

October 8, 2019

Brigadier General Richard L. Kemble
Dobbins Air Reserve Base
1291 Cobb Parkway SE
Marietta, GA 30067

Re: Letter of support to initiate a comprehensive evaluation for a joint-use runway at Dobbins Air Reserve Base

Dear Brigadier General Kemble:

Cobb County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, desires to enter into a Joint Use Agreement with the United States Airforce in order to obtain the right for private use of the runway at Dobbins Air Reserve Base in Marietta, Georgia. As referenced in 32 CFR § 885.1 Policy (a) (2), proposals submitted by an authorized local government representative are the only eligible proposals acceptable to sponsor a public airport. Therefore, Cobb County Government, as the sponsoring agency, formally requests a comprehensive evaluation that will allow the runway at Dobbins Air Reserve Base to be transitioned to allow joint-use partners.

Cobb County is a triple AAA bond rated local government that has sound financials as well as expertise in airport maintenance and coordination through their Department of Transportation Airport Division, which manages and operates Cobb County International Airport-McCollum Field in Kennesaw, GA. Cobb County Government also commits to the principles needed for military success and as such will not allow the airport to operate in a manner that compromises Air Force operations, security, readiness, safety, environment, or quality of life. This will be accomplished by restricting flight times to those that currently exist at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, 7am to 11pm EST. Military aircraft will receive priority handling if air traffic must be adjusted or re-sequenced. Also, ensuring that separate access exists for joint use area will be of primary importance to ensure that military operational areas continue to be secure and only accessible by military personnel or authorized agents. Safe and secure access to the runway will need to be established in coordination with Dobbins Air Reserve Base and Lockheed Martin. Air Force will have approval rights to all aspects of siting, design, and construction of civil facilities that will be used in a joint-use capacity. Lastly, air traffic control impacts will need to be evaluated as part of a comprehensive evaluation.

Mission sustainment at Dobbins Air Reserve Base is of utmost importance to local leaders in Cobb County and finding a way to increase utilization of the runway, increase the number of joint partnerships, and provide additional financial resources to offset costs at Dobbins Air Reserve Base will all have a positive

impact on the installation. The runway at Dobbins Air Reserve Base is currently underutilized and finding additional military or non-military operations of the runway will assist in ensuring long term mission sustainment. Increasing partnerships is a vital part of current military operations as it allows for cost sharing, revenue generation, and building a presence in the community where military installations are located.

The concept for joint-use at Dobbins Air Reserve Base would be through a Public-Private Partnership (P3) model. In the instance of aviation, Cobb County employs the P3 concept at the Cobb County International Airport at McCollum Field through the use of a Fixed-Base Operator (FBO). The County enters into a contractual agreement with an FBO (in this case, a private company) that has been granted the right to operate and develop an airport service facilities on behalf of the airport's owner or governing authority. Operations that a FBO regularly provides include fueling, parking/storage, aircraft rental, maintenance and others. Cobb County provides control and development of the runway/taxiways along with fire and emergency services as its contribution to the P3, while the FBO develops the hangars and terminals including the provision of all the necessary aircraft service equipment. In the instance at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, the Air Force and County would need to determine the specific parameters of responsibility between the two governmental entities and the FBO so there is a clear understanding of roles, responsibilities, and revenue that could be generated through this type of transactional relationship.

The sponsor proposes that business aircraft, aviation manufacturing and service industry traffic, and cargo aircraft be the three main type of aircraft that be located on or operating at the airfield. This includes Airbus series and Boeing series aircraft. General aviation and/or operation of a commercial airline service for general public travel is not anticipated at the Dobbins Air Reserve Base runway. Civil student pilot training will be prohibited. It is anticipated that civil aircraft operations will not exceed 10,800 per year (approximately 30 take offs or landings per day). The projections are as follows:

- Year 1: 8,000 annual operations
- Year 2: 9,000 annual operations
- Year 3: 10,800 annual operations
- Year 4: 10,800 annual operations
- Year 5: 10,800 annual operations

If additional uses are proposed for private areas near Dobbins ARB that we do not anticipate, a further review will be necessary by the Air Force and the FAA to determine appropriate levels of flying activity.

At this time, it is not anticipated that any aircraft will be based at Dobbins Air Reserve Base. This determination is based upon conversations between Cobb County Government and Lockheed Martin. If it is determined that it is necessary to base aircraft in the non-governmental areas of Dobbins ARB consultation will occur between the Air Force, FAA, and other parties to determine appropriateness of such proposals.

A significant opportunity exists to create a mutually beneficial relationship between Cobb County, Dobbins ARB, and private sector partners. This Joint Use Agreement will provide Cobb County with additional opportunities for economic growth and development while contributing to the overall viability of Dobbins ARB.

Your favorable consideration of this proposed agreement would further the growing consensus that the time is right for Cobb County and the United States Air Force to enter into a mutually beneficial Joint Use Agreement over the use of Dobbins ARB.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Michael H. Boyce
Chairman

cc: Kelli Gambrill, Commissioner
JoAnn Birrell, Commissioner
Rob Hosack, County Manager
Pam Mabry, County Clerk
Jessica Guinn, Director
Erica Parish, Director

Bob Ott, Commissioner
Lisa Cupid, Commissioner
William Rowling, County Attorney
Jackie McMorris, Deputy County Manager
Sharon Mason, President/CEO, Cobb Chamber
Dana Johnson, Executive Director, SelectCobb