WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE HEARING RECORDS

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs (AC-VMA)

Sample:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

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- > 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt01b
- > 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt02

- > Appointments ... Appt
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- > <u>Clearinghouse Rules</u> ... CRule
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- > Committee Hearings ... CH
- > **
- > Committee Reports ... CR
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- > <u>Executive Sessions</u> ... ES
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- > <u>Hearing Records</u> ... HR
- > **
- > Miscellaneous ... Misc
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- > Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP
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OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

State of Wisconsin / DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

P O BOX 8111 MADISON 53708-8111

TELEPHONE 608 242-3000 DSN 724-3000

27 November 1996

Representative Terry M. Musser P.O. Box 8953 Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Musser:

We want to continue to keep you and your staff fully informed on the status of the proposed Hardwood Range expansion and Related Airspace Actions. In this regard, enclosed you will find a copy of an information sheet which we have prepared to address the questions we are asked most frequently.

Should you have any questions on the information sheet, please contact me at (608) 242-3020, or, Captain David Olson, at (608) 242-3126.

ALBERT H. WILKENING, Brig Gen, WI ANG

Deputy Adjutant General for Air

HARDWOOD

INFORMATION SHEET

November 1996

All Includes and Related Airspace Proposals

AIR NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER, ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION . ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, MARYLAND

Hardwood Range

uring the course of the Environmental Impact Statement process, the public has heard a great deal of conflicting and often confusing information about the proposed Hardwood Range expansion. To better inform the public on this issue, the Air National Guard is providing you with information about Hardwood Range as well as answers to the most frequently asked questions.

The Hardwood air-to-ground training range was established in 1954 to enable Air National Guard units to conduct flying training in F-86, F-84 and F-89 aircraft. The area that comprises the range is a combination of state and county owned land that is leased to the Air Force and the National Guard Bureau in Washington DC. Hardwood Range was originally designed for aircraft flown by the Air National Guard in the 50's, 60's and 70's, and was ideally suited for the training requirements of that time.

In the 1980's, however, there was a philosophical change by the Air Force to incorporate the Air National Guard as partners for global deployments. Fighter units in the midwest were converted to more modern jet aircraft, and eventually, into the most advanced multi-purpose fighter in the world today, the F-16. In fact, the Air National Guard is currently assigned approximately one half of the F-16's in the Air Force. The modernization of the Air National Guard has proven cost effective. According to the DOD Bottom-up-Review, under normal training conditions, a typical Air National Guard F-16 unit operates for just slightly more than half the cost of an active duty squadron. On average, for

every \$100 spent flying an F-16 by an Air Force unit, an Air National Guard unit spends \$54.

The "Total Force Policy", implemented in 1980 brought the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve from a "second string" member of the Air Force, to an integral part of the first team. As part of this policy, the Air Force began a rapid modernization of the reserve component and assigned them the key roles and missions that they are responsible for today. In fact, the Air Force has taken this policy to where involvement of the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve is essential to the Air Force to conduct global operations. Air National Guard units are involved in every operation in the world today. Quite simply, the Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve have become first responders to global events.

Managed by Volk Field Combat Readiness Training Center, Hardwood Range plays a vital role in preparing Air National Guard units, primarily in the midwest, to perform real world missions. As we have all read and heard in recent months. US aircraft have been shot at while flying in the northern "No-Fly Zone" over northern Iraq. Air National Guard units have, and will continue to, play a primary role in patrolling this area. For example, the 185th Fighter Wing, Sioux City, Iowa spent March, 1996, enforcing the northern "No-Fly Zone" in Iraq. In October, 1996, the 132nd Fighter Wing of Des Moines, Iowa, did the same. In coming months, the 115th Fighter Wing, Madison, Wisconsin will also participate in an overseas operation.

In other words, the Hardwood Range complex has become an extremely important and valuable asset in training today's first line fighters. It is a key component in training aircrews to fly and perform with the skill and precision they have so convincingly demonstrated in recent years. However, if Air National Guard pilots are to continue to perform at the highest levels possible when put in harms way, they need high quality training opportunities available at Hardwood Range.

Hardwood Range now has limitations that restrict the types of training flights pilots can accomplish. Currently, pilots primarily approach from west to east to maintain an appropriate safety margin around the target area. The proposal to expand the range will allow pilots to practice multidirectional approaches to the range, increasing realistic training opportunities. During combat missions, pilots are required to approach targets from different directions depending on enemy defenses, weather conditions, and the types of weapons on the aircraft. This same flexibility is needed at the Hardwood Range to simulate these

The proposal to expand Hardwood Range is based on tactics pilots use in today's aircraft, not an increase in flying. Modernization of the Air National Guard has meant rapid upgrades to the latest technology available. Additionally, Air National Guard pilots are now among the first aircrews to fly in a combat areas. This all adds up to looking at options that provide taxpayers with a force that is fully capable of

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protecting our nation's vital interests in the most cost effective way possible.

Hardwood Range is also part of a unique training tool for military aircrews, known as the Air Combat Maneuvering Instrumentation, or ACMI. ACMI is a computer based training aid that provides extremely detailed recording and playback of missions flown in Volk Field managed airspace. In fact, the ACMI system at Volk Field is currently the most advanced system of its kind. We encourage groups to schedule tours of Volk Field and ACMI to see first hand this remarkable technology.

How Does Hardwood Currently Operate?

