

May 14, 2025

The Honorable Troy E. Meink  
Secretary  
Department of the Air Force  
1670 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20330

Dear Secretary Meink,

We write to strongly recommend McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base (ANGB) as the next Main Operating Base (MOB) selection for the KC-46 Pegasus. Following a comprehensive evaluation of operational, economic, and strategic factors, McGhee Tyson represents the “Right Place, the Right Cost, and the Right People” for this critical mission.

Strategically located in East Tennessee, McGhee Tyson ANGB provides rapid access to key operational areas within the continental United States and abroad. The 134th Air Refueling Wing boasts six decades of air refueling experience which would ensure a smooth, cost-effective transition to the KC-46. McGhee Tyson features a newly completed 10,000-foot runway and a purpose-built hangar to support the KC-46 aircraft, along with favorable airspace, secure infrastructure, and strong partnerships with regional military installations.

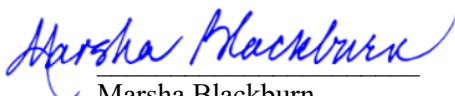
Designating McGhee Tyson as MOB 7 would also benefit from existing support and investment from the community, stakeholders, and the Airmen of the 134th Air Refueling Wing. McGhee Tyson’s existing facilities, including new and renovated hangars, maintenance infrastructure, and fuel storage—minimize the need for additional military construction, substantially reducing transition costs and accelerating operational readiness, while a proposed 75-year lease from the Knoxville Metropolitan Airport Authority ensures long-term sustainability.


The Airmen of the 134th Air Refueling Wing exemplify sustained excellence which has been recognized through their receipt of 16 Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards. The wing’s culture was most recently showcased through the awarding of eleven Distinguished Flying Crosses for valorous action over Israel in 2024. This dedication makes McGhee Tyson ANGB an ideal location for long-term mission success.


Selecting McGhee Tyson also ensures a proportional distribution of next-generation air refueling capability across the Air National Guard, and with its cost-effectiveness, proven experience, and operational readiness, it stands as the optimal choice for MOB 7 for the KC-46 and the U.S. Air Force.

Should you have any questions or need more information, do not hesitate to contact our staff.

Sincerely,

  
Marsha Blackburn  
United States Senator

  
Bill Lee  
Governor of Tennessee

  
Bill Hagerty  
United States Senator



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Chuck Fleischmann  
Member of Congress



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Mark E. Green, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Diana Harshbarger  
Member of Congress



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Tim Burchett  
Member of Congress



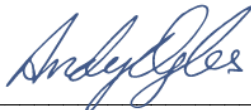
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John Rose  
Member of Congress



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Scott DeJarlais, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Andy Ogles  
Member of Congress



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David Kustoff  
Member of Congress



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Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Pete Hegseth, Secretary of Defense  
Maj. Gen. Duke Pirak, Acting Director, Air National Guard