DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

WASHINGTON DC

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

MAR 25 2008

SAF/IE
1665 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1665

The Honorable Bill Ritter
Governor, State of Colorado
136 State Capitol
Denver, CO 80203-1792

Dear Governor Ritter

Thank you for your interest in having Peterson AFB serve as a potential location for Air Force Cyber Command. As we work to stand up our headquarters at the interim location, Barksdale AFB LA, on October 1, 2008, we are currently assessing locations across the United States for the permanent home of this command. Colorado is one of 18 states we are examining in our basing decision process. To arrive at a decision on the permanent home, our basing decision process will consist of four major steps.

The first step, which is currently underway, involves analysis of data gathered from Air Force Major Commands and field units measured against basing criteria for this new mission. In addition to looking at Air Force data sources, we intend to gather input from the local communities that support these locations. The Air Force typically doesn't take this approach; however, we believe the unique nature of this new domain dictates a complete understanding of the supporting capabilities of our bases and their surrounding communities. To that end, our second step will involve a data request that we will send to you and the other governors of states with potential beddown locations. This data call will be sent no later than May 15, 2008 with data needed no later than July 1, 2008. This data call will afford you and others an opportunity to highlight the attributes you feel make Peterson AFB an ideal host location for Air Force Cyber Command. For our third step, during summer 2008 we intend to visit each potential beddown location to meet with installation and community officials to discuss and verify collected data. From August 2008 through October 2008, we will analyze all data and narrow the list of candidate bases to a short-list. Our goal is to announce this short list by year end. Our fourth and final step will be to conduct the requisite environmental analysis of these short-list locations with a goal of announcing the permanent home for Air Force Cyber Command by September 2009.

Until we complete our basing decision process we caution against any state or local investment in infrastructure targeted to attract this mission. We appreciate the strong support you, your great state, and the communities surrounding our bases provide our Airmen and I look forward to working with you as we standup Air Force Cyber Command and further strengthen our ability to provide the nation Global Vigilance, Global Reach, and Global Power.

Sincerely

WILLIAM C. ANDERSON
Assistant Secretary
(Installations, Environment & Logistics)