Hardwood Range has a full time staff, a Range Control Office (RCO), and has scoring capability from the ground. The RCO is responsible for the supervision of range management, planning and maintenance. The RCO is also responsible for control of all range operations concerning aircraft and ground safety.

Targets at Hardwood Range are displayed in areas located north, south and east of the range control tower. Targets include a conventional target circle, an array of simulated tactical targets, including vehicle convoys, a simulated scud missile launcher, fuel storage tanks, and radar installations.

Munitions used at Hardwood Range are inert or practice ordnance. High explosives and white phosphorous are not authorized. Smaller practice ordnance has a small spotting charge, equivalent to a 10 gauge shotgun shell, that aids in scoring. Larger ordnance, because of its weight, leaves a "splash", or dirt spray large enough to be seen from the scoring tower. Aircraft machine guns or cannons use steel projectiles. These may be scored by sight or by use of acoustic measuring.

All aircraft that use Hardwood Range are required to schedule their activities through

Volk Field. Units are not allowed to fly at the range unless they have been previously scheduled. In addition, pilots must check in at Hardwood via radio prior to being cleared onto the range. When the range is not scheduled, the airspace is open to general aviation.

Safety is paramount at Hardwood Range. This applies to all using aircrews, range staff, and the neighboring public. Hardwood Range has numerous flying safety and noise abatement restrictions. These include avoiding public airfields, limited use of afterburners and, restrictions on overflights of wildlife refuges in the area. Close control of all on range aircraft is maintained for safety purposes.

An open house is held every two years for the public and affords the opportunity to increase awareness of the range and its activities. Visitors are welcome to observe range activities during operating hours. A recorded message of the range schedule is available by calling 608-565-2884.

Use of Hardwood Range by military aircrews during the nine day gun/deer season is restricted to overflights above 5,000 feet only. Pilots cannot drop ordnance during this period. In addition, during other times of the year hunters are also allowed to hunt on the range with prior permission. In fact, of the existing 7,929 acres, approximately 6,700 are available for public use with prior approval. Additionally, all Volk Field managed airspace, including the Hardwood Range is closed to fighter aircraft during the Experimental Aircraft Association convention, located in Oshkosh, WI.

Low Altitude Training

During the course of this study, some citizens have asked about the need for low altitude training. For the answer to this question, we asked the man recognized as the architect of the highly successful air campaign in Desert Shield/ Desert Storm, Retired Air Force Colonel John Warden. Colonel Warden's expertise in the strategic

application of airpower has been recognized by Retired Army Generals Colin Powell and H. Norman Schwarzkopf.

Warden acknowledged that, "Ten years ago, the US Air Force thought it needed to do almost everything at low altitude. About that time, however, some of us began to realize that as soon as we could win air superiority in a conflict, we could and should move up to medium altitude (above 15,000 feet)."

Warden went on to say, "During the first two days of Desert Storm, coalition forces used a mix of low altitude fighters with medium altitude F-117's (Stealth Fighters) to destroy or minimize the usefulness of Iraqi radar and communication sites. The coalition then, after the second day, had the ability to operate relatively freely at medium altitude."

In other words, low altitude tactics were used to take away the eyes and ears of the Iraqi military, making medium and high altitude safer.

Because of this success, the US Air Force has changed the mix of low and medium altitude training since Desert Storm, according to Warden. "Prior to Desert Storm, 80% of fighter training was at low altitude. That has dropped to approximately 40% today."

Warden addressed the reason for the change. "Once we have air superiority, which makes higher altitude safer, it only makes sense to move up to medium altitude. But again, you need low altitude tactics to help establish air superiority."

Warden added, "Low altitude tactics are still very important, but, it is clear that our aircrews would prefer to operate at higher altitudes all of the time.

However, the addition of stealth technologies to our fleet of aircraft is very costly, so training in low altitude tactics will continue to be important for the survival of our aircrews in combat for the foreseeable future."

Warden went on to comment about the

► Continued on page 3

► Continued from page 2 importance of the Air National Guard. "Because of its cost effectiveness and proven ability to perform in combat, the Air National Guard will continue to be called upon and become involved in any military actions that the US becomes involved in around the globe."

Brigadier General Paul Weaver, Deputy Director of the Air National Guard, agrees with Warden's expert commentary: "It is clear that low altitude flight training is still an important part of preparing our pilots for combat. But, it is also clear that low altitude training should be minimized to accommodate the concerns of the citizens who live near these training areas. The uncertainty of the types of potential conflicts that may arise in the future dictates the ability to respond to threats at all altitudes."

Frequently Asked Questions

• Why are you increasing flying while the Defense Department is drawing down?

↑ The proposal to expand Hardwood Range is based on tactics. As the Air Force has downsized, the Air National Guard has been assigned increased flying responsibilities. In the F-16, Air National Guard fighter units are now flying the most advanced, most versatile and state of the art general purpose fighter aircraft in the world. These are extremely capable aircraft that offer pilots a wide range of tactical options that have never been available before. Although the total number of aircraft in the Air Force has been reduced, the training has become more intense to prepare for global events. An additional note, the number of aircraft that use Hardwood Range is expected to remain at the current level regardless of the outcome of this proposal.

• What effect will this have on emergency helicopter flights in the area?

Emergency flights of any kind always have, and always will have the highest priority in the airspace. All military aircraft in the area of an emergency flight are immediately directed out of the area.

• Why not use Fort McCoy more?

Aircrews do train on a limited basis at Fort McCoy. However, the range at Fort McCoy is designed and used extensively for ground training. This greatly limits the availability, area and tactics available for aircrew training.

