

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3476

To authorize the Secretary of the Air Force to designate the Illinois Air National Guard 126th Air Refueling Wing at Scott Air Force Base as a Center of Excellence for KC-135R maintenance operations.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 25, 2021

Mr. BOST (for himself, Mr. KINZINGER, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Mrs. MILLER of Illinois) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Air Force to designate the Illinois Air National Guard 126th Air Refueling Wing at Scott Air Force Base as a Center of Excellence for KC-135R maintenance operations.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Air National Guard
5 Air Refueling Wing Center of Excellence Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The 126th Air Refueling Wing has a long,
2 decorated history of exceeding its fiscal year goals in
3 Mission Capable Rate, Aircraft Availability, Hourly
4 Use, Home Station Logistics Departure Reliability,
5 flying hours, sorties, and fuel offloaded.

6 (2) The 126th Air Refueling Wing was the top
7 performing KC-135R unit in 2016, receiving the Air
8 Force Outstanding Unit Award.

9 (3) The 126th Air Refueling Wing had the
10 highest mission capable rating for all KC-135R air-
11 craft, Active, Guard and Reserve for fiscal years
12 2016, 2017, and 2018, and is on track for fiscal
13 year 2019, with a 89.06-percent mission capable rat-
14 ing.

15 (4) The 126th Air Refueling Wing set the bar
16 for home station departure reliability rate, exceeding
17 Air Mobility Command's goal of 78 percent with a
18 three-year average of 98.16 percent.

19 (5) The 126th Maintenance Group won the cov-
20 eted Maintenance Effectiveness Award for being the
21 top Maintenance Group in best Small Aircraft Main-
22 tenance unit category (<300 personnel) in the Air
23 National Guard for fiscal year 2017.

24 (6) The 126th Maintenance Group was the vi-
25 sionary of "Project 14", which is the premier 14-day

1 KC-135 periodic inspection model championed by
2 the National Guard Bureau.

3 (7) The 126th Maintenance Group completed
4 17 periodic inspections of aircraft and nine periodic
5 inspections on other units' KC-135s, increasing the
6 mission capable rating by 8 percent and potentially
7 setting the standard for periodic inspection regional-
8 ization.

9 (8) The 126th Air Refueling Wing flew 27
10 black letter flights (aircraft with zero discrepancies),
11 including one flight in CENTCOM to support the
12 warfighter.

13 (9) Air Mobility Command awarded the 126th
14 Air Refueling Wing was the top tanker wing in fuel
15 efficiency for fiscal year 2016 and 2017.

16 (10) The 126th Maintenance Group spear-
17 headed the modeling of conditioned based mainte-
18 nance plus, the benchmark for all KC-135 units.

19 (11) The 126th Air Refueling Wing supported
20 the Illinois State Partnership Program, strength-
21 ening ties with the Polish Air Force during Joint
22 Exercises BALTOPS/Clear Sky in 2018, flying 23
23 sorties while offloading 875,000 pounds of fuel to
24 102 receivers.

1 (12) The 126th Air Refueling Wing supported
2 Joint Forces Domestic Operations in support of
3 Hurricane Irma relief efforts in 2017.

4 (13) The 126th Mission Support Group’s Logis-
5 tics Readiness Squadron was awarded the Air Na-
6 tional Guard’s Base Logistics Activity of the Year in
7 2017.

8 (14) The 126th Maintenance Group mantra of
9 “Fix It Today Safely”, combined with the overall
10 126th Air Refueling Wing efforts, enabled aircraft to
11 safely fly over 3,500 sorties and over 16,000 hours
12 to refuel more than 2,700 U.S. Air Force and Allied
13 aircraft in fiscal years 2016, 2017, and 2018.

14 (15) Several members of the 126th Air Refuel-
15 ing Wing have received honors for their superior
16 work, including:

17 (A) #1 Paralegal in a Reserve Component
18 for 2018 as awarded by Air Mobility Command
19 and recognized by Judge Advocate General
20 Corps;

21 (B) #1 Intelligence, Surveillance, and Re-
22 connaissance Senior Noncommissioned Officer
23 in Air Mobility Command for 2017;

24 (C) #1 Noncommissioned Officer in the
25 State of Illinois for 2018;

1 (D) #1 1st Sergeant in the State of Illi-
2 nois for 2018; and

3 (E) #1 Airman in the State of Illinois for
4 2017.

5 **SEC. 3. AUTHORITY TO DESIGNATE A CENTER OF EXCEL-**
6 **LENCE FOR KC-135R MAINTENANCE.**

7 The Secretary of the Air Force may designate the
8 Illinois Air National Guard 126th Air Refueling Wing at
9 Scott Air Force Base as a Center of Excellence for KC-
10 135R maintenance operations.

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