



The Adjutant General's Department

Testimony of Brigadier General Matthew Woodruff, Adjutant General for Ohio

House Veterans and Military Development Committee

November 12, 2025

Chair Richardson, Ranking Member Lawson-Rowe, and members of the Ohio House of Representative's Veteran and Military Development Committee, greetings. As the eighty-fourth Adjutant General for the State of Ohio, it is my privilege to provide supporting testimony toward the 121st Air Refueling Wing gaining the KC-46 Pegasus aircraft.

The ability of the Ohio National Guard to fulfill its national defense role and obligations to this state and our communities is significantly based on acquiring modern force structure and the newest equipment available in the Air Force or Army inventory. Contemporary equipment and new force structure underpins the relevance of the National Guard and assures us that we can continue to recruit and retain the very best citizens that Ohio offers. For the 121st Air Refueling Wing, recapitalizing its venerable KC-135 aircraft for the new KC-46 allows the unit to maintain its

unique position in America's nuclear deterrence strategy while continuing to build on its exemplary history and reputation as a leading air refueling wing in the United States Air Force.

Recently, the Air National Guard and Air Force Air Mobility Command completed a site survey of KC-46 candidate bases (Ohio, Alabama, Illinois, Kansas, Maine, Mississippi, and Tennessee) eligible to receive eight KC-46 aircraft. Known as MOD7, this assessment collected data across five broad criteria including mission (compatibility with new mission/force structure), capacity (existing facilities and infrastructure), environmental, schools (adjacent communities), and cost (building/updating facilities). Though the selection announcement is delayed due to the lapse in continuing resolution, the 121st Air Refueling Wing remains one of the Air National Guard's leading contenders for KC-46 basing. The Wing leads nationally among all refuelers in overall strength (assigned personnel), the ability to meet recruiting and retention goals, and through sheer capacity by having two 12,000' runways rated for unrestricted heavy aircraft operations.

From an operational perspective, the 121st Air Refueling wing flew 3,293.7 total flying hours in 2024 earning distinction as the Air National Guard's top KC-135 wing. During the same period of time, the Wing completed 739 sorties while offloading more than 17 million pounds of fuel to over 3,600 contacts worldwide. The Wing is within 60% of Department of War air refueling demands and can meet nearly 80% of all refueling missions within its current operational reach. Additionally, the wing executed eight major overseas deployments while supporting over 24 major exercises worldwide in 2024. The Rickenbacker Air National Guard Enclave includes a new flight operations facility, weapons system trainer (simulator), and terminal operations facility. All are completely capable of supporting the KC-46 with the Columbus Regional Airport Authority investing more than \$62 million in airport infrastructure since 2017.

Chair Richardson, ranking member Lawson-Rowe, and valued committee members, thank you for your continued support of the Ohio National Guard and our efforts to gain the most current and relevant capabilities and military equipment for Ohio and the nation. If Ohio is not selected through MOD7, we look to future assessments and opportunities to gain the KC-46.

Respectfully submitted,
Brigadier General Matthew Woodruff
The Adjutant General