• Why not use a base like K.I. Sawyer now that it has been closed?

A • Hardwood Range is centrally located of the distribution of the distribution of the distribution of the distribution of the distribution. Hardwood Range is considered a national military training asset that provides diverse training opportunities for a number of Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve and active Air Force units. Moving the range to the extreme north would dramatically increase training costs associated with all of these using units, costs that current budgets simply will not support. We feel that looking at an existing, centrally located range first, is clearly the most fiscally responsible approach to take.

How likely is it that the AirNational Guard will ever be used?

Under the "Total Force Policy", the Air National Guard is serving in front line missions around the world. Air National Guard fighter units are currently serving in the lead fighter roles over northern Iraq. In fact, the 132nd Fighter Wing,

Des Moines, Iowa, will be flying over this volatile area during the month of October. The 115th Fighter Wing, Madison, Wisconsin, will also deploy in the coming months. Today's Air Force is structured in such a way that it can't conduct operations without direct involvement from the reserve component.

• What will this do to hunting, hiking and other recreational activities on the land?

A. Of the present 7,929 acres, approximately 6,700 acres are open to hunting when no flying is scheduled. In fact, it is estimated that approximately 150 to 200 deer were taken on or near the existing range during the 1995 gun/deer season. We simply ask that persons who wish to go on the range contact the staff of Hardwood Range for complete information when planning their visit.

Will aircraft fly low over the
 Rainbow Casino and day care
 center nearby?

NO. The airspace over the Rainbow Casino is called the Volk East Military Operations Area. The floor of this airspace is over 7,000 feet above the ground (8,000 above sea level). There is no proposal to change this.

• Why did you drop the proposal to expand the range before and bring it back now?

A. The proposal to expand the range in 1992 was pulled from the Environmental Assessment after then Secretary of Defense Les Aspin established a new land acquisition policy for DOD. This policy states that all proposals involving possible land acquisitions of more than 1,000 acres require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). In addition, all requests to conduct an EIS on this type of land acquisi-

► Continued from page 3

tion, require Secretary of Defense approval. It was these changes in policy that delayed it to the current study.

What types of ordnance are used
 at Hardwood Range?

A. Only inert (non-explosive) training ordnance is allowed at Hardwood Range. The strongest charge in any ordnance used is a spotting charge, used for scoring, that is equivalent to a 10 gauge shotgun shell. Only steel bullets are used, and they do not contain explosives or depleted uranium.

• What are the typical altitudes and airspeeds of aircraft using Hardwood Range?

• Current tactics require pilots to
• practice half of their deliveries from high altitudes, above 10,000 feet. A majority of the remaining are at lower altitudes, above 500 feet. A fraction of deliveries occur at altitudes near 100 feet. Deliveries take place with aircraft flying at approximately 450 knots (480 mph).

How many aircraft use Hardwood
 Range on an annual basis?

A. Since the completion of aircraft conversions in the midwest in 1993. Hardwood Range has averaged 3149 aircraft per year. This average, as well as the proposed scheduled activity (3,966 aircraft per year) is well below the previously environmentally assessed level of use, 4928 aircraft per year.

Who are the most frequent users
 of Hardwood Range?

A. The unit from Madison, WI is the most frequent user. Over the past two years, approximately half the aircraft flown at Hardwood Range were from Madison. The next most frequent users are from Des Moines, IA, Sioux City, IA, Sioux Falls, SD, and units deployed to Volk Field.

What changes will civilian pilotssee if the range is expanded?

A. Virtually none. If the proposal is approved, although R-6904A will increase in size, it will still be contained within the present R-6904B. In addition, to assist civilian pilots flying in the area, Volk Field currently has a frequently updated taped airspace information message that is broadcast on VHF frequency 120.0. Also, we encourage pilots with questions about Volk Field managed airspace to call Volk Field scheduling for the latest information at 1-800-972-8673.

How many crashes have occurred at Hardwood Range as a result of range activities?

A. Hardwood Range has an excellent safety record. Over the past twenty years, there has been one crash, a Marine Corps Reserve A-4 in 1983, at Hardwood Range. In addition, in 1991 an Air National Guard A-10 crashed as a result of mechanical failure in the vicinity of Hardwood Range.

• If the range expands, will the proposed routes in southwest Wisconsin come back?

A. No. The proposed low level training routes were dropped because the EIS process showed that low altitude fighter training in southwest Wisconsin is not operationally feasible.

• Who makes the final decision whether to pursue this proposal or not after the EIS is completed?

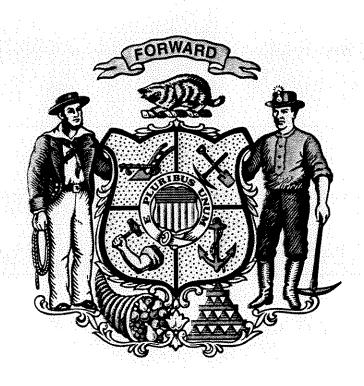
A. The Secretary of the Air Force, Dr. Sheila Widnall or her designee is responsible for the final decision whether to pursue the proposed expansion or not.

How Can You Help

We don't know if the Hardwood Range will be expanded. There is much study that still needs to be completed before that decision can be made. Along with providing Air Force decision makers with the best possible information available through the EIS process, we also want to provide you with factual information on this issue.

