

**As Reported by the House Veterans and Military Development
Committee**

136th General Assembly

Regular Session

2025-2026

H. R. No. 243

Representatives Richardson, Ghanbari

Cosponsors: Representatives Mathews, T., Lawson-Rowe, Dovilla, Holmes

A RESOLUTION

To request the Secretary of the Air Force select the 121st Air Refueling Wing at the Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base in Columbus, Ohio, as the preferred main operating base for the KC-46 Pegasus refueling aircraft.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

WHEREAS, The Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base has a host of assets that will provide the Air Force and its guard component with unmatched benefits for basing the KC-46; and

WHEREAS, Rickenbacker, unmatched in capabilities, features two 12,000-foot runways rated for unrestricted heavy aircraft use. The Columbus Regional Airport Authority, the civilian local airport agency that hosts the 121st ARW, has invested more than \$62.9 million in airport infrastructure since 2017, including runway upgrades; and

WHEREAS, Rickenbacker contains ramps and taxiways that are KC-46 capable at an airfield with unmatched air-road-rail intermodal capabilities positioning Rickenbacker to be a strategic aerial port of embarkation; and

WHEREAS, Rickenbacker is located within four hours of 60% 19
of all Department of Defense customers and six to eight hours of 20
nearly 80% of potential customers; and 21

WHEREAS, Rickenbacker features a new squadron flying 22
operations facility as well as a modern weapons system simulator 23
facility capable of housing KC-46 simulators; and 24

WHEREAS, Rickenbacker has a location adjacent to new 25
facilities for passenger and cargo movement that could 26
accommodate planned or future needs of the Department of 27
Defense; and 28

WHEREAS, Rickenbacker sits in a geographic location that 29
enjoys a very low risk for natural disasters and weather issues 30
in comparison to all of the other candidate sites; and 31

WHEREAS, Rickenbacker is the home of the 121st Air 32
Refueling Wing; and 33

WHEREAS, The men and women of the 121st Air Refueling Wing 34
have demonstrated that they are top-notch experienced 35
performers, recognized in 2024 as the Air National Guard's top 36
KC-135 wing with over 3,290 flight hours offloading over 17 37
million pounds of fuel to over 3,600 contacts, and is the only 38
one of two assessed wings that is aligned with KC-46 manpower 39
requirements; and 40

WHEREAS, The 121st Air Refueling Wing flew 126% of 41
programmed flying hours in 2023, exceeding its commitment, and 42
allowing the Air National Guard to achieve its flying hours 43
target, and has overall wing manning at 109% placing the 121st 44
at number four among 90 Air National Guard wings and number two 45
among 16 KC-135 wings. Aircrew manning is 114%, and maintenance 46
manning is 126%; and 47

WHEREAS, The 121st Air Refueling Wing executed eight major 48
overseas deployments while supporting 24 major exercises 49

worldwide over the past five years; and 50

WHEREAS, The 121st Air Refueling Wing is leading other 51
locations in standing up a Sensitive Compartmented Information 52
Facility (SCIF) (operational in 2026) to increase its ability to 53
fulfill more missions and roles; and 54

WHEREAS, The 121st Air Refueling Wing is a critical support 55
element for the Nuclear Triad; now therefore be it 56

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the House of 57
Representatives of the 136th General Assembly of the State of 58
Ohio, request the Secretary of the Air Force select the 121st 59
Air Refueling Wing at the Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base 60
in Columbus, Ohio, as the preferred main operating base for the 61
KC-46 Pegasus refueling aircraft; and be it further 62

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives 63
transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the 64
President Pro Tempore and Secretary of the United States Senate, 65
Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, 66
the members of Ohio's Congressional delegation, Dr. Troy E. 67
Meink, Secretary of the Air Force, and the news media of Ohio. 68