



FORT WORTH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

FORT WORTH, TEXAS

December 23, 1949

Mr. Amon G. Carter
Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Fort Worth, Texas

Dear Mr. Carter:

In line with my telephone call yesterday I want to furnish you a little additional information regarding the proposed Air Academy. I know that Mr. Morse supplied you with the names of the members of the Board on Air Force Academy, the name of its secretary, Col. Arthur E. Boudereau and of Col. B. M. Venable, who will probably act as secretary of the Air Force Sites Board.

As I told you hurriedly on the phone when I talked with you from New York, I had called upon Col. Boudereau and Col. Venable when I stopped in Washington en route to the N.A.M. meeting and learned from them the requirements for the site and some of the controlling factors. Col. Venable advised that they had requested the Chief of Engineers, General Pick, to have the preliminary investigations made of sites proposed by the various cities which had requested consideration. I talked with General Pick, and he advised that the request had gone forward to Col. Prentiss at Dallas. Mr. Foster contacted Col. Prentiss immediately, and as soon as the papers arrived in his office Col. Davis, District Engineer, started the investigation. As you know, the Committee has been here checking over sites with Mr. Foster, Mr. Morse, Col. Penly, and others for the past several days.

In addition to information on sites, we have supplied Mr. Ed A. Pierson, Chairman of the group, with the type of information requested in their outline on Fort Worth's advantages. He is writing his report at this time. We will supply him some other site information, which Mr. Morse and Mr. Foster are getting together, next Tuesday. Their report on the various sites is supposed to go from the Galveston office to Col. Prentiss not later than January 4, and no doubt will be forwarded on to Washington shortly thereafter. Col. Boudereau advised that they expected to have the reports in about the first of January and indicated that either the Sites Board or perhaps the large Board would visit a few of the leading cities.

The preliminary indications were that many cities all over the country would seek this installation. However it seems to me that the Southwest would have the best argument from the standpoint of lack of vulnerability, climate, and demonstrated aviation advantages. The latter is not a controlling factor, because this is to be a college and not a flying training school. It will correspond to West Point and Annapolis in that respect.

In addition to Fort Worth's usual advantages, the availability of airports and aviation facilities, Carswell Air Force Base, the Consolidated Vultee plant, and also Chance Vought Company, the Naval Air Base, and Hensley Field at Grand Prairie offer opportunities for study and practical demonstration for their advanced classes.

We expect to prepare a supplemental statement on these general features, which can either be tied up with the Engineer's report or can be handled separately direct to the Board. Will supply you with this information just as soon as we get it shaped up.

We deeply appreciate your interest in this matter and want to work with you to bring it to a successful conclusion. I will be ready to confer with you any time you can spare the time.

Yours sincerely,



William Holden

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