Please study the issues so that you can make your own judgment regarding the proposal to expand the Hardwood Range. We are committed to public involvement provided for in the EIS process. We also solicit your input regarding the proposed expansion. You can do this by contacting your elected officials, writing letters to the editor of your local paper and, most importantly, participating in the public meetings that will follow the release of the draft EIS.

If you need additional information on this proposal, the Air National Guard will be happy to help. Contact Captain David Olson, State Headquarters Wisconsin Air National Guard, at 608-242-3126.





DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS Great Lakes Health Care System 500 E. Veterans Street Tomah, WI 54660

November 29, 1996

676/135

REPRESENTATIVE TERRY MUSSER ROOM 20 NORTH - STATE CAPITOL PO BOX 8953 MADISON WI 53702

Dear Representative Musser:

As you know, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system has made many changes in recent months. Changes are being made to provide better and more efficient care to veterans and to help our health care system survive in this era of reduced government spending.

One such change has taken place in Psychiatry Service, particularly the Alcohol and Drug Dependence Treatment Program (ADDTP or substance abuse). Effective immediately, the 30 inpatient beds on Building 404A have been converted to residential beds. This means that Tomah VAMC's substance abuse (alcohol and drug) treatment program is now an outpatient program. The veterans receiving this care will remain "in" our hospital in residential (minimally staffed) beds. We have maintained six beds which are designated as inpatient substance abuse beds. These beds are used by patients who are more medically compromised and require, at least temporarily, a more intensive level of care.

Why has this change been made? There are several reasons:

- a. Studies show that outpatient treatment for this type of patient is equally, if not more, effective than inpatient programs.
- b. By providing outpatient care, more veterans can receive our services because we won't be limited by bed numbers. This means that our "access" is increased, which is a goal of VA.
 - c. Outpatient care is less expensive than inpatient programs.

Other changes in the way we provide mental health services are inevitable. Currently, a special council comprised of Mental Health experts within our network, is reviewing and refining the various services we provide. We are confident you will be pleased by these changes.

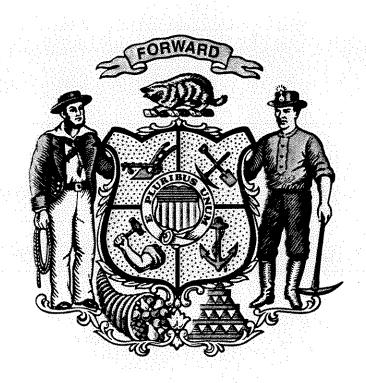
The changes that have occurred on Building 404A, and that will occur in our mental health care services in the future, will result in improved care and expanded treatment for our veterans, reduced costs, better performances for our facility and network on national mental health monitors, and overall improved patient satisfaction.

If you have any questions regarding this change, please call Dr. Mike Marcy, staff psychologist, at (608) 372-3971, extension 6415.

Sincerely,

STAN JOHNSON

Medical Center Director



Jent (3) 96

December 6, 1996

Brian Havitz, CMDR VFW Post #6279 172 N. Linden Street Adams, WI 53910

Dear Brian and VFW Members,

Thank you for contacting me in support of the proposed Hardwood Range expansion. I appreciate your interest and input on this issue.

I agree with you that we need to continue to provide adequate training facilities for National Guard pilots. I will continue to support the expansion proposal.

Thanks again for contacting me. Please continue to contact me with your views and input on state issues.

Sincerely,

Terry Musser State Representative 92nd Assembly District **December 9, 1996**

Donald Jones 202 Sumner Avenue Tomah, WI 54660

Dear Don,

Thank you for contacting me in support of the proposed Hardwood Range expansion. I appreciate your interest and input on this issue.

I agree with you that we need to continue to provide adequate training facilities for National Guard pilots. I will continue to support the expansion proposal.

Thanks again for contacting me. Please continue to contact me with your views and input on state issues.

Sincerely,

Terry Musser State Representative 92nd Assembly District **December 6, 1996**

Greg O'Brick 1017 Evergreen Pass Tomah, WI 54660

Dear Greg,

Thank you for contacting me in support of the proposed Hardwood Range expansion. I appreciate your interest and input on this issue.

I agree with you that we need to continue to provide adequate training facilities for National Guard pilots. I will continue to support the expansion proposal.

Thanks again for contacting me. Please continue to contact me with your views and input on state issues.

Sincerely,

Terry Musser State Representative 92nd Assembly District

Nec 3 1996 Mr. Donald D. Jones 202 Sumner Ave. Tomah, WI 54660 Lear Representative Musser; my support of the, air Matien Suard, + the expansion of The Hard wood Rayge, gar vet, of 3 Incl Dire. any national Quard. These palots need the O & Strong strand is the Back Bone of their Country Orn 200 plus years of national strand. Sodd seem you at oakdale Firs Dep over dome gam ginestry if mygo year

TY Jayport it to!

Dear Representative Musser;

We the members of Adams Friendship VFW Post #6279 are writing to you to express our support for the proposed Hardwood Range expansion.

As veterans of foreign wars, we understand first hand the need for adequate training facilities for our servicemen and women. We are living testimony to the benefits of having a well trained and equipped military. In times when our citizen soldiers are called upon to defend our national and international interests, we want them to have the quality training that will bring them back home safely to their communities, families, and jobs.

Hardwood Range provides the means for this type of training in a very cost effective manner. The Air National Guard performs 35% of the Air Force missions, with 18% of the personnel, and use only 6% of the Air Force budget. They train with the most advanced aircraft and equipment available, and need the facilities to exercise their skills and equipment.

