



Testimony for House Resolution 243
State Representative Tracy Richardson, District 86
House Veterans and Military Development Committee

October 22, 2025

Good morning members of the Veterans and Military Development Committee (VMD)

As you know, our committee has made it our mission to go out to various installations throughout the State of Ohio in order to learn more about them and to demonstrate our support. HR 243 before you today is an opportunity for our committee to put to action what is important to our armed services in Ohio.

Members of this committee recently traveled to Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base where we discovered the service being done right here in our backyard by the outstanding 121st Air Refueling Wing. Their mission is to be the core aerial refueling hub for KC-135 aircrafts for the United States Air Force and the Air National Guard. The 121st participates in Air Expeditionary Force missions on a regular basis and has executed 8 major overseas deployments while supporting 24 major exercises worldwide over the past 5 years.

The KC-135 has been in service for 60 years and can be flown until at least 2030. However, the costs for maintenance and updating systems on these aircrafts have greatly increased. The Air Force is looking to phase out the use of the KC-135 and replace them with the KC-46 Pegasus.

This resolution HR 243 urges the Secretary of the Air Force to relocate the KC-46's to Ohio. There are other states competing for the KC-46's but in unity with the top priorities of our Ohio National Guard, we are advocating to bring those valuable resources to Ohio.

My joint sponsor Representative Ghanbari will now explain why Rickenbacker is capable and ready to transition to this new aircraft.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tracy M. Richardson".

Tracy Richardson

State Representative | 86th District