



THE SENATE  
STATE OF MICHIGAN  
**MARK H. SCHAUER**  
19TH DISTRICT  
SENATE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

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*<sup>SM</sup>, 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 servicemembers 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