

USSPACECOM HQ AT SELFRIDGE SUPPORT LETTER

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The Honorable Barbara M. Barrett
Secretary of the Air Force
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20330-1670

Dear Secretary Barrett:

We write in strong support of the application by the City of Sterling Heights, Michigan, in partnership with the State of Michigan, Macomb County, and the Michigan Air National Guard, to locate the site of the new United States Space Command (USSPACECOM) headquarters on the property of the nearby 3,600-acre Selfridge Air National Guard Base (SANGB).

We are pleased to inform you that the prospect of hosting the new USSPACECOM headquarters enjoys wide and enthusiastic support across the State of Michigan, a state which is uniquely qualified by its immense resources of manufacturing expertise and skilled technicians, engineers and scientists to advance the critical mission of the U.S. Air Force's newest command. As evidence of its commitment to our nation's defense, Michigan currently has 4,000 defense industry suppliers and 1,000 prime contractors that serve 17 military commands and installations – a significant number of which are located in Sterling Heights on the Mound Road Defense Corridor, including BAE Systems, General Dynamics, and the nearby U.S. Army Detroit Arsenal.

In addition, Michigan is fast becoming one of the nation's leading space arsenals with the effective collaboration of the public and private sectors, led by the Michigan Aerospace Manufacturing Association and the state's Michigan Defense Center, with investments in direct support of space sensing, space cyber, and electronic warfare capabilities. As you are aware, the Pentagon will soon announce the location for a new command and control center in Michigan that will support satellite launch sites above the crucial 45th parallel providing deployment of satellites in the Northern Hemisphere and the Arctic planned for near Marquette and Oscoda Township, Michigan.

SANGB has identified three ready-to-build locations on the base, all of which would amply meet the security, data transmission, and space requirements for the approximately 1400 military and civilian personnel working in the new headquarters. In addition, if so desired, the base has over 111,000 square-feet readily available in four vacant buildings that could be used during an initial mission standup phase or as supplemental space when a new building is constructed. For military families, SANGB has significant support facilities, including a base exchange and the 124-child Bryant Child Development Center and provides additional childcare through the Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood (MCCYN) referral program.

Lastly, we highly recommend that you consider the many benefits for Air Force employees' quality of life by locating the USSPACECOM headquarters in Michigan, which enjoys an abundance of affordable housing, access to excellent healthcare and schools, and the amenities of being located in a major metropolitan region, including connections to 170 destinations around the world served by the Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport; yet all of which are within easy distance to Michigan's innumerable lakes and pristine wilderness.

Thank you for choosing Sterling Heights' nomination of the Selfridge Air National Guard Base site as one of the locations you are evaluating for the new USSPACECOM headquarters. For the above reasons, we believe that the State of Michigan site is the optimal location that would best serve the mission of USSPACECOM, as well provide a high quality of life for U.S. Air Force personnel and their families.

Sincerely,