



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

February 23, 2012

GEN Chuck Jacoby, Jr.
Commander, NORAD and USNORTHCOM
250 Vandenberg, Suite B016
Peterson AFB, CO 80914-2801

Dear General Jacoby,

On Tuesday, February 14th, my office was informed through a Congressional Fact Sheet that the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) has proposed reducing the 24-hour alert requirements at two Aerospace Control Alert (ACA) sites in the Continental United States. It is my understanding that this proposal was submitted in line with the President's budget request for FY 2013 and the U.S. Air Force's decision to make force structure changes. Thank you for your office's prompt notification to my office of this proposed mission change.

I am concerned that the Duluth, Minnesota ACA site is one of the two proposed sites to have its 24-hour alert mission eliminated. The 148th Fighter Wing of the Minnesota Air National Guard, also known as the "Bulldogs," has a long history of protecting our nation from air threats that dates back to before the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. They are the recipient of the Raytheon trophy, formally known as the Hughes trophy, which is awarded for outstanding performance to an Air Force or Air National Guard fighter unit with a mission in air defense or air superiority. I fear that the removal of the 24-hour alert mission from what has proved to be a very reliable ACA site leaves our nation more vulnerable to attack, as there will now essentially be no protection of our country's northern border between Madison, Wisconsin, and Portland, Oregon.

I have worked closely with the 148th Fighter Wing during my time in Congress to continue to bolster this Air National Guard base that I view as vital to the protection of Minnesota and the United States, as well as being an integral part of the Duluth community and the economy. I am proud that the 148th Fighter Wing was recently selected by the Air Force to become an active-duty association, and I plan to continue to work on behalf of the "Bulldogs" to ensure that they remain a critical piece in our nation's defense system. Therefore, I hope to coordinate a time in the near future to talk with you and/or other NORAD/NORTHCOM leadership to discuss my concerns and how this proposal would impact the 148th Fighter Wing. Please send your response to my legislative assistant, Jack Baer, at jack.baer@mail.house.gov, and he will be more than happy to work with you to set up the phone call.

Sincerely,



Chip Cravaack
Member of Congress

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