

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0803

June 21, 2021

The Honorable Brian Schatz
Chairman
Subcommittee on Military Construction,
Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Boozman
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Military Construction,
Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Schatz and Ranking Member Boozman:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on federal programs and activities within the Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies. Attached is one request to which I hope you will give careful consideration as you begin your review and mark up of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies accounts.

1. Department of Defense, Military Construction, Air National Guard

- Delaware Air National Guard Fuel Cell and Corrosion Control Hangar – \$17.5 million

Thank you for your consideration of this request. The entity for which I have requested congressionally directed spending is not a for-profit entity. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Joe Marinelli (joe_marinelli@carper.senate.gov) on my staff.

Sincerely,



Thomas R. Carper
U.S. Senator

Request to Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies

Agency: Department of Defense

Account: Military Construction, Air National Guard

Appropriations Request: \$17.5 million

Project: Delaware Air National Guard Fuel Cell and Corrosion Control Hangar

Member Request	FY 2022 Proposed Budget	FY 2021 Appropriation
\$17.5 million	--	--

Request Justification:

The Fuel Cell and Corrosion Control hangar is one of two hangars required for the maintenance of the Delaware Air National Guard's eight C-130 aircraft, and the hangar plays a critical role in sustaining the tactical airlift mission of the 166th Airlift Wing. It is required to perform maintenance on the aircraft's fuel system, and to accomplish corrosion control activities that are necessary to prolong the service life of the aircraft.

Originally built in 1962 to support the C-97 Stratocruiser, the current hangar is functionally obsolete. Moreover, longstanding delays to necessary upgrades and repairs in anticipation of constructing a new facility have required the National Guard Bureau to issue safety waivers to perform aircraft maintenance in the current facility, and the National Guard placed the project on its Unfunded Priority List (UPL) in FY2021.

The Delaware Air National Guard has 1,157 members, including 410 that work full-time, and the Guard annually contributes \$26 million to the local economy. The Guard also provides healthcare and educational benefits as well as job training to Delawareans. Without modern facilities and maintenance capabilities, the hangar becomes increasingly vulnerable to the Base Realignment and Closure process, jeopardizing the continued presence of the National Guard in Delaware and its contributions to the local economy.

Staff Contact: Joe Marinelli, 4-9962