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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

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

Mr. BOST introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee  
on \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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 3500 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 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.