup> FW was named ACA Unit of the Year twice, received an Outstanding Unit award in 2015, and was called the "benchmark operation" by the North American Aerospace Defense Command Region Commander. The 180<sup>th</sup> FW is slated to become an Active Associate Wing of the Air Force in 2018, further enhancing its strategic value to the Total Force.

The people of Ohio support our military and are proud to be family, friends, and neighbors of the dedicated men and women of the 180<sup>th</sup> FW. The Ohio Air National Guard and the 180<sup>th</sup> FW in particular have taken great steps in achieving cost effectiveness and mission readiness. We stand ready to assist you in the selection process for the F-35A, and believe that the Ohio Air National Guard and the 180<sup>th</sup> FW will best meet the needs of the mission.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



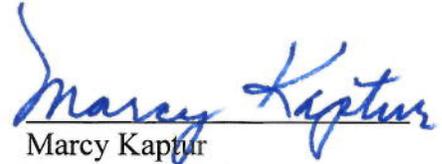
Rob Portman  
United States Senator



Robert E. Latta  
Member of Congress



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress



**Ohio Senate**  
Statehouse  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

April 26, 2016

The Honorable Deborah Lee James  
Secretary of the Air Force  
1670 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20330-1670

Dear Secretary James:

As members of the Ohio Senate, we encourage you to select the 180<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing (180<sup>th</sup>) in Toledo, Ohio as the next assignment for the F-35A mission.

The men and women of the 180<sup>th</sup> have consistently served Ohio and our nation with distinction. They have been tasked with protecting critical infrastructure, deployed multiple times overseas, and work closely with our local communities.

The 180<sup>th</sup> is based in a strategic location to protect not only 60 percent of the U.S. population, but significant centers of industry as well. Since 2008, the 180<sup>th</sup> has had the responsibility of carrying out the 24/7/365 Aerospace Control Alert mission. This mission protects the skies over major metropolitan areas, railway transportation hubs, nuclear power plants, and freshwater ports and shipping lanes, all of which are critical to the development and growth of jobs and the U.S. economy.

The 180<sup>th</sup> also has a significant impact on the economy in northwest Ohio. The nearly 1,100 men and women of the unit contribute more than \$100M annually to our economy. There is strong support in the community, from residents and businesses alike, for the airmen of the 180<sup>th</sup> and their mission.

There are ongoing efforts to increase the collaboration with the surrounding communities and further increase the base's operating efficiency. The 180<sup>th</sup> has been a leader in developing public-public, public-private (P4) partnerships to identify new partnerships and efficiencies that will continue to improve the cost-effectiveness of the base.

The 180<sup>th</sup> is often recognized as among, if not the best, for their efficiency, readiness and performance. We are proud of the work that they perform on our behalf and believe that the Ohio Air National Guard and the 180<sup>th</sup> will best meet the needs of the F-35A mission.

Thank you for your consideration.

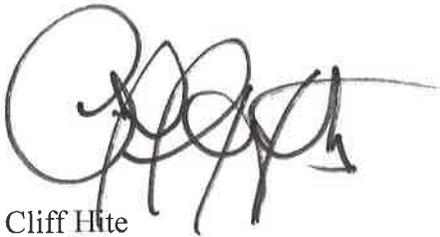
Sincerely,



Keith Faber  
Senate President  
12th Senate District



Randy Gardner  
State Senator  
2nd Senate District



Cliff Hite  
State Senator  
1<sup>st</sup> Senate District



Edna Brown  
State Senator  
11<sup>th</sup> Senate District



## 131<sup>st</sup> General Assembly Ohio House of Representatives

May 18, 2016

The Honorable Deborah Lee James  
Secretary of the Air Force  
1670 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20330-1670

Dear Secretary James:

As members of the Ohio House of Representatives, we applaud the recent announcement by the Air Force to choose two Air National Guard bases as hosts of F-35A missions, and we greatly appreciate your consideration of the 180<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing (180<sup>th</sup>) in Toledo, Ohio as a candidate. We are confident the 180<sup>th</sup> will prove to be best equipped to service the mission requirements, providing concrete qualities such as unwavering community support, infrastructure, and experience.

The citizens of our great state, especially the Toledo community, are proud to support our courageous Airmen who continue to excel at the nation's top priority, the 24/7/365 Aerospace Control Alert mission under the command of North America Aerospace Defense Command. The team has earned the highest possible "Mission Ready" NORAD Command inspection grade and the 180<sup>th</sup> Airmen are prepared to provide the same level of commitment and excellence to the F-35A mission. Eager to further provide for America, the fighter wing's infrastructure was tactically designed to support future missions with little to no construction; however, land is available for expansion, if needed.

