

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 10, 2010

The Honorable Michael B. Donley
Secretary of the Air Force
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington DC 20330

Dear Secretary Donley:

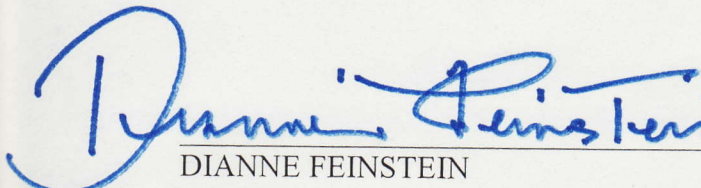
As members of the California Congressional Delegation, we are writing to urge you to strongly consider selecting Beale Air Force Base as the permanent headquarters for the MC-12 Liberty aircraft. As you know, the 9th Reconnaissance Wing at Beale currently serves as the interim parent wing for the aircraft and has played a leading role in incorporating it into combat missions.

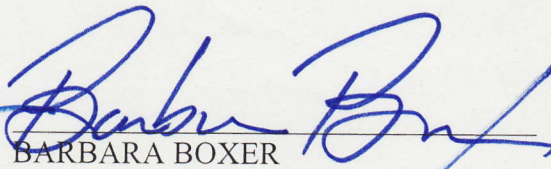
We believe Beale is best suited for the MC-12 mission for a number of reasons. First, it already specializes in the Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance mission performed by this emerging aircraft, and both the 9th Reconnaissance Wing and the 940th Reserve Wing stand ready to take on this mission. As the home of Global Hawk, Beale possesses trained pilots with expertise in ISR who could be used to operate the MC-12. According to 9th Reconnaissance Wing leadership, such dual qualified pilots would reduce the pilot-manning requirement by up to 58 percent, bringing forth significant savings for the taxpayer. The base also houses Distributed Ground Station Two, offering additional synergy with the MC-12 mission.

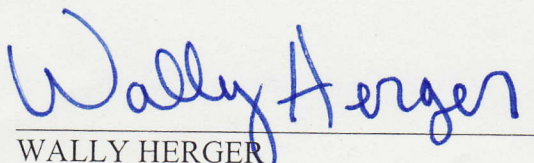
Further, Beale has the air strip capacity and ramp space to accommodate flight operations and maintenance, and the necessary facilities, including plans for a state-of-the-art Child Development Center, to support additional personnel. Importantly, in a March 2010 memorandum, the Commanding General of the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California indicated that locating MC-12 at Beale AFB would provide "our soldiers with an incredible Joint training opportunity." Last, Beale's location in rural Northern California enables it to be free from encroachment, and its large size, 23,000 acres, allows for mission growth.

After carefully reviewing the MC-12 basing criteria, we believe Beale AFB's unmatched assets satisfy the stated requirements and urge the Air Force to strongly consider the base as the permanent home of MC-12.

Sincerely,


DIANNE FEINSTEIN
United States Senator


BARBARA BOXER
United States Senator


WALLY HERGER
Member of Congress


TOM MCCLINTOCK
Member of Congress

Mike Thompson

MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress

Daniel E. Lungren

DAN LUNGREN
Member of Congress

John Garamendi

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Dennis Cardoza

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Brian P. Bilbray

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Doris O. Matsui

DORIS MATSUI
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