



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20330-1000

JUL 19 2011

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

SAF/LL
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1160

The Honorable Carl Levin
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Levin:

I am writing to inform you that, per the direction of the Secretary of Defense, the U.S. Air Force will suspend aircraft transfers and retirements previously scheduled for implementation in FY12 until Congress completes action on the FY13 defense authorization and defense appropriations bills. Additionally, recognizing the potential need for exceptions to this direction, the Secretary of Defense asked the Secretary of the Air Force to work with the Congress to identify those transfers and retirements where Congress and the Air Force, including the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, agree that previously addressed force structure changes should move forward. The conditions for an exception, however, are currently not in place with respect to W. K. Kellogg Regional Airport.

This decision ceases the retirement of the three C-21s from the 110th Airlift Wing at W. K. Kellogg. We appreciate your support for this proposal, but recognize that congressional action on the FY13 defense budget is not yet complete. As such, this aircraft movement will not take place until the FY 13 defense budget is resolved.

This decision also ceases the transfer of the A-10s from the 127th Wing at Selfridge Air National Guard Base (ANGB), MI to the 175th Wing at Warfield ANGB, MD, the 23rd Wing at Moody Air Force Base (AFB), GA, the 442nd Fighter Wing at Whiteman AFB, MO and the 355th Fighter Wing at Davis Monthan AFB, AZ until congressional action on the FY13 defense budget is complete. Our intention is to work with Congress to gain an exception to policy to allow these moves to go forward.

I appreciate your support of the Air Force and look forward to working together to ensure our Airmen are resourced to meet the requirements of the new Department of Defense Strategic Guidance. A similar response has been sent to Senator Stabenow.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tod Wolters".

TOD D. WOLTERS
Major General, USAF
Director, Legislative Liaison