

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 20, 2014

Lt Gen James Jackson
Commander, Air Force Reserve Command
1150 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330 - 1150

Dear Lieutenant General Jackson:

I write to you today regarding the Youngstown Air Reserve Station (YARS) in Youngstown, Ohio, home to the 910th Airlift Wing (AW). Through the impressive efforts of the Airmen of the 910th AW, Youngstown Air Reserve Station has become a model for other Air Reserve Stations throughout the country, capable of supporting a range of critical civil and national security missions while remaining closely integrated into the local community.

In order to maintain this high level of performance in the future, YARS needs facilities that deliver maximum capability to the personnel who use them, and at a minimum meet basic Air Force requirements to meet training and readiness needs. With that in mind, I write in support of a key Fiscal Year 2016 military construction (MILCON) priority for the station: the construction of a new, indoor firing range.

I understand that the current range at YARS does not meet Air Force Standard Facility Requirements or Small Arms Range Design and Construction requirements. Additionally, the length is insufficient for tenant units to fire key weapon systems. Replacing the current range would provide year-round training and allow the men and women at YARS to maintain their readiness for their critical worldwide missions. A new range would also create opportunities for Public-Public partnerships with local, state, and federal law enforcement officials, thus increasing the interoperability of Air Force and regional first responders.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and I look forward to continuing to work with you to support the dedicated Airmen in Youngstown and throughout the Air Force Reserve.

Sincerely,



Rob Portman