The 185th Fighter Wing, Sioux City, Iowa, and the 132nd Fighter Wing, Des Moines, Iowa, recently enforced the "No Fly Zone" in northern Iraq. The 115th Fighter Wing, Madison, Wisconsin also trains at Volk Field and Hardwood Range for this same type of mission in the near future. The 128th Air Control Squadron from Volk Field, Wisconsin, trains with these units, and participates in missions in Italy, and South America. Numerous other flying units from throughout the US and Canada utilize The Hardwood Range and its airspace.

We strongly urge you to support this proposal Hardwood Range is a valuable training tool for our citizen soldiers, and should be modified and upgraded as needed to meet the changing requirements of the Air National Guard. The men and women serving this country deserve that support.

Thank you,

Commander

Sr. Vice Commander

Westledr. Vice Commander

-Quartermaster

Brian Havitz CMDR VFW Post #6279 172 N. Linden St. Adams Wi, 53910 Dear Mr. Musser

I am writing to express my support for the Air National Guard and the proposed Hardwood Range expansion.

The Air National Guard currently makes up over one third of the Air Force. In addition, the Air National Guard has never been busier. In fact, the Air National Guard today makes up over 35% of total Air Force capabilities. I want these men and women to serve this country and come back home to their families, homes and civilian jobs. To do this, they need our support and training opportunities that prepare them to perform at their best.

I am a tax payer. I want our government to operate as cost efficiently as possible. I also believe we need a strong military for the occasions when our interests are challenged. The Air National Guard does both. They perform 35% of the missions with 18% of the people, and only 6% of the Air Force budget. They are training more intensely then ever with the most technically advanced equipment available. They are citizens who work and live in our communities as full time employees, and are members of the armed forces in their spare time. This is an enormous commitment that all of us need to support.

Units that train in Volk Field managed airspace are flying in some of the most sensitive areas in the world today. In March, 1996, the 185th Fighter Wing, Sioux City, Iowa, spent a month enforcing the "No-Fly Zone" in northern Iraq. In October, 1996, the 132nd Fighter Wing, Des Moines, Iowa was performing the same sensitive mission. In early 1997, Wisconsin's own 115th Fighter Wing, located in Madison will deploy to perform real world missions. These units are trained at Volk Field and Hardwood Range.

I urge you to support this proposal. The men and women who serve this country with so much pride and dedication have earned that support.

Thank You,

Dreg O'Brick 1017 Evergreen Pass

Tomal, WJ 576-54660

Elected Official Addresses

US Senator Russell D. Feingold 517 East Wisconsin Ave, Room 408 Milwaukee, WI 53202

US Senator Herbert R. Kohl 14 West Mifflin Street, Suite 312 Madison, WI 53703

Congressman Thomas E. Petri 845 South Main Street, Room 160 Fon du Lac, WI 54935

Congressman David R. Obey Federal Building Wausau, WI 54403

Congressman Ron Kind 219 Pearl Street LaCrosse, WI 54601

Senator Dale W. Schultz PO Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

Senator David A. Zien PO Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

Senator Kevin Shibilski PO Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

Senator Rodney C. Moen PO Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

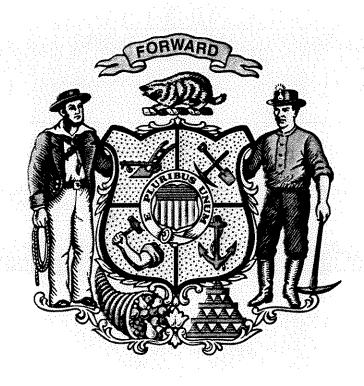
Representative Terry M. Musser PO Box 8953 Madison, WI 53708

Representative Barbara Gronemus PO Box 8952 Madison, WI 53708 Representative Robert K. Zukowski PO Box 8953 Madison, WI 53708

Representative Donald W. Hasenohrl PO Box 8952 Madison, WI 53708

Representative Marlin D. Schneider PO Box 8953 Madison, WI 53708

Representative Sheryl K Albers PO Box 8952 Madison, WI 53708



THE OLESENS 312 Mohawk Trail DeForest, Wisconsin 53532-1022

7 December 1996

Representative Terry M. Musser PO Box 8953 Madison, Wisconsin 53708-8953

Dear Representative Musser:

This is a very special day in the history of the United States and a most appropriate time to inform you of my support for expansion of the Air National Guard Hardwood Range. On this anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor, I'm reminded that we learned a very valuable and costly lesson at Pearl Harbor. Never since then have we taken such horrible losses without response.

Pearl Harbor, Korea, Viet Nam, and Iraq have taught us many lessons and hopefully we will use those lessons to better prepare for armed conflicts throughout the world. Whether we like it or not, the United States must protect our interests and availability of raw materials and finished goods in areas of the world we know very little about. It is much too easy to subscribe to the logic that we need to spend this money at home because of our domestic problems. Our domestic problems could and would be greater if we ignored our interests in foreign lands.

Our National Guard, both Air and Army are the most efficient means to ensure we are always prepared to defend our way of life and assist others as they strive for democracy and human rights. The Air National Guard is approximately 5% of the US Air Force budget, yet perform over 35% of the flying missions. Many of those mission take our airmen in some of the most dangerous areas of the world.

