

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2885

To extend the runway at Pope Army Airfield.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 28, 2016

Mr. TILLIS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred
to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To extend the runway at Pope Army Airfield.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF THE RUNWAY AT POPE ARMY**
4 **AIRFIELD.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
6 ings:

7 (1) Pope Army Airfield, North Carolina, is the
8 busiest tactical airfield in the Armed Forces but has
9 one of the shortest runways in the Army.

10 (2) Pope Army Airfield is the principal training
11 field for America's Global Response Force.

1 (3) The mission of the Global Response Force
2 is to have units of the XVIII Airborne Corps any-
3 where in the world within 48 hours notice.

4 (4) The current Pope Army Airfield runway
5 length is 7,500 feet with 1,000 feet hardened over-
6 runs, providing 8,500 feet for aircraft takeoff.

7 (5) The C-17 requires a 10,500 foot runway
8 for take-off with a maximum gross take-off weight
9 of 585,000 pounds.

10 (6) The C-5 requires an 11,500 foot runway
11 for maximum gross take-off weight of 769,000
12 pounds. Because the C-5 load normally fills the
13 cargo bay space prior to meeting the maximum pay-
14 load, a 10,500 foot runway is considered adequate.

15 (7) The C-17 and C-5 Airlift aircraft cannot
16 depart fully fueled and with a full load of para-
17 troopers on the current Pope Runway.

18 (8) These aircraft require air refueling because
19 the runway length at Pope Field will not allow a full
20 fuel load due to the mission cargo weight require-
21 ments.

22 (9) The United States Air Force air refueling
23 fleet is already stressed and C-17s are currently re-
24 quired to do stopovers at Charleston, South Caro-
25 lina, or Gander, Newfoundland. One refueling stop

1 for airlift, coming out of Pope, at Gander, New-
2 foundland, costs \$17,000 per hour.

3 (10) If 53 aircraft, the number required to
4 outload the heaviest Brigade Combat Team, have to
5 refuel at Gander, it costs over \$2,000,000 one-way.
6 This refueling stop adds two hours and thirty min-
7 utes to the mission.

8 (11) Prior to the last round of base closure and
9 realignment, extending the Pope Army Airfield run-
10 way to accommodate fully loaded C-17 and C-5 air-
11 craft was Air Mobility Command's number one air-
12 field project and the United States Air Force's num-
13 ber two project for funding.

14 (12) Extending the Pope Army Airfield runway
15 to accommodate the airlift requirements of the Glob-
16 al Response Force and the XVIII Airborne Corps is
17 a national strategic priority.

18 (b) REPORT REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 180
19 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
20 retary of the Army, in coordination with the Commander
21 of the XVIII Airborne Corps and the commanding officer
22 of Fort Bragg, shall submit to Congress a report (includ-
23 ing analytical and justification materials) outlining plans

- 1 to extend the runway at Pope Army Airfield and whether
- 2 such project is a priority for the United States Army.

