



ROOSEVELT ROADS FUND
SUPPORTING VETERANS WORLDWIDE

February 10, 2016

Honorable Elijah E. Cummings
Democratic U.S. Representative for Maryland's 7th congressional district
1010 Park Avenue, Suite 105
Baltimore, MD 21201

Congressman Cummings:

We are grateful to you for taking time from your busy schedule to talk with us about some of the issues of concern to the U.S. military community with links to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Your response to our request for support was heartwarming.

As we discussed in your office on January 19, 2016, one of the most pressing issues affecting the Puerto Rican military community is the lack of regularly scheduled Air Mobility Command flights to and from Puerto Rico. AMC flights were suspended in 2004 when the Roosevelt Roads Naval Station was closed and since then, thousands of active duty servicemen and veterans traveling between Puerto Rico and the continental United States have suffered due to the lack of this vital service. Worst, the USG has used commercial services to transport these personnel at a cost to the U.S. tax payers that often exceeds the cost of similar service provided by the AMC.

As you might recall from the statistics that we share with you, the active duty and veteran communities would welcome the reestablishment of AMC service to Puerto Rico. The restoration of this service is of the utmost importance to the over 10,000 active duty military personnel from Puerto Rico who serve across the branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, their dependents, and the more than 200,000 American military veterans who currently call Puerto Rico home.

Enclosed you will find a letter addressed to Gen Carlton D. Everhart II, Commander, Air Mobility Command which we would be grateful if you could forward to him. In this letter we are urging Gen Everhart to reestablish AMC service to Puerto Rico and proposing the level of service between Baltimore-Washington IAP (BWI) and the new Ceiba International Airport (RVR), located inside the former Roosevelt Roads Naval Station. The terminal and airport there meets the criteria for military flights, to include cargo and passenger space available travel.

The 156th Airlift Wing of the Puerto Rico Air National Guard is well suited to handle this mission for Space A travel and its primary mission with the United States Southern Command (SOUTHCOM); however, they are located at the San Juan International Airport. Consideration by the Air Force should be given to move the PRANG operations to the former Roosevelt Roads Naval Station. The facility counts with full terminal services previously designed by the Department of Defense and are fully operational.

The United States Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM) is the component of the Department of Defense responsible to contracting designated aircraft to move DoD passengers, to include those eligible to use the space available travel program.

We propose diverting one of the existing three weekly flights to Ramstein AB in Germany leaving from BWI to Puerto Rico. There are other bases on the East Coast that fly missions to Europe including Ramstein AB; for example Dover AFB, Norfolk Naval Air Terminal, McGuire AFB, and Andrews AFB among others. The average flight time from Baltimore to Ramstein AB is 8 hours and 30 minutes; it would take only 3 hours and 30 minutes to fly from Baltimore to Roosevelt Roads Puerto Rico. That would mean less cost on fuel, maintenance, and cost per flight hour to the United States Government and would give the USG and DoD the ability to further save taxpayers money by using the proposed service to move active duty personnel and their dependents currently stationed on the island on official travel without having to spend millions using commercial air carriers with fares that are not necessary friendly to the USG.

Your enthusiasm for the issues affecting our current and former servicemen is so very clear to us. We thank you for your continued support of our troops and veterans and we hope that your help in conveying this message to Gen Everhart and USTRANSCOM will help restore this much needed service.

Kind regards,

DocuSigned by:

E948A21088054EA...

Mr. Raul E. Rosas
Executive Director, Roosevelt Roads Fund