

January 28, 1953.

Memorandum Regarding Proposed Air Force Academy

In the present session of Congress - January 3, a bill by Congressman Kilday was introduced to establish the Academy at Randolph Field. January 6 Congressman Shafter of Michigan introduced a bill to establish the proposed Academy at Fort Custer near Battle Creek, Michigan. January 14 A news item in the Star-Telegram said the Air Force had sent proposed legislation to Congress authorizing an \$148 million Air Force Academy, but that it had not yet been introduced.

Late in 1949 an Air Force Academy Board was set up to consider sites, etc. One hundred fifty or more sites were proposed and this number was reduced to seven by March 1951. The Board is composed of:

General Carl Spaatz
Lieut. General H. R. Harmon
Brig. General H. L. Clark
Dr. Bruce Hopper
Lieut. Colonel A. E. Boudreay, Secretary

You may recall the Board visited Fort Worth twice, once about the end of 1950, and the last time in April 1951. After the Board had reduced the number to seven sites it employed a firm of consulting engineers in Chicago, Holabird, Root, and Burgee, to study the sites in detail. Representatives of that firm spent several days here in March 1951, and a member of the firm was with the Board on its last trip. We understand the Board filed a confidential report with either the Secretary of the Air Force, or Secretary of Defense in regard to the last seven sites under consideration. We do not know their findings, but we feel confident that the site on Lake Grapevine ranked high in their consideration. The seven sites under final consideration were: Camp Beale, Marysville, California; sites near Colorado Springs, Colorado, Madison, Indiana, Charlotte, North Carolina; and three sites in Texas, Lake Grapevine, Grayson County, and Randolph Field.

The Lake Grapevine site, from 9 to 15 thousand acres is located on the north side of Lake Grapevine, and extends north east to an arm of the Garza-Little Elm Lake. It is approximately twenty miles from both Fort Worth and Dallas, and ten miles south of Denton. The Site was sponsored by the Chambers of Commerce of Dallas, Denton, and Fort Worth.

Believe you have a copy of the original brief and a subsequent summary submitted to the Board.

We believe the site is ideal for the following reasons:

1. It meets the requirements set out by the Board in regard to isolation from other development; good transportation facilities -- rail, air and highway; relatively close to metropolitan area.
2. Location on the north side of a large lake should be attractive in the summertime. The lakes will also assure ample water supply and recreational facilities.
3. Railroads - The site can be easily serviced by a short spur from the T. & P. Railway, connecting with eight trunk lines at Fort Worth, and the MKT Railroad also connecting with eight trunk lines at Dallas. Both railroads connect at Denton.

4. Highways - U. S. Highway 377 is near the site on the west; U. S. 77 is near on the east, and State Highways 114 and 121 pass through Grapevine and can be extended to the site easily.
5. Air Transport - Fields are available at Fort Worth International Airport, Love Field, Meacham Field, and Denton. The former is only about ten miles from the site.
6. Military Establishments and Industrial Facilities - Outstanding establishments are available very convenient to the site. These would be available for laboratory courses and inspection trips in the training of future Air Force officers.
7. Educational Facilities - Six universities and colleges are located in Fort Worth, Dallas and Denton, providing opportunity for interchange of facilities, lecture courses, athletic events, and recreation.
8. Advantages of Metropolitan Center - Dallas, Fort Worth, and Denton combined offer all the advantages of large metropolitan centers in housing, churches, recreation, cultural events, State Fair, Stock Show and Rodeo, etc.
9. This area has long been preeminent in aviation and Air Force activities - The establishments now available didn't just happen - this area is capable and willing to provide outstanding cooperation to the Air Force Academy.
10. Texas has been recognized as the leader in aviation, both military and civil. The climate and attitude of the citizenship make this a natural location for the Air Force Academy.

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/s/ WILLIAM HOLDEN