

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20510

October 22, 2007

The Honorable Michael W. Wynne  
Secretary of the Air Force  
1660 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington DC, 20330-1660

Dear Secretary Wynne:

We are writing to ask that the Air Force consider Colorado Springs, Colorado, as a potential site for the headquarters of the newly established Cyber Command. We believe that the Pikes Peak region would make an ideal home for the Air Force's newest command, offering significant operational benefits, economic advantages, and an unparalleled quality of life.

The mission of Cyber Command (AFCYBER) is to protect the nation and military's cyber networks and communications. This mission, we believe, is closely tied to the missions of Air Force Space Command (AFSPC) and United States Northern Command (NORTHCOM), both of which are headquartered at Peterson AFB in Colorado Springs. Our warfighters are increasingly reliant upon AFSPC satellites and communications networks. Protecting these systems from a cyber attack would be a central component of AFCYBER's mission, and is vital to ensuring that our men and women in uniform maintain all possible advantages on the battlefield.

Locating AFCYBER in Colorado Springs would also, we believe, strengthen the partnership between Cyber Command and NORTHCOM, resulting in better protections against cyber attacks on the homeland. As evidenced by the recent attack on the Estonian government's computer networks, foreign governments are capable of causing major disruptions to a country's financial markets, communications systems, and government operations. In order to bring our defenses against a cyber attack on the homeland in line with the capabilities that other countries possess or are developing, AFCYBER must work hand in glove with USNORTHCOM, both supplementing NORTHCOM's operational capabilities and making use of the intelligence capabilities that NORTHCOM can provide.

In addition to the operational benefits of locating AFCYBER near NORTHCOM and AFSPC, the Colorado Springs area offers several other advantages. First, Schriever AFB, home of the 50th Space Wing, already has much of the infrastructure needed to support AFCYBER, and there is ample space on base in which to grow. The congressional delegation and local communities are working with the Air Force to ensure that Schriever AFB has all the resources it needs to fulfill its current and future missions and is adequately protected from encroaching development.

Second, Colorado Springs has a workforce that is fully able to meet the needs of AFCYBER. With Peterson AFB, Schriever AFB, the Air Force Academy, Fort Carson, and the Cheyenne Mountain Air Station all located in Colorado Springs, the region has become a hub for the engineering, aerospace, and defense industries. The universities in the area have developed programs that prepare students specifically for the needs that the military commands in the area have identified. The University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, for example, recently developed a PhD program in Homeland Defense at the request of NORTHCOM. Air Force Space Command also operates the National Space Security Institute, which is rapidly growing to accommodate the professional development needs of the command.

Additional course offerings might be provided, perhaps in conjunction with local universities, to fit whatever needs AFCYBER identifies.

Third, one cannot overlook the extraordinary quality of life that the Colorado Springs area offers the personnel and families of AFCYBER. Compared with major metropolitan areas, housing prices in the Pikes Peak region are remarkably low, as is the cost of living. Furthermore, Colorado's weather and geography not only shield AFCYBER from hurricanes, earthquakes, and other natural disasters, but they offer Air Force personnel extraordinary natural amenities.

The Air Force and other military personnel who are based at Peterson AFB, Schriever AFB, the Air Force Academy and other military installations have told us they thoroughly enjoy their time in Colorado; it is one of the most popular and hospitable destinations for military retirees and veterans in the country. Colorado Springs has the fifth largest community of military retirees in the country and approximately 125,000 veterans currently live in the broader Pikes Peak region.

Finally, the Colorado Springs community has a long history of support for the military and does all it can to meet the needs of the services and the bases it hosts. Local leaders are in strong support of bringing AFCYBER to the area and are prepared to provide their full support and assistance to the Air Force as it finds a permanent home for the new command.

We stand ready to host you, General Elder, General Lord, or others on a visit to Colorado Springs to explore the potential for headquartering Air Force Cyber Command in the region. We would be honored to have you visit.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our request and for your service to our country.

Sincerely,



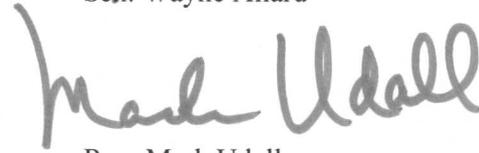
Sen. Ken Salazar



Sen. Wayne Allard



Rep. Diana DeGette



Rep. Mark Udall



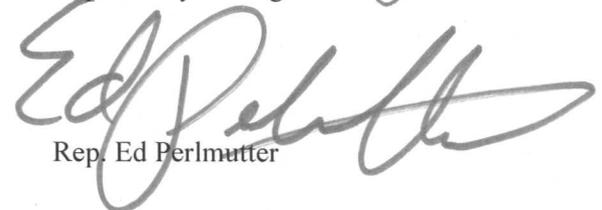
Rep. Tom Tancredo



Rep. Marilyn Musgrave



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Rep. Doug Lamborn