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Cybersecurity threats are one of the greatest national security challenges we face today. Our future as a nation depends upon a reliable cyberspace for infrastructure, commerce, communications, and government at every level. To counter those determined to cause harm, it is crucial that America has a Cyber Mission Force that can strengthen and rigorously protect this critical infrastructure. As the Department of Defense makes determinations on the final Cyber Operations Squadrons (COS) for Air National Guard Cyber Force Laydown, we would like to express our strong support for the 110th Attack Wing of the Michigan Air National Guard in Battle Creek, MI to host a Cyber Squadron.

The Battle Creek Air National Guard Base's (BCANGB) unique location and capabilities would enable USCYBERCOM to fulfill its mission at a significant cost savings compared to bases without the same existing infrastructure.

For the past six years, the BCANGB team has demonstrated its technical and logistical capabilities as part of the AG Cyber Pilot unit. The 110th Cyber Force has provided support for INOSC East and First Air Force, and security for the 2012 Presidential Inauguration. The team has participated in force-on-force exercises including Cyber Flag, Cyber Shield, and Cyber Guard.

BCANGB's existing Cyber missions mean that much of the infrastructure required for this new mission is already in place. Projections show that a Cyber Operations Squadron at Battle Creek would save \$2.2 million compared to a location without the same capabilities. Important and costly equipment such as a dual diverse/redundant infrastructure path, state of the art Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) Points of Presence (POPs) and specialized facility generator that meets the power requirements will cut down on the lead time to stand up the mission. The base is ideally located adjacent to Fort Custer National Guard Training Center that will be able to offer additional support.

In addition, Michigan's current workforce and universities provide a strong foundation for current and future recruiting efforts. Michigan has a network of highly skilled IT professionals, qualified DoD personnel, as well as public and private cyber security specialists. We also have 22 colleges and universities that offer degrees in cyber security, including 5 colleges that have earned NSA Centers of Excellence designations.

Finally, a COS in Battle Creek would provide much needed regional support structure for FEMA Region 5 where there are no existing Air National Guard cyber security mission forces.

With emerging threats and growing concerns on the cyber battlefield, we recognize the difficult choices you must make in securing a Cyber Force structure that meets our nation's security needs. Locating a Cyber Operations Squadron at BCANGB will utilize existing infrastructure to keep costs low, and provide significant capabilities in meeting America's cyber security needs.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working with you on this matter.