

The transfer of Puerto Rico Air National Guard units, equipment, and personnel would populate and generate substantial activity in a currently abandoned area bringing the necessary security elements to protect the integrity of the existing infrastructure and installations, as well as of those that may be developed therein in the future. Furthermore, this would free up, for the short- and long-term development, valuable properties located in other places that are underutilized at present or that, due to their location, could be better used by the people of Puerto Rico than they are now if they were not occupied by the Puerto Rico Air National Guard components.

Likewise, the proposed transfer would enable the opening of a passenger terminal in the José Aponte-De la Torre Airport in the former Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, under the command of the Puerto Rico Air National Guard, similar to those currently operated by the National Guards of other states, to wit: the Jackson Air National Guard Passenger Terminal (Mississippi); Memphis Air National Guard Passenger Terminal (Tennessee); Birmingham Air National Guard Passenger Terminal (Alabama); Great Falls Air National Guard Passenger Terminal (Montana); Stewart Air National Guard Base Passenger Terminal (New York). The establishment of this type of air passenger terminal in Roosevelt Roads would allow active, reserve or retired military personnel and their dependents to travel to and from Puerto Rico as passengers on military planes. This type of air passenger terminal exists in more than 53 military bases around the world. Fourteen (14) of these terminals are located on the east coast of the United States, five (5) of which are in Florida. Through this proposal, the Puerto Rican military community residing in Florida (whether in active duty or retired and their family members) would have the opportunity to travel to Puerto Rico more frequently and free of charge. Moreover, this initiative would pave the way for current and former military personnel worldwide to choose Puerto Rico as one of their tourist destinations by using the military air transportation that would operate to and from the new installations of the Air National Guard in Roosevelt Roads.

It is worth noting that, at present, the operations of the Puerto Rico National Guard, the 1st Mission Support Command of the U.S. Army Reserve and other Reserve units from the different components of the Armed Forces, including the Air National Guard, generate approximately \$440 million for Puerto Rico's economy. The proposed transfer of air operations to Roosevelt Roads, would guarantee a capital injection for our economy by ensuring the importance of our Air National Guard as a fundamental support component of the United States Armed Forces that is always ready.

On the other hand, new expansion projects for the air facilities of the Luis Muñoz-Marín International Airport, which are so necessary to increase national and international air traffic to and from Puerto Rico, could be developed within the grounds thereof.

With the proposed transfer, the Government of Puerto Rico would immediately stimulate economic activity within the Roosevelt Roads area; enable the Puerto Rico National Guard to strengthen and diversify its operational capacity; ensure its permanence as well as the continuity of its operations on the Island, and relevance thereof at the national level; open the necessary conditions to halt the deterioration of Roosevelt Roads' installations; open new ways to boost the economic development of Carolina, San Juan, Ceiba, and surrounding municipalities; and create, almost immediately, the

economic conditions necessary to stimulate private investments in such areas.

The financial costs entailed by the proposed transfer would be defrayed with the federal funds appropriated to support the military operations in Puerto Rico and through the sale or lease of the unused lands and installations in the Luis Muñoz-Marín International Airport to aviation companies.

It is worth noting that the transfer of the Air National Guard from the LMMIA would only occupy a portion of the Naval Station Roosevelt Roads in the José Aponte-De la Torre Airport; therefore, the remaining facilities would be available for development without any problems, just as they are now.

For all of the foregoing, this Legislative Assembly requests to the President of the United States and the United States Congress, as well as to the Government of Puerto Rico, to take any and all executive, administrative, and legislative actions as are necessary, including the appropriation of funds, to immediately transfer the operations of the Puerto Rico Air National Guard from its current location at the Muñiz Air National Guard Base in the Luis Muñoz-Marín International Airport (LMMIA) to the José Aponte-De la Torre Airport in the grounds of the former Naval Station Roosevelt Roads in Ceiba. The Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico further requests to the Governor of Puerto Rico, as Commander-in-Chief of the Puerto Rico Military Forces, to direct the Puerto Rico National Guard Adjutant General to initiate the process before the National Guard Bureau in Washington DC to authorize the immediate transfer of said operations to the José Aponte-De la Torre Airport in the grounds of the former Naval Station Roosevelt Roads in Ceiba.

*Be it Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico:*

Section 1.—To request to the President and the Congress of the United States of America, as well as to the Government of Puerto Rico, to take any and all executive and administrative actions as are necessary, including the appropriation of funds or the allocation of human resources, to immediately transfer the operations of the Puerto Rico Air National Guard from its current location at the Muñiz Air National Guard Base in the Luis Muñoz-Marín International Airport (LMMIA) to the José Aponte-De la Torre Airport in the grounds of the former Naval Station Roosevelt Roads in Ceiba.

Section 2.—Furthermore, to request, further, to the Governor of Puerto Rico, as Commander-in-Chief of the Puerto Rico Military Forces, to instruct the Puerto Rico National Guard Adjutant General to begin the process before the National Guard Bureau in Washington, DC to make feasible the immediate transfer of said operations to the José Aponte-De la Torre Airport in the grounds of the former Naval Station Roosevelt Roads in Ceiba.

Section 3.—Furthermore, to request to the Governor of Puerto Rico to instruct the "21st Century Critical Infrastructure Project Interagency Group" created by virtue of Executive Order Number 2017-004, to include in its critical projects agenda the immediate transfer of the operations of the Puerto Rico Air National Guard from its current location at the Muñiz Air National Guard Base in the Luis Muñoz-Marín International Airport to the José Aponte-De la Torre Airport in the grounds of the former Naval Station Roosevelt Roads in Ceiba.

