

Written Testimony of Representative Mike Bost
Before the House Armed Services Committee
Member Day Hearing
April 28, 2022

Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Rogers, thank you for holding this hearing and allowing me to speak on an important issue impacting Scott Air Force Base located in Illinois' 12th Congressional district.

The 932nd Air Force Reserve Wing at Scott Air Force Base has flown the C-40c aircraft since 2007, providing first rate, safe, and reliable airlift for Members of Congress, senior military officials, and foreign dignitaries, in addition to providing other humanitarian and operational support. During that time, the 932nd has flown thousands of flight hours on hundreds of missions and is consistently one of the most well-regarded units of its kind.

The Air Force announced a decision to divest from the C-40c at Scott Air Force Base, which is concerning for several reasons, including how this will impact the approximately 1,300 wing personnel who live in the area. Additionally, I am concerned with how this will impact readiness, given the number of mission hours flown by the 932nd, and the fact that over one-third of the Air Force's C-40c fleet is at Scott.

It is for these reasons that I am requesting the inclusion of the below language into the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023:

SEC. XXX PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR RETIREMENT OF C-40 AIRCRAFT.

(a) PROHIBITION.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act for fiscal year 2023 for the Air Force may be obligated to retire,

prepare to retire, or place in storage or on backup aircraft inventory status any C-40 aircraft.

(b) EXCEPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The limitation under subsection (a) shall not apply to an individual C-40 aircraft that the Secretary of the Air Force determines, on a case-by-case basis, to be no longer mission capable because of a Class A mishap.

(2) CERTIFICATION REQUIRED.—If the Secretary determines under paragraph (1) that an aircraft is no longer mission capable, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a certification that the status of such aircraft is due to a Class A mishap and not due to lack of maintenance or repairs or other reasons.

This language will ensure that the Air Force continues to utilize these important aircraft.

Again, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Ranking Member, thank you for allowing me to testify today. I hope that this straightforward language can soon have an opportunity to advance in the House.