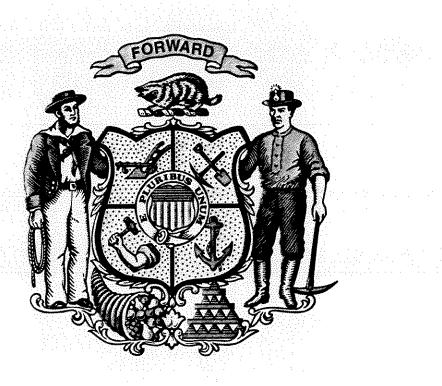
Our Wisconsin air refuelers have provided support for many missions in the Middle East and Europe. The F-16s from Madison will soon be supporting the 'No-Fly-Zone' in Iraq, relying heavily on the training they have received at the Hardwood Range, as well as a range in Arizona. Wisconsin is not the only state that hosts military training and contrary to popular belief, Arizona and Colorado are not 'wide-open spaces' where no one lives. We must all make some sacrifices to ensure we have a strong military.

Wisconsin citizens as well as citizens throughout the country, have learned to accept the sounds of jet aircraft departing airports and returning from missions. While we would all like our own little world of peace and quiet, we must consider the total rather than each small part.

I strongly urge you to support the Hardwood Expansion. *Your* National Guard deserves the best possible training available.

Sincerely,

GERALD C. OLESEN



Jest 394

December 9, 1996

Kenneth Kizer, MD, MPH Under Secretary for Health Veterans Health Administration Headquarters 810 Vermont Ave., NW Washington, DC 20420

Dr. Kizer,

I am writing to express my support for retaining the open heart program at the Madison VA Hospital in VISN #12.

It is my understanding that in the near future, one facility of the current three in VISN #12 will continue this program.

In working with Wisconsin VA Facilities, I understand the need for consolidating services. The Madison VA has consistently demonstrated excellence in services, particularly in the cardiothoracic surgery program.

Thank you for your consideration of the Madison VA open heart program for VISN #12.

Sincerely,

Terry Musser, Chair WI Assembly Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs

cc: Shirley Hertel, RN

Also to: Julie Moravec, Ph.D.
Chief Network Officer
Veterans Health Administration Headquarters
810 Vermont Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Rep. teny Mussel,

With the reorganization of the Veterans Health Organization into 22 Veterans Integrated Service Networks come many changes aimed at dramatically improving continuity of care, efficiency of operation, and patient satisfaction. Related to this reorganization is a program consolidation proposal within VISN # 12 for which we at the Madison VA would like your support.

Currently there are 3 VA Hospitals within this VISN which perform open heart surgeries. (Madison, Milwaukee, and Hines). Within the next several months, Dr. Joan Cummings, Director VISN # 12, will make a decision as to which of these 3 hospitals will retain their open heart programs. A consulting agency has completed its study comparing outcomes of the three hospitals, and has indicated these outcomes as being equal, although all intra-agency comparisons of the program show our outcomes to be better. Dr. Cummings is indicating that access and cost are the two factors that she will now base her decision on.

We feel this program is crucial to the survival of our in-patient hospital base. We feel we have a great deal to offer our cardiac patients. Our excellent patient satisfaction, exceptional outcomes, and the high-tech tertiary care we are able to provide our patients, in addition to an ever expanding out-patient base, make our facility exceptionally attractive. There are several factors which we feel make our program unique. Our affiliation with the structurally attached University Hospital plays a beneficial role by providing our patients access to top quality surgeons who are readily available at all times. Additionally, the Madison VA is home to the VA's largest and most successful heart and lung transplant program. (The three other VA sites which perform transplants are Salt Lake City Utah, Richmond VA, and Buffalo NY). This program has many common links with the open heart program, and there is speculation as to whether the transplant program could survive independently.

The "four domains of value" as listed in "Prescription for Change-The Guiding Principles and Strategic Objectives Underlying the Transformation of the Veterans Health care System" (3/96, Kenneth W Kizer, M.D., M.P.H. Under Secretary for Health) are as follows:

- 1. Cost/price.
- Quality.
- 3. Customer satisfaction.
- 4. Access

"Prescription for Change" also states ... "health care costs will continue to be the major driving force in the industry. Nonetheless, quality of care and customer service will become more important issues".

Cost

It is my understanding that costs regarding the open heart program are comparable between the three hospitals.

Quality

Although our program is considered to be "small" in volume, (128 operations for coronary artery bypass grafting, commonly referred to as CABG's, in FY 95, and 140 in FY 96), our mortality statistics can be included with those which rate exemplary. Since the programs existence in Jan '72 (Approx. 24 years), our mortality rate averages 2.22%. In the past three years, our mortality rate has been 1.19%, with the past year being 0.7%. These statistics are outstanding.

Customer Satisfaction

Madison VA Hospital has been named a Site of Excellence as a result of the latest VHA Customer Feedback Center survey of discharged inpatients. The 1995 National Survey Report places Madison as the second highest in the VA Healthcare System. Veterans were asked to complete a 47 item questionnaire seeking information on the admission and discharge process, hospital staff, and the patients' overall stay. The results list Madison as a Site of Excellence at least once in each of the following Customer Service Standards: Emotional Support; Courtesy; Physical Comfort; Timeliness/Access; Transition to Outpatient Care; Coordination of Care; Education and Information; and Family Participation. We are honored our patients felt so highly of the care they received.