Section 4.—It is hereby directed that a copy of this Joint Resolution, translated into the English language, be delivered to the Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico in Washington, as well as to all members of the United States Congress, to the United States President, the Governor of Puerto Rico, the

members of the Board created by virtue of the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act (PROMESA), the Puerto Rico National Guard Adjutant General, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau of the United States Department of Defense, the members of the 21st Century Critical Infrastructure Project Interagency Group created by virtue of Executive Order Number 2017-004, and to the Mayors of Ceiba, Fajardo, Naguabo, Río Grande, Vieques, and Culebra.

Section 5.—This Joint Resolution shall take effect upon its approval.

#### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. INHOFE for Mr. MCCAIN for the Committee on Armed Services.

\*John Henderson, of South Dakota, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force.

\*Michael D. Griffin, of Alabama, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering.

\*William Roper, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force.

\*Phyllis L. Bayer, of Mississippi, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

\*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2329. A bill to reauthorize and amend the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. FLAKE (for himself, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. LEE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. ERNST, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. SASSE, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. PAUL):

S. 2330. A bill to prohibit earmarks; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2331. A bill to extend the period during which vessels that are shorter than 79 feet in length and fishing vessels are not required to have a permit for discharges incidental to the normal operation of the vessel; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. DONNELLY):

S. 2332. A bill to establish the Kennedy-King National Historic Site in the State of Indiana, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. DURBIN,

Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. COONS, and Ms. SMITH):

S. Res. 376. A resolution urging the Governments of Burma and Bangladesh to ensure the safe, dignified, voluntary, and sustainable return of the Rohingya refugees who have been displaced by the campaign of ethnic cleansing conducted by the Burmese military; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mr. CRUZ):

S. Res. 377. A resolution recognizing the importance of paying tribute to those individuals who have faithfully served and retired from the Armed Forces of the United States, designating April 18, 2018, as "Military Retiree Appreciation Day", and encouraging the people of the United States to honor the past and continued service of military retirees to their local communities and the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. BALDWIN:

S. Res. 378. A resolution congratulating the National Treasury Employees Union on its 80th anniversary and commending the dedication to Federal employees of and continued service by the National Treasury Employees Union and the members of the National Treasury Employees Union; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. Res. 379. A resolution to authorize the production of records by the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. Res. 380. A resolution congratulating the University of Charleston men's soccer team for winning the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II Men's Soccer Championship at Swope Soccer Village in Kansas City, Missouri; considered and agreed to.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 58

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) were added as cosponsors of S. 58, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high cost employer-sponsored health coverage.

S. 833

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 833, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand health care and benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs for military sexual trauma, and for other purposes.

S. 918

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 918, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions.

S. 1106

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 1106, a bill to designate the same individual serving as the Chief Nurse Officer of the Public Health Service as the National Nurse for Public Health.

S. 1162

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1162, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes.

S. 1774

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1774, a bill to provide protections for workers with respect to their right to select or refrain from selecting representation by a labor organization.

S. 1873

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1873, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a program to establish peer specialists in patient aligned care teams at medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 1989

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 1989, a bill to enhance transparency and accountability for online political advertisements by requiring those who purchase and publish such ads to disclose information about the advertisements to the public, and for other purposes.

S. 2105

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2105, a bill to modify the presumption of service connection for veterans who were exposed to herbicide agents while serving in the Armed Forces in Thailand during the Vietnam era, and for other purposes.

S. 2250

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2250, a bill to ensure due process protections of individuals in the United States against unlawful detention based solely on a protected characteristic.

S. 2271

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2271, a bill to reauthorize the Museum and Library Services Act.

S. 2286

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2286, a bill to amend the Peace Corps Act to provide greater protection and services for Peace Corps volunteers, and for other purposes.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 376—URGING THE GOVERNMENTS OF BURMA AND BANGLADESH TO ENSURE THE SAFE, DIGNIFIED, VOLUNTARY, AND SUSTAINABLE RETURN OF THE ROHINGYA REFUGEES WHO HAVE BEEN DISPLACED BY THE CAMPAIGN OF ETHNIC CLEANSING CONDUCTED BY THE BURMESE MILITARY

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. COONS, and Ms. SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 376

Whereas, on August 25, 2017, attacks on security posts in Burma by the military group Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army resulted in a brutal, systematic, and disproportionate reprisal by the Burmese military and security forces on Rohingya villages in Rakhine State;

Whereas more than 650,000 Rohingya refugees have fled to Bangladesh since the Burmese military commenced its scorched-earth campaign, with the burning of villages and local monuments, and reports of widespread gang rape, starvation, killing, and forcible deportation;

Whereas the Government of Burma has consistently denied access to the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar established to investigate human rights violations around the country;

Whereas Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina proposed that "safe zones" be created inside Burma to protect all civilians irrespective of religion and ethnicity under United Nations (UN) supervision;

Whereas the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)'s mandate is to provide, in collaboration with other actors, international protection to refugees and to assist them in finding durable solutions through voluntary repatriation, local integration, or resettlement;

Whereas the UN General Assembly has repeatedly affirmed UNHCR's function of facilitating the voluntary repatriation of refugees and, in recognition of the importance of sustainable return, has widened its mandate to include providing assistance for their rehabilitation and dealing with the consequences of their return;

Whereas the fundamental operational principles of voluntary repatriation are safety, to include legal and physical safety, and dignity, to include treatment with respect and full acceptance by their national authorities, including the full restoration of refugees' rights;

Whereas, on November 23, 2017, the Government of Burma and the Government of Bangladesh signed an agreement, known as the "Arrangement", on the return of displaced persons from Rakhine State, which is modeled after the 1992 repatriation agreement between Burma and Bangladesh;

Whereas the Arrangement includes references to restoring normalcy and human rights in Rakhine State, for refugee returns to comply with international standards of safety, dignity, and voluntariness, and to commencing a process to address root causes in line with the Rakhine Advisory Commission recommendations;