

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 29, 2026

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

Dear Secretary Meink:

We write in strong support of the Youngstown Air Reserve Station (YARS) in Vienna Township, Ohio, as the basing location for the Air Force Reserve Command's (AFRC) new 33rd Combat Communications Squadron (CBCS):

YARS offers AFRC a ready-made operational advantage: co-location with the 910th Airlift Wing (AW) and its C-130J Super Hercules tactical airlift mission. This pairing would enable combat communications Airmen and aircrews to train, load, and deploy together, strengthening the squadron's ability to move personnel, vehicles, and deployable communications equipment quickly when called upon. Available ramp capacity, uncongested airspace, and the Youngstown-Warren Regional Airport's infrastructure further enhance deployment readiness and provide access to enterprise airlift when strategic lift is required. The Department is already investing in this installation by recapitalizing the 910 AW with eight C-130J aircraft, and basing the squadron here would build directly on that investment.

YARS is well positioned to quickly stand up the 33rd CBCS at a lower cost. The recent departure of Navy Reserve and Marine Corps Reserve activities has made existing facilities available for repurposing for the mission, limiting the need for new construction and accelerating unit activation. Additionally, the installation sits on approximately 272 acres and recently acquired an additional 43 acres. This combination of available facilities and developable land gives the Air Force the flexibility to establish the 33rd CBCS quickly while preserving options for future growth as mission, personnel, equipment, and force-structure requirements evolve.

The 910 AW has a demonstrated record of supporting equipment-intensive, rapidly deployable missions. As the recent home of the Department's Consolidated Asset Management Site, the 910 AW has practical experience supporting partner organizations with significant equipment-housing and deployment requirements. An established Air Force Reserve workforce and substantial on-base lodging capacity further support activation, training, exercises, and surge operations. The region's relatively lower cost of living also eases the recruiting and retention of Reserve members, full-time personnel, and their families. Furthermore, YARS can draw talent from across Northeast Ohio and Western Pennsylvania, rather than a single metropolitan area.

YARS offers AFRC a rare combination of a modernized C-130J tactical airlift fleet, deployment-ready infrastructure, available facilities, proven logistics capability, an easy-to-recruit, easy-to-retain workforce, and room to grow. Basing the 33rd CBCS at YARS would enable AFRC to

build readiness quickly, deploy faster and more reliably, and expand the mission efficiently over time.

Thank you for your continued service to our nation and the Air Force. We respectfully request that the Department of the Air Force give the Youngstown Air Reserve Station full and fair consideration in its basing decision for the 33rd Combat Communications Squadron, consistent with applicable statutes and regulations.

Sincerely,



David P. Joyce
Member of Congress



Bernie Moreno
United States Senator



Jon Husted
United States Senator



Michael A. Rulli
Member of Congress



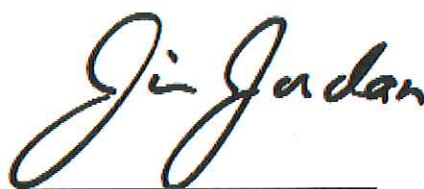
David J. Taylor
Member of Congress



Max L. Miller
Member of Congress



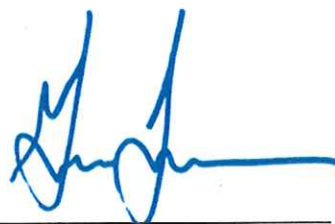
Warren Davidson
Member of Congress



Jim Jordan
Member of Congress



Mike Carey
Member of Congress



Greg Landsman
Member of Congress



Troy Balderson
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



Emilia Strong Sykes
Member of Congress



Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Shontel M. Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Shontel" being more legible than the last name "Brown".

Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress