

JOHN GARAMENDI
3RD DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA



UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

September 16, 2013

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Honorable Eric K. Fanning
Acting Secretary of the Air Force
Office of the Secretary of the Air Force
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1670

Dear Secretary Fanning:

I am writing to ask you about the articles I read today in the media where the Air Force Chief of Staff, General Welsh, is quoted and discusses the elimination of the KC-10 tank fleet which would impact both Travis AFB as well as Joint Base McGuire-Dix. I fully recognize that the Air Force, as well as the other Military Services, is confronted with a number of choices that are dictated by the current budget environment. However, elimination of the entire fleet of KC-10 refueling aircraft seems shortsighted given the fact that national policy repositions our 21st Century security view toward the Pacific and that as a largely 'garrisoned' Air Force a good number of refueling aircraft are required to support mobility, fighter, and bomber aircraft.

This Wednesday General Welsh along with the Army Chief of Staff, the Chief of Naval Operations, and the Marine Corps Commandant will be testifying before the House Armed Services Committee of which I am a Member. I am hopeful that General Welsh will be fully prepared to explain in detail and with full clarity the Air Force decision, or what appears in the media to be the Air Force position, to eliminate the KC-10 refueling fleet as part of the FY 2015 Budget proposal. Specifically, I'd like to know if this is indeed the Air Force's position, what the impact would be on bases and how it would affect our readiness.

I look forward to the hearing before the Committee on Wednesday and the comments of the Service Chiefs and the Commandant relative to the future force structure and management required given budget constraints.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Garamendi".

JOHN GARAMENDI
Member of Congress

Cc: Mark Welsh, USAF Chief of Staff