The 180<sup>th</sup> is strategically located within 600 miles of 60 percent of the U.S. population and near significant centers of industry including an extensive interstate highway system, railway transportation hubs, nuclear power plants, and one of the largest seaports on the Great Lakes - all of which are vital to our economy and national security. This northern Midwest location also offers the 180<sup>th</sup> unique access to airspace and gunnery ranges in both Michigan and Indiana, in addition to Ohio, making it easy to access favorable weather and accommodate training requirements essential to the F-35A mission.

The men and women of the 180<sup>th</sup> have consistently served Ohio and our nation with distinction. In fact, the 180<sup>th</sup> is fortunate to employ many Airmen that were born and raised in Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan communities. The nearly 1,100 men and women of the unit contribute well over \$120 million annually to our economy. This cultivates a unique bond between the community and the base, allowing the 180<sup>th</sup> to provide sustainability, longevity, and a stable environment for not only the Airmen, but for the F-35A mission.

The 180<sup>th</sup> is engrained in their community because they know they are only as strong as the community that supports them. They stay to raise families and volunteer to help their neighbors by cooking meals for those struggling, or even by shaving their head to donate to Locks of Love when a local boy was diagnosed with stage three kidney cancer.

The well-being of their community is important so the 180<sup>th</sup> operates current F-16 missions with higher standards than what is set in law in order to protect human health and the environment while remaining ready to provide rapid and efficient response to threats. The 180<sup>th</sup> has successfully implemented sustainable energy projects to reduce their environmental footprint which, in turn, has saved taxpayers millions of dollars. Furthermore, the fighter wing has been a leader in developing public-public, public-private (P4) partnerships to identify new partnerships and efficiencies that will continue to improve the cost-effectiveness of the base.

As we prepare for a world of uncertainty, a joint and integrated military force is essential for America's continued success. The 180<sup>th</sup> is consistently recognized as one of the best wings in the nation in terms of efficiency, readiness and performance. We are proud of the work that they perform on our behalf and believe that the Ohio Air National Guard and the 180<sup>th</sup> will best meet the needs of the F-35A mission.

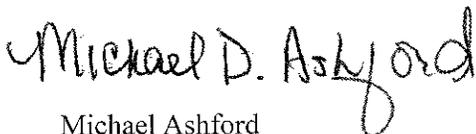
Respectfully,



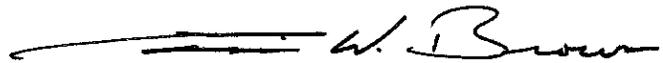
Clifford A. Rosenberger  
Speaker, Ohio House of Representatives



Barbara Sears  
State Representative, District 47



Michael Ashford  
State Representative, District 44



Tim Brown  
State Representative, District 03



Teresa Fedor  
State Representative, District 45



Rob McColley  
State Representative, District 81



Rick Perales  
State Representative, District 73



Michael Sheehy  
State Representative, District 46

March 1, 2016

The Honorable Deborah Lee James  
Secretary of the Air Force  
1670 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20330-1670

Dear Secretary James:

As the mayors of the communities in Northwest Ohio from which many of the 1,100 men and women of the 180<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing (180<sup>th</sup>) reside, we encourage you to select the 180<sup>th</sup> as the next assignment for the F-35A mission.

The residents of Northwest Ohio take tremendous pride in the service that the men and women of the 180<sup>th</sup> provide. Not only do they stand guard 24/7/365 to ensure that our skies are safe, they provide countless hours of volunteer service in our communities.

Examples of the work that the 180<sup>th</sup> has provided in our communities include:

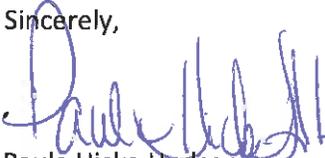
- more than 400 units of blood donated to the American Red Cross;
- more than \$50,000 in cash and 15,000 pounds of goods donated to the Toledo Seagate Food Bank; and
- countless volunteer hours with organizations like the Boys Scouts of America, Cherry Street Mission, The Sparrows Nest, Ronald McDonald House, the Brown Bag Initiative, school reading programs, coaching our youth, and the *I Believe I can Fly* 5k run/walk.

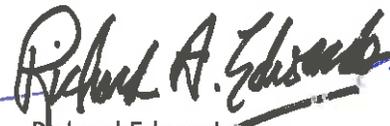
Our communities and business leaders are working with the 180<sup>th</sup> to foster additional partnerships through the Public-Public, Public-Private Partnership program, or P4. These new partnerships will only strengthen the bond between us and continue to identify cost-savings for both our communities and the 180<sup>th</sup>.