• Access

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Demographics show our cardiac patients come from Northern Ill, Michigan, Iowa, South Dakota, Northern Nebraska, in addition to our surrounding area. Of first time patients with Coronary Artery Disease, statistics collected since Jan 1, 1987 on 936 patients revealed patients traveled the following distances: 220 patients traveled 50 miles or less, 319 patients traveled 50-100 miles, 130 patients traveled 100-150 miles, 42 patients traveled 150-200 miles, 136 patients traveled 200-250 miles, 89 patients traveled >250 miles. As you can see, the geographic area we serve is rather broad. Patients have been referred here from some distance because our program is known for excellent outcomes in dealing with high risk patients. Many patients, especially those from Northern Illinois, have verbalized they prefer to come to Madison rather than go to the Chicago area hospitals.

In summary, we at the Madison VA hospital are extremely proud of the high quality care our dedicated employees provide our Veterans. By retaining our open heart program, we can continue to provide our cardiac patients with the excellent care they deserve. I would like to share with you just a small sampling of the feedback we have received from some of our former CABG patients (names have been withheld to protect patient identity).

- ◆ "I'm doing great. I can never say enough about the wonderful care and treatment I have received at the VA... Thank you so much for your involvement in making my heart healthy."
- ♦ "This is my 4th anniversary since my bypass surgery. Have had no problems and can think of no place I could have had better care or better surgeons. I really appreciate the VA...Thank you once again."
- "Doing fine with heart. Best hospital I have been and great people. Thank you all."
- ..."I have nothing but good things to say of my operation, great doctors and nurses. Thanks."
- "Thank you for a very fine hospital. Also the very good care. God bless everyone."
- "Everytime I have been a patient or outpatient, the treatment has been excellent and the staff involved top notch."
- ♦ "It's been 5 years since my bypass surgery and I'm getting along pretty good. I have the highest praise for the VA hospital. The Doctors, nurses, aids, even custodians are all tops to me."
- ..."Having had three minor surgeries plus a 5 bypass heart surgery, I can't speak well enough for all the attention I received after the many days I spent at the VA in Middleton."

- There is not a day that passes that I do not think of the outstanding care I received from all the staff. Keep up the excellent work!!!"
- ..."I can't say enough about the wonderful care I have received and wonderful attitude of VA employees."
- ♦ "I would like to say thank you to all the doctors and nurses at the VA Hospitals both Madison and Tomah. Over the past years, I have received the best care and treatment. Everyone in the VA is great. Keep up the fine work. Thank you again."
- ◆ "I would like to thank Dr. Charles Canver and his staff for the perfect job they did on me in

 '95. I had open heart surgery with 4 bypass. At present, I work out on a bike one hour a day

 plus 100 push ups, 50 crunches, and when weather permits, walk approximately 3 miles per

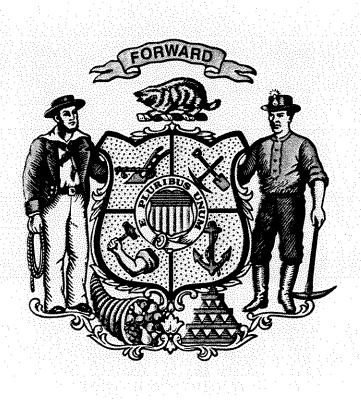
 day. Also pump iron for about one half hour per day. I feel like a new person and I might

 add cross country skiing was great."
- ♦ "Keep up the good work. We veterans need the VA hospital and their excellent care. Thank you."

We understand the need for consolidation of services within the VA, but are concerned that each hospital keep the services in which they have demonstrated excellence when compared with other VA's and the private sector. Our cardiothoracic surgery program has consistently shown exceptional outcomes and patient satisfaction. Please give us your support in keeping this program.

If you wish to give us your support, several people you may wish to contact are; Jule D. Moravec, Ph.D. (Dr Cummings direct papervisor Kenneth W. Kizes, M.D., M.P.H. Under Secretary for Health Western (Same address as Dr Kizer) Chief Network Officer Kund lite to 7 810 vermont aux., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20420 bossially taying tonal Statistics relating to cardiac lost para + re; There are also two data bases Durgery among The UA Hospit 974), Changerson Dr Gerald me Donald, 1. Cardiae Surgery Consulta This committee main tains observed Chief of Surgical Services, washington D.C. Motality statistics. 2. Cardiac Sungery Risk assessment Program (since 1987), Changersa Dr Karl Hammermeister, Denver, CO. This committee Maintains Statistics relating to "Expected" outcomes - Each pt is analysed pre-op, and assigned "risk adjustment" numbers / 90. I thank you it advance for your assistance + Support. 5 incerely Stanley Hertel, RN 5316 Black Walnut Dr. McFarland, WI. 53558

(608)-838-8960







WISCONSIN NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION, INC.

2400 Wright Street, Room 208, Madison, WI 53704-2572 Phone: (608) 242-3114 Fax: (608) 242-3106

December 10, 1996

Honorable Terry M. Musser P O Box 8953 Madison, Wisconsin 53708

Dear Representative Musser,

On behalf of the Wisconsin National Guard Association, Inc., I extend congratulations on your recent re-election to public office.

This state's constituency includes more than 9,500 members of the Wisconsin Army and Air National Guard. Our armories and airbases are located in 66 communities throughout the State, and our members live and work in every legislative district.

From the soldiers and airmen, to the families, those who have had a part in the many accomplishments of the Wisconsin Guard throughout the years, are proud of what the Guard represents. Our members are active in their communities and dedicated to the principles that have been the hallmark of the citizen militia since the 17th century. We are confident a strong National Guard will contribute to the future of our State and Nation.

