

SHORT TITLE: Declaring state legislative support for Tinker Air Force Base; distribution.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Extraordinary Session of the 44th Legislature (1994)

SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 3

By: Herbert of the Senate

and

Isaac of the House

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution declaring state legislative support for the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center at Tinker Air Force Base; memorializing the federal government to keep the Air Logistics Center at Tinker Air Force Base open and operating at full capacity; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the history of Tinker Air Force Base began in 1940 when a group of Oklahoma City civic leaders and businessmen acquired 960 acres of land and offered the property to the War Department to be used for a centrally located maintenance and supply depot. Today, Oklahoma civic leaders and businessmen continue to support and encourage the operation of Tinker Air Force Base. Oklahoma County has purchased land adjacent to Tinker AFB to accommodate expansion of the base facilities and to prevent encroachment; and

WHEREAS, in 1942, Lieutenant Colonel William Turnbull arrived in Oklahoma and assumed command of the Midwest Air Depot with orders to build an air base. After construction work began, the depot was renamed Tinker Field in honor of Pawhuska, Oklahoma native, Major General Clarence L. Tinker, who lost his life leading a flight of "Liberator" bombers on a strike against Wake Island; and

WHEREAS, Tinker Air Force Base is one of Oklahoma's largest industries and the state's largest single employer. The annual military and civilian payroll is over \$781 million and more than 22,118 civilian military personnel are assigned to the base which has more than 700 buildings covering 14.3 million square feet.

There are 730 houses on the base and dormitory rooms for 1,300 personnel. Employees live in 37 of the 77 counties of Oklahoma. Tinker Air Force Base was recently named the number one base in the United States for meeting the environmental needs of the community; and

WHEREAS, Tinker Air Force Base is one of the major military-industrial installations in the world today. The more than 5,000 acre installation manages seven major types of aircraft, five types of missiles, 15 types of aircraft engines and more than 120,000 accessory items. Tinker Air Force Base overhauls and modifies more jet engines than any installation in the free world. The base handles more than 300,000 different stock items and contracts of more than \$2.8 million annually. Among the five Air Logistics Command depots, Tinker Air Force Base was rated first in flying operations; and

WHEREAS, the total economic impact of Tinker Air Force Base is \$2.7 billion and the number of secondary jobs created is 28,294. The military construction program at Tinker Air Force Base has averaged over \$45 million a year for the past five years. Following a major fire in Building 3001 at Tinker Air Force Base in 1984, new cost-saving technology was installed during its reconstruction. The communities surrounding Tinker AFB have adequate infrastructure and quality of life provisions to support the mission and base personnel; and

WHEREAS, The largest organization at Tinker Air Force Base is the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center, one of five Air Logistics Centers located throughout the United States. The center provides worldwide logistics support for a variety of weapons systems. In addition to the Logistics Center, some 40 other organizations are based at Tinker Air Force Base. These include the 28th Air Division and its subordinate unit, the 552nd Airborne Warning and Control Wing, which flies the E-3 fleet and has been deployed worldwide in

response to a number of international situations. Another organization at Tinker is the Engineering Installation Division with worldwide responsibility for engineering and installation of all communications and electronic facilities for the United States Air Force. The 198th Communications Squadron is responsible for telephone service provided through nearly 20,000 communication instruments. The 3rd Combat Communications Group is a mobile organization that provides communications and navigational aid support at any location in the western hemisphere; and

WHEREAS, also a tenant is the 507th Air Refueling Wing, Oklahoma's only Air Force Reserve flying unit, which flies the KC-135R refueler and is supported by over 1,100 reservists. The newest addition to Tinker Air Force Base is the United States Navy's E-6 Squadron, composed of 1,600 military personnel and 20 civilians, which contributes more than \$36 million annually to the local economy in mission related salaries with an additional \$12 million in secondary jobs; and

WHEREAS, many military retirees and their families make use of the facilities and services at Tinker Air Force Base, which if closed down would result in a major hardship for these families and a possibility that they would be forced to move to other states where such facilities and services exist; and

WHEREAS, Tinker Air Force Base's key geographic location, its support of the B-2, B-52 and B-1 bombers, 135 series aircraft and E-3 AWACs unique equipment, such as large airplane hangars necessary to house large aircraft, and other benefits place the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center in a strategic position should hostilities break out or the nation face a military threat; and

WHEREAS, Tinker Air Force Base is host to three major aircraft operational missions, the Airborne Warning and Control E-3, the Air Force Reserve's 507th Air Refueling Wing KC-135 and the United States Navy Strategic Squadron of E-6 Aircraft. It is the only Air

Force Air Logistics Center that has a cross service mission between the Air Force and Navy saving the United States Department of Defense millions of dollars and increases operational readiness of the units; and

WHEREAS, there is a possibility that the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center at Tinker Air Force Base may be placed on the closure list of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE 44TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature declares its support for the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center at Tinker Air Force Base and its continual operation at full capacity.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature memorializes the Tinker Task Force, the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation, the Secretary of the United States Department of Defense, the Secretary of the Air Force, and the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission to keep the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center at Tinker Air Force Base open and operating at full capacity.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Lieutenant General Richard A. Burpee (USAF-Ret.) Chair, Tinker Task Force, and the State of Oklahoma's Washington, D.C office for distribution to the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation, the Secretary of the United States Department of Defense, the Secretary of the Air Force, and the Chair of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission.

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