State of Mississippi

TATE REEVES
Governor

MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

March 30, 2023

The Honorable Mike Ezell
United States House of Representatives
443 Cannon HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Ezell,

Located in Biloxi on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, Keesler Air Force Base is home to the Air Education and Training Command 2nd Air Force, the 81st Training Wing and Air Force Reserve Command 403rd Wing, which includes the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron and the 815th Airlift Squadron.

The existing air traffic control tower at Keesler was built in 1980, and now it is in need of replacement.

The proposed replacement project will support the Department of Defense's only weather reconnaissance support mission. The facility will include training rooms, a crew briefing room, and office space for the tower chief, assistant chief controller, terminal instrument procedure specialist and administrative personnel.

The project will continue Keesler's long history in the State of Mississippi and contribute to the national defense. It is a worthy project and deserves full consideration.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

PJ Waldrop
Director
Governor's Office of Military Affairs

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HARRISON COUNTY
Development Commission

March 30, 2023

The Honorable Mike Ezell
United States House of Representatives
443 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Ezell:

This letter is in support of a new air traffic control tower at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi.

Since 1941, Biloxi has been proud to have Keesler as a neighbor. Nearly 8,400 military and civilians serve at the base, all of whom contribute to our community, economy and national security.

The proposed air traffic control tower project will construct a new building to modern standards to include fire suppression systems with fire escape routes. It will correct apron blind spots at the existing 43-year-old tower and also be more resilient to high winds, noise and vibrations.

The success and growth of Biloxi is deeply entwined with the growth and success of Keesler. I urge you to give the Keesler Air Force Base air traffic control tower project your full consideration.

Sincerely,

Bill Lavers, Executive Director

1. COMPONENT	FY 2025 MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT DATA	2. DATE
AIR FORCE		

3. INSTALLATION, SITE AND LOCATION	4. PROJECT TITLE
KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE KEESLER AFB SITE #1 MISSISSIPPI	AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER

5. PROGRAM ELEMENT	6. CATEGORY CODE	7. PROJECT NUMBER	8. PROJECT COST ($000)
91211F	149-962	MAHG233000	19,600

9. COST ESTIMATES

ITEM	U/M	QUANTITY	UNIT COST ($)	COST ($000)
PRIMARY FACILITIES				12,152
AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER (149-962)	SM	557	17,050	(9,497)
FLIGHT SIMULATOR FACILITY (171-212)	SM	708	3,170	(2,244)
CYBERSECURITY OF FACILITY-RELATED CONTROL SYS	LS			(411)
SUPPORTING FACILITIES				4,120
SITE IMPROVEMENTS	LS			(282)
UTILITIES	LS			(760)
PAVEMENTS	LS			(203)
COMMUNICATIONS	LS			(644)
ELEVATOR	LS			(783)
GENERATOR	KW	480	813	(390)
VERTICAL DEMOLITION B.4209	SM	333	2,471	(823)
VERTICAL DEMOLITION B.4230	SM	73	3,219	(235)
MISSISSIPPI EXCISE TAX (3.5%)	LS			(426)
SUBTOTAL				16,697
CONTINGENCY (5.0%)				835
TOTAL CONTRACT COST				17,532
SUPERVISION, INSPECTION AND OVERHEAD (5.7%)				1,000
DESIGN COST (6.0% OF SUBTOTAL)				1,052
TOTAL REQUEST				19,584
TOTAL REQUEST (ROUNDED)				19,600

10. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION: New Air Traffic Control Tower with Flight Simulator Facility adjacent to Base Operations. Ten-story facility constructed of drilled piling foundation, reinforced concrete wall panels, reinforced concrete floor slabs, structural steel framing, back-up generator, elevator, and all supporting utilities. Construction must comply with Miami Dade Hurricane codes. The project will demolish B.4209 Air Traffic Control Tower (333 SM) and B.4230 Flight Training Classroom (73 SM) once the new facilities are operational. Facilities will be designed as permanent construction in accordance with the DoD Unified Facilities Criteria (UFC) 1-200-01, General Building Requirements, and UFC 1-200-02, High Performance and Sustainable Building Requirements. This project will comply with DoD Antiterrorism/Force Protection requirements per UFC 4-010-01 and UFC 3-600-01, Fire Protection.