We are fortunate that the 180<sup>th</sup> is such an integral part of our communities and we would not be the same without them. It only seems appropriate that the latest aircraft should be flown and maintained by the best that our communities have to offer.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Paula Hicks-Hudson  
Mayor, City of Toledo

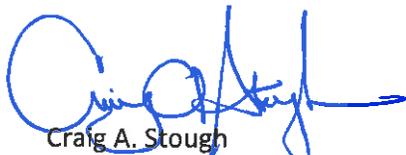
  
Richard Edwards  
Mayor, City of Bowling Green

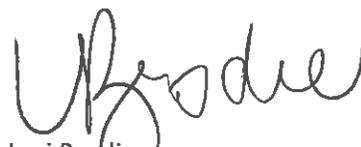
  
Richard H. Carr  
Mayor, City of Maumee

  
Mike Seferian  
Mayor, City of Oregon

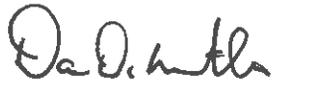
  
Michael Olmstead  
Mayor, City of Perrysburg

  
Neil A. MacKinnon III  
Mayor, City of Rossford

  
Craig A. Stough  
Mayor, City of Sylvania

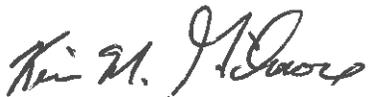
  
Lori Brodie  
Mayor, City of Waterville

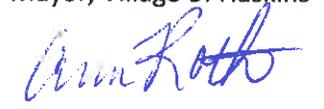
  
Kathy Huner  
Mayor, City of Wauseon

  
Dan D. Miller  
Mayor, Village of Delta

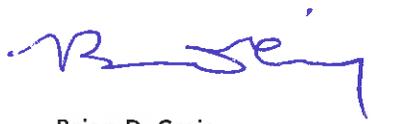
  
Bradley Heft  
Mayor, Village of Haskins

  
Mike Yunker  
Mayor, Village of Holland

  
Kevin Gilmore  
Mayor, Village of Ottawa Hills

  
Ann Roth  
Mayor, Village of Swanton

  
Donald L. Atkinson  
Mayor, Village of Whitehouse

  
Brian D. Craig  
Trustee, Monclova Township

February 16, 2016

The Honorable Deborah Lee James  
Secretary of the Air Force  
1670 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20330-1670

Dear Secretary James:

As the lead economic development organizations in Northwest Ohio, we write in support of the 180<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing (180<sup>th</sup>) in Toledo, Ohio being the next assignment for the F-35A mission.

The residents and businesses of Northwest Ohio strongly support the dedicated men and women of the 180<sup>th</sup>. Local businesses have long been a partner with the 180<sup>th</sup> to enhance the facilities, such as the development of the solar field which has reduced the base's electricity cost by nearly 50 percent. The business community is supportive and actively participating in the initiative to develop public-public, public-private (P4) partnerships with the 180<sup>th</sup> to identify new partnerships and efficiencies that will continue to improve the cost-effectiveness of the base.

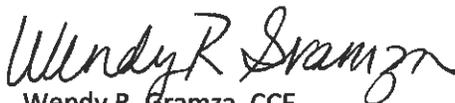
The 180<sup>th</sup> is based in a strategic location to protect not only 60 percent of the U.S. population, but significant centers of industry as well. Since 2008, the 180<sup>th</sup> has had the responsibility of carrying out the 24/7/365 Aerospace Control Alert mission. This mission protects the skies over major metropolitan areas, railway transportation hubs, nuclear power plants, and freshwater ports and shipping lanes, all of which are critical to the development and growth of jobs and the U.S. economy.

The 180<sup>th</sup> also has a significant impact on our local economy as one of the largest employers in the region. The nearly 1,100 men and women of the unit contribute more than \$100M annually to our economy.

The 180<sup>th</sup> is often recognized as among, if not the best for their efficiency, readiness and performance. It only seems appropriate that the latest aircraft should be flown and maintained by the best.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Wendy R. Gramza, CCE  
President  
Toledo Regional Chamber  
of Commerce



Paul Toth  
President  
Toledo/Lucas County  
Port Authority



Dean Monske  
President  
Regional Growth Partnership



Board of County  
Commissioners  
Tina Skeldon Wozniak  
*President*  
Pete Gerken  
Carol Contrada

June 2, 2016

The Honorable Deborah Lee James  
Secretary of the Air Force  
1670 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, DC 2033-1670

Dear Secretary James:

The Board of Lucas County Commissioners strongly encourages your consideration in selecting the 180<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing (180<sup>th</sup> FW) in Toledo, Ohio as the next assignment for the F-35A mission. The citizens of Lucas County fervently support the men and women of the 180<sup>th</sup> and applaud their valor in service to the United States throughout the year. We hope this mission ensures a strong presence in Toledo, Ohio for the 180<sup>th</sup> for many years to come.

