

Washington, DC—Yesterday, the House Appropriations Committee **approved \$6 million for a F-15 Aircraft Maintenance Hangar** for Barnes ANG Base in Westfield, MA. This project would add to and alter the F-15 Aircraft Maintenance Hangar to increase space for daily maintenance on the 18 F-15s assigned to the base.

Essentially unchanged since it was first constructed in the 1950s, the facility needs to be updated with modern power, fire suppression, a new roof on the south side, new hangar doors, and other critical systems necessary to properly support F-15 maintenance activities.

“Adding to and altering the main hangar will significantly improve maintenance of the F-15 aircraft. These improvements will make housing and operating the F-15s safer by giving the base personnel superior space within which to work,” said Congressman John Olver.

“The 104th Fighter Wing based at Barnes Air National Guard Base, Westfield, MA, is a key component in the defense of American airspace. The 104th FW’s F-15 fleet maintains a twenty-four hour, seven day a week alert mission throughout the year to respond to any airborne threat to American sovereignty,” said Major General Joseph C. Carter.

“The importance of the mission and the safety of the personnel who maintain and fly our aircraft require that Barnes ANG Base has adequate modern infrastructure. The current aircraft hangar is under-sized and antiquated, essentially unchanged since it was constructed in the 1950s. The \$6.0m approved by the Appropriations Committee will expand available space; provide modern power and fire suppression systems, a new roof, new hangar doors and other critical systems needed to properly support safe, efficient and effective F-15 maintenance activities,” Carter added.

The FY11 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies bill now awaits consideration by the full House and Senate.

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