

SENATE DEMOCRATIC LEADER • MARK SCHAUER • 19TH DISTRICT

Schauer Press Release

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Schauer Pushes for Air Force Cyber Command Unit in Battle Creek
Bringing unit to Battle Creek Air National Guard Base would create new high-tech military jobs in Michigan

LANSING - Today Senator Mark Schauer (D-Battle Creek) advocated for the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base (BCANGB) to become the location for a new Air Force Cyber Command unit. Bringing the unit to Michigan would create new high-tech military jobs in the Battle Creek area.

“The Battle Creek Air National Guard Base is an ideal location for the high-tech operations of a Cyber Command unit,” said Schauer. “The base is well-equipped to meet a Cyber Command unit’s demanding security and technology needs, and with Battle Creek’s existing designation as an Aviation and e-Learning SmartZone, we already have essential infrastructure and collaborations in place between technology-based industries, research institutions, government and other community institutions.”

Air Force Cyber Command is at the core of a comprehensive national cyber security initiative to provide and enhance the United States’ offensive and defensive cyber capabilities, and protect the U.S. information infrastructure, including telecommunications and computer networks and systems. For more information about Air Force Cyber Command, visit <http://www.afcyber.af.mil/>.

Schauer sent letters this morning to United States Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates and to Assistant Secretary of the Air Force William C. Anderson recommending Battle Creek as a host location for a new Cyber Command unit. The Air Force expects to publicly announce its short-list of preferred locations for Cyber Command units by mid-November 2008.

Schauer has been an advocate for the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base and the men and women who work and serve there throughout his legislative career. He has traveled to St. Louis, MO and Washington, D.C. to testify on the importance of keeping the Battle Creek base open, hosted national military officials to urge continued support, and worked with Governor Jennifer Granholm and Senator Carl Levin to secure additional missions to help keep the base active.

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Editor's Note: Please find a copy of Senator Schauer's letter to U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates on this proposed project below.

July 7, 2008

Dr. Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Gates,

I am writing to express my strong support and the support of my community for the establishment of an Air Force Cyber Command unit at the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base (BCANGB) in Battle Creek, Michigan.

I represent the Battle Creek community in the Michigan Senate, and I can attest to the community's support, both past and present, for Air National Guard and Air Force missions.

The BCANGB is an ideal location for a new Air Force Cyber Command unit. The City of Battle Creek has put significant resources into growing its advanced technology sectors that include homeland security and aerospace, and has taken a proactive role to ensure that every part of the city has access to a state-of-the-art high-speed telecommunications infrastructure. The community has also demonstrated its support through the City of Battle Creek's purchase of the property adjacent to the airport to eliminate any possibility of residential encroachment.

Battle Creek is well situated to meet an Air Force Cyber Command unit's demanding security and technology needs. Battle Creek is one of the State of Michigan's certified **SmartZones**SM, a designated geographical location where technology-based firms, researchers and community assets are clustered to promote resource collaborations between universities, industry, research organizations, government and other community institutions. The Battle Creek area also offers comprehensive access to air, rail and interstate travel.

Finally, as a recipient of a Cool City designation by Governor Granholm in 2005, and with its outstanding educational, arts and cultural, and sports and recreational opportunities, the Battle Creek community provides a great quality of life for military service members and their families.

I hope that you will give favorable consideration to Battle Creek as a host location for a new Air Force Cyber Command unit. If I can be of assistance in any further way, please feel free to contact me directly at (517) 373-2426.

Sincerely,

Mark Schauer
State Senator - District 19