

UTAH NATIONAL GUARD
STRATEGIC BASING INITIATIVE (SBI)
MOVEMENT OF THE 151st AIR REFUELING WING (ARW) TO HILL AIR FORCE BASE

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS-

2013 – INITIAL DISCUSSIONS In light of a looming government shut down and the Budget Control Act (BCA) which slashed military funding across the Department of Defense (DOD), we began initial discussions of a possible move of the 151st ARW from Salt Lake City International Airport (SLC IAP) to Hill Air Force Base (HAFB). The 151st ARW is a \$110 million dollar annual federal program. As budget realities were unfolding, this move had the potential to protect our current mission in Utah, and possibly enhance our ability to acquire new missions/weapons systems. At the time, Air Force Leadership was pushing the 'Total Force Concept' as its primary priority, and it was believed that multi-component (Active/Guard/Reserve) use of HAFB 'could' strengthen its position and deter future cuts.

2013/14 – FEASIBILITY STUDY HB2, Item 139 appropriated \$300K to hire a professional consulting firm (LSI Business Development Inc.) to conduct a feasibility study on the move. The study identified a cost of from \$246 million to \$399 million dollars to complete the move and establish a 'Heavy Bed Down Facility' for a future Weapons Systems such as the KC-46 at HAFB.

2014 – P4 PARTNERSHIPS Began developing P4 Partnerships within the communities surrounding HAFB. Surrounding communities were very supportive of the idea. Layton City suggested possible bonding to build two Air Mobility Command Hangers and a Wing Command Complex adjacent to the runway at HAFB for the 151st ARW in exchange for a 10 year lease commitment.

2015 – AIR FORCE LEADERS Met with the Secretary of the Air Force Debra James, and the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, General Mark Welsh regarding the proposed move. Received a positive response from both senior leaders, but **NO COMMITMENT to spend appropriated Air Force funds to assist in the move**, necessitating the need for creative funding solutions. They suggested we build a plan for a Strategic Basing Initiative (SBI) and submit it to the Air Force Staff for consideration.

2016 – STRATEGIC BASING HB2, Item 137 appropriates \$500K for the development of a Strategic Basing Initiative package for submission to the Air Force recommending the move of the 151st ARW from the SLC IAP to HAFB. Strategic Planner and consultant hired to develop the SBI Plan.

2016 – NATIONAL ELECTIONS New Commander in Chief – New Air Force Leadership. The elections brought renewed hope in an end to budget restrictions. Service priorities began to shift. The Air Force announced a new recruiting initiative to increase the number of personnel in the Active Duty Force, and expansion on existing Air Bases. Discussions included a belief that there would be relief from the BCA and additional funding for DOD.

2016 – PROPERTY VALUATION The property at the SLC IAP was assessed for value to be used as a possible ‘bill payer’ to finance the move. The property was valued at an estimated \$70 million dollars. Far less than expected, and far short of the funding needed to finance the move. This left a delta of from \$176 million to \$269 million dollars.

2017 – Utah Defense Alliance During a UDA visit to Washington D.C. in May of 2017 to discuss strategic priorities, the status of the potential move was discussed with new Air Force Leadership and influential consultants. It was the consensus of all present that there was currently no support in the Air Force to consider the move. It was strongly recommended, that in the current political climate, submission of an SBI Plan would be counter-productive and would not yield positive results.

2017 – EXEC APPROPRIATIONS Met with the Chair of the Executive Appropriations Committee to provide an update on the SBI Plan and the priority changes coming out of Washington D.C. Discussed the low valuation of the property at the SLC IAP and the large funding delta to finance the move. With a lack of support from the Air Force, and insufficient funding to pursue SBI, suggested turning in the remaining appropriation (\$261K of original \$500K), or using the remaining funding to shore up to Air Guard in its current location to ensure future missions and growth. He preferred the latter course of action as it would benefit the Utah Guard and maintain the current federal flying mission.

WAY AHEAD Pursue advancing the timeline for new military construction to modernize the Roland Wright Air National Guard Base (RWANG). Pursue an expansion of the KC 135 Air Refueling mission by increasing the number of Aircraft from nine to twelve. Continue expansion of the Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance mission sets which Utah is known for.

HB 2, Item 139 = What 300K appropriation bought us – Initial Feasibility Study and Consultant fees.

HB 2, Item 137 = What 500K appropriation has bought us so far – Development of Strategic Plan to maintain and expand Air Guard Mission in Utah. Plan for recapitalizing the RWANG Base adjacent the SLC IAP.