For your reference, I have enclosed an economic impact statement which pertains to the communities in your district. The members of the Wisconsin National Guard Association Inc., and I look forward to working with you. Please contact me at (602) 242-3114 if we can assist you in any manner.

Thank you for serving our State and Nation. Have a Happy Holiday season.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Klinger

Colonel, Field Artillery

President

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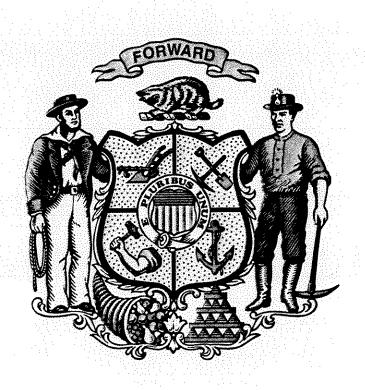
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128th Air Refueling Wing	Milwaukee	870		895	5 +25	103%	8	24 549 200	Mihwantoo	u v	4.6	2001000
Co C (Med) 132nd Support Bn	Miwaukee	118		420	_		. 6		MINMAUNCO	C,4	3,7	7,8,9,19,20
HHB (-) 57th FA Bde	All to the	- 6		3 6	Ĺ	0/.BOI	•		Milwaukee	4,5	3,6,7	7,8,9,16,17,18,19
The 3		200		82	+14	121%	€9	831,231	Milwaukee	4.5	3,6,7	7,8,9,16,17,18,19
Dtv. 0 4 450 r.A	Milwaukee		ω	West and a second		N/N	\$	400,000	Milwaukee	4,5	3,6,7	7.8.9.16.17.18.19
puy 5 1-126 FA	Oak Creek	106		8	-16	85%	\$ 86	863,829	Milwaukee	4	7	21
Midwest Leadership Bde (WMA)	Fort McCoy	114		67	-47	29%	\$ 2,32		Monroe	(C	77	- Volence Control Cont
WARNG MATES	Fort McCoy		90		-	N/A	The state of the s		Monroe) (20
107th Maintenance Co (-)	Sparta	120		108	-12	7000	Ĩ		MOILOG	ا م	31	92,
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CO E (.) 2-127th Information	Kurelander	6/	The second second	76		%96	\$ 64.		Oneida	æ	12	34
	Appleton	20		8	+30	160%	\$ 40	407,466	Outagamie	æ	19	57
010 (-) 2-12/m intantry	Appleton	107		233	+126	218%	\$ 1,04	,046,374	Outagamie	8	19	25
Co U (-) Z-1Z/In Infantry	Hartford	53		98	+15	128%	\$ 43	431,914	Ozaukee	σ.	2.	20
83znd Medical Co (Air Ambulance)	West Bend	120		141	+21	118%	\$ 1.77	7	Ozankaa	9	200	5 5
AASF#1	West Bend		45		-	N/A			Orankoo	n c	0 0	SC
Co E 1-128th Infantry	River Falls	81		79	-2	98%			Staron	p t	25	25
Bfry C 1-120th FA	Stevens Point	95	Walter Company	80		7070		77 4 400	מוכפ	,	2	29,30
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Btry C 1-126 FA	Racine	106		3 8	7 ^	0770	9/0		Kacine	-	21,22	63,66
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Det 1 1158th Transportation Co	Reloit	20.5		5 1	٠ ن ن	%671	-	-	Richland	2	17	20
Co A (S&T) 132nd Support Br		4 1		111) L-	%/8	-		Rock	+	15	45
Det 1 Troop E 108th Cau	Janesville	/9		100	-67	%09	*	,360,938 F	Rock	,	15,27	44,80
Troon E (1) 105th Cau	Daraboo	9/		*	-75	%	***************************************	619,349 8	Sauk	7	7	42
Co C (1) 173rd Engriph	Baraboo	9/		2	-74	3%		619,349 s	Sauk	2	14	42
Det 4 HUC 4 478th Infant.	Dalaboo	င္သ	***************************************	28	-7	89%	\$ 529	529,706	Sauk	2	14	42
No B / 1 724th Face Ba	Keedsburg	22		72	+2	103%	\$ 570	570,453 s	Sauk	2	17	50
00 D (*) 7440 E1191 BB	Hayward	84		64	-20	%9/	\$ 684	684,544 S	Sawyer	7	25	WAS ARREST TO THE PARTY OF THE
ZI SMO	Hayward		တ			N/A	\$ 349	349.561 S	Sawver	7	25	7.2
Btry B (-) 1-121 FA	Plymouth	61		58	ကု	95%			Shahowaan	- 4	34	***************************************
Det 2 HHB 1-120th FA	New Richmond	52		30	-22	58%		···T	St Croiv) 	D CT	17
Co B 1-128th Infantry	New Richmond	125		109	-16	87%	*		St Croix	2 0	2 4	87
Co A (-) 724th Engr Bn	Medford	84		70	-14	j.		SRA KAA T	Sign Tolling L	ז כ	2 00	79
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		2021		5	2	81%	\$ 814	814,933 Vernon	ernon	က	32	96

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FEDERAL	FUNDS	366,720 Walworth	497,109 Walworth	468 119 Mahuarih	402 78E	160,100	70)'age	The second secon	863,829	304,298	415,616	554,154	790 485 Wainaca	627 408 Mounaca	1000	000, 12/	496,175	546,005 Wood	415.616 Wood	1 065 932 Wood	249.897			
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INDOCHINESE REFUGEE POPULATION IN WISCONSIN

DECEMBER 31. 1996