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Air Conditioning: 26 Tons

11. Requirement: 1,265 SM Adequate: 0 SM Substandard: 406 SM

PROJECT: Air Traffic Control Tower

REQUIREMENT: Air Traffic Control Tower that has appropriate line of sight access to both runways and other areas within the Airfield Proper, meets fire and safety regulations, and is capable of being updated to meet current technology requirements. The facility will include training rooms, crew briefing room, and office space for the tower chief, assistant chief controller, terminal instrument procedure specialist, and administrative personnel. This is an AETC requirement.

CURRENT SITUATION: Mission operations are negatively impacted by the lack of space in the tower. Situational awareness of operations is compromised due to two blind spots on the apron and the absence of an elevated Supervisor's Watch in the cab. There is a risk of equipment failure due to an undersized backup generator that is unable to sustain the cooling requirement for essential equipment. Cab windows are not appropriately rated for winds of 50+ kts which hinders post-hurricane response and contingency support mission for three bases. The current Equipment Room is at full capacity with no room for expansion. The current tower does not meet current fire codes and standards making fire safety a major ongoing concern.

IMPACT IF NOT PROVIDED: Fire Safety problems will continue to threaten personnel and operations. Air Traffic Sight Line Controller's work will continue to degrade without appropriate visual competencies for the entire Controlled Movement area. Equipment Room is full and there is no room expand.

ADDITIONAL: This project meets applicable criteria/scope specified in Air Force MANUAL 32-1084, Facility Requirements. This design shall conform to criteria established in the Air Force Corporate Facilities Standards (AFCFS), the Installation Facilities Standards (IFS), and shall employ the standard facility design UFC 4-133-01. All reasonable alternatives were considered during the development of this project to include status quo, add/alter, and new construction. New construction is the only viable option to meet this requirement. A formal economic analysis is in progress and will be completed before approval of the President's Budget. Sustainable principles, to include life-cycle cost-effective practices, will be integrated into the design, development, and construction of the project in accordance with Unified Facility Criteria 1-200-02, High Performance and Sustainable Building Requirements. This includes preparation of a life-cycle cost analysis for energy consuming systems, renewable energy generating systems, whenever life-cycle cost effective is selected as the reason any requirement of Unified Facility Criteria 1-200-02 is partially compliant or not applicable. This project does not fall within or partly within the 100-year flood plain. Facility is sited in accordance with the Installation Development Plan and is within a compatible land use area.

Base Civil Engineer: (228) 377-9019

Air Traffic Control Tower: 557 SM = 5,996 Square Feet;

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Flight Simulator Facility: 708 SM = 7,621 Square Feet;

Air Traffic Control Tower Demolition: 333 SM = 3,583 Square Feet;

Flight Training Classroom Demolition: 73 SM = 786 Square Feet;

JOINT USE CERTIFICATION: This facility can be used by other components on an "as available" basis; however, the scope of the project is based on Air Force requirements.

12. SUPPLEMENTAL DATA:

a. Estimated Design Data:

(1) Status:	
(a) Type of Design	DESIGN-BID-BUILD
(b) Date Design Started	DD-MMM-YY
(c) Parametric Cost Estimates Used to develop costs	YES/NO
(d) Percent Complete as of 01 JAN 20XX	XX%
(e) Date 35% Designed	DD-MMM-YY
(f) Date Design Complete	DD-MMM-YY
(g) Energy Study/Life-Cycle analysis was/will be performed	YES/NO
(2) Basis:	
(a) Standard or Definitive Design	YES/NO
(b) Where Design Was Most Recently Used	FY & PROJECT TITLE
(3) Total Cost (c) = (a) + (b) or (d) + (e)	($000)
(a) Production of Plans and Specifications	(TYP. 6% OF PA) ###
(b) All Other Design Costs	(TYP. 3% OF PA) ###
(c) Total	#,###
(d) Contract	(TYP. 7.5% OF PA)###
(e) In-house	(TYP. 1.5% OF PA)###
(4) Construction Contract Award	YY-MMM
(5) Construction Start	YY-MMM
(6) Construction Completion	YY-MMM

b. Equipment associated with this project provided from other appropriations:

EQUIPMENT NOMENCLATURE	PROCURING APPROP	FISCAL YEAR APPROPRIATED OR REQUESTED	COST ($000)

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FURNITURE FIXTURES & EQUIPMENT	3080/3400/OTHER	20XX	XXX
COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT	3080/3400/OTHER	20XX	XXX
OTHER	3080/3400/OTHER	20XX	XXX
OTHER	3080/3400/OTHER	20XX	XXX

c. Authorization and Appropriation Summary:

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