



SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

The Honorable Ted Budd
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Budd:

Thank you for your inquiry dated July 29, 2026, regarding the future of the F-15 mission at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base. I appreciate the opportunity to address your questions, as well as your continued advocacy for Seymour Johnson and the F-15EX program. Your leadership has been instrumental in strengthening our fighter force and the Airmen who execute this mission.

While Air Force fleetwide delivery schedules depend on aircraft production and congressional appropriations, the Air Force has no plans to reduce Seymour Johnson's F-15 missions without replacement aircraft already in place. We remain committed to preserving the installation's combat capability, training mission, and long-term role in our national defense.

Current plans provide for Seymour Johnson to receive modernized F-15E aircraft in the near term as aircraft become available elsewhere in the Air