The 180<sup>th</sup> is located within 600 miles of 60 percent of the US population, and in proximity to significant centers of industry, infrastructure, railway and transportation hubs, power plants, and the Great Lakes, which is a strategically critical position for such a deployment. We are confident that the current facility is optimally equipped to service the requirements of this mission.

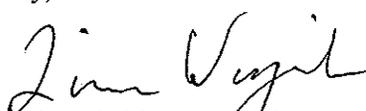
Since 2008, the 180<sup>th</sup> has had the immense responsibility of carrying out the 24/7/365 Aerospace Control Alert mission, which protects the skies over major metropolitan areas, and has done so with flying colors. Not only does the 180<sup>th</sup> have the important task of protecting some of our nation's most critical infrastructure and natural resources, it is also positioned in an area with favorable weather, advantageous for training throughout the tristate area of Ohio-Michigan-Indiana.

The 180<sup>th</sup> also has a significant economic impact on Northwest Ohio, with more than 1,100 men and women in this unit contributing over \$100M annually to the regional economy. Their presence in the region is pivotal to the continued vitality and growth of our economy. The people of Lucas County, from residents and businesses alike, enthusiastically support the airmen and airwomen of the 180<sup>th</sup> and their ongoing efforts.

The Board of Lucas County Commissioners and our community are extremely proud of the impressive work of the 180<sup>th</sup> and the important role they perform on behalf of our country. The men and women of the 180<sup>th</sup> are community leaders and our friends and neighbors. We strongly believe that the Ohio Air National Guard and the 180<sup>th</sup> will best meet the needs of this exciting new operation.

We stand ready to assist the 180<sup>th</sup> in any way in this selection process. Please contact our office if we can provide any additional information in support of their nomination for this important F-35A mission.

Sincerely,

  
Tina Skeldon Wozniak  
President

  
Pete Gerken  
Commissioner

  
Carol Contrada  
Commissioner



June 9, 2016

The Honorable Deborah Lee James  
Secretary of the Air Force  
1670 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20330-1670

Dear Secretary James:

As the presidents of the leading higher educational institutions in northwest Ohio, we are pleased to express our support for the men and women of the 180<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing (180<sup>th</sup>) based in Toledo, Ohio. We would also encourage you to select the 180<sup>th</sup> as the next assignment for the F-35A mission.

Bowling Green State University (BGSU) and The University of Toledo (UT) recognize the sacrifices of our service members and their families and are dedicated to helping them achieve continued success in life. Combined, our schools serve active duty students as well as more than 1,000 veterans, reservists, or members of the National Guard each year. We are able to provide accessible educational and degree completion opportunities and a wide range of customized support services including but not limited to: educational benefit processing, mentoring, advocacy and networking while partnering with veteran service organizations who assist with the transition from military service to the classroom and beyond. BGSU has been nationally recognized as being a military and veteran friendly school.

Members of the Ohio National Guard (ONG) are eligible to receive assistance from the State of Ohio to help with the costs associated with earning their undergraduate education. The Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program provides 100% tuition assistance to Army and Air Guard members attending a two- or four- year public college or university for up to (12) full-time quarters or eight (8) full-time semesters. Former ONG members who have completed their Ohio National Guard enlistment obligation with an honorable discharge may continue their Scholarship Program benefit for the time they were unable to attend school due to deployment. This is a tremendous benefit for members of the Ohio National Guard that is not available everywhere.

While our athletic teams may compete against each other, we stand together in providing training for our future Air Force officers. Through our Department of Aerospace Studies, we are pleased to jointly offer the Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps program at BGSU.

The engagement with our veterans and service members does not stop with the classroom. At BGSU, we are working closely with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Among the programs VITAL (Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership) and TeleHealth. At the UT Medical Center, we are part of a pioneering Training Affiliation Agreement, the first of its kind in the Air National Guard. This training program streamlines medical skills verification and hands-on training of our military medical personnel

locally while also providing extra manpower at the medical center during the wing's training weekends. This partnership is projected to save more than \$20,000 in training costs for each of our military medical personnel. Also, Dr. Thomas Sodeman of the UT College of Medicine is the Medical Group Commander at the 180<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing.

We are appreciative of the 180<sup>th</sup> and everything that they do for our communities. We are proud of the work that they perform every day on our behalf and are confident that the 180<sup>th</sup> is the best option for the F-35A mission.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Mary Ellen Mazey, Ph.D.  
President  
Bowling Green State University



Sharon Gaber, Ph.D.  
President  
The University of Toledo