

TESTIMONY FOR MARYLAND BILL HB 0098F - Military Installations – Expansion and Development

TWO MINUTES ALLOWED FOR TESTIMONY

Good Afternoon Madam Chair, Mister Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee.

I am Colonel Nichole Scott, commander of the 316th Mission Support Group, representing the Joint Base Andrews Installation commander, Col Tyler Schaff.

Joint Base Andrews and the United States Air Force welcome the opportunity to work more closely with the state of Maryland and the Maryland Military Installation Council to support the need to enhance resilience in the vicinity of our installation. Mission sustainment for JBA requires continuous focus on mission risk hazards identified both on and off base. These include traffic issues on state and local roads, tree obstructions in the Suitland Parkway that create a flight safety risk, and the existence of 10-year flood storm drainage around the base that leads to excessive flooding within the local community.

With almost one billion dollars of construction underway on base, transportation improvements could improve traffic flow and safety given the large volume of construction traffic entering our eastern gate that creates a constant backlog of vehicles along the narrow two-lane public road. Widening the road could add more space for construction traffic to pull off to the side while awaiting access approval.

Since the forest in the Suitland Parkway was decimated in the late 1930s to make way for the road and construction of the base, JBA has identified more than 3,500 trees that have grown steadily to heights extending up to 40 feet above the flight safety buffer under the imaginary surfaces of the approach and

departure airspace. Due to the historic nature of the Parkway, only 100 trees per year may be removed requiring a 35-year project to mitigate the flight safety risk.

JBA is located on a plateau and is the headland for five water bodies. The requirement for large, flat, impervious surfaces necessary for aviation missions leads to large water runoff during extreme rain and snow events that appear to overwhelm the 10-year flood storm water drains within the local community. Improvements to the storm water systems around the base could help reduce the impacts of flooding on JBA's neighbors.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill and in conjunction with the DoD's competitive Defense Community Infrastructure Program matching funds, JBA welcomes the opportunity to work more closely with the state and local governments to improve installation resilience in multiple areas.