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2ND DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0902
August 12, 2019

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Matthew P. Donovan
Acting Secretary of the Air Force
1690 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1670

Dear Secretary Donovan,

I write regarding the F-22 training unit currently stationed at Eglin AFB that is scheduled to be based at Joint Base Langley-Eustis when they have completed preparations to receive that mission.

Tyndall AFB was the training base for the F-22's prior to Hurricane Michael and, I write to request that you consider resuming F-22 training temporarily at Tyndall until Joint Base Langley-Eustis is prepared to fully accommodate that training mission.

I am grateful to Eglin Air Force Base and its airmen for housing Tyndall's aircraft and airmen following Hurricane Michael. Eglin has borne the stresses brought on by a sudden increase of personnel and aircraft this past year. Our flight line at Tyndall is now capable of servicing this mission and is the only site in the Southeast U.S. capable of handling some of the more demanding maintenance issues with this unique aircraft. The extra burden that the F-22's impose on Eglin AFB can be easily served on Tyndall AFB, freeing up Eglin's airmen to prepare for their next F-35 squadron.

As you know, the "Schoolhouse" with its simulators and faculty remain at Tyndall, while the aircraft are flying out of Eglin. This results in many airmen, air crew, maintainers, and engineers commuting 4 hours round trip on an almost daily basis for training I believe this is a burden and a cost that could readily be addressed by temporarily relocating the F-22 Training Squadron back to Tyndall.

I am sure you remember Bay County has a uniquely deep love of Tyndall AFB from your time stationed here. The continued sound of the F-22's over Bay County would do wonders for morale as the community rebuilds. Whenever I am home, every conversation I have inevitably turns to a discussion of Tyndall's future. Bay County misses the sound of freedom overhead.

Mr. Secretary, I thank you for your commitment to rebuilding Tyndall AFB and your announcement last week reconfirming that Tyndall will be home to three squadrons of F35's in the near future.

I look forward to hearing from your office and should any of your staff have any questions please have them contact Danielle Houser in my office at 202-225-5235 (dj.houser@mail.house.gov) I will make myself available to you at any time.

Many Thanks,


Neal P. Dunn, M.D.
Member of Congress (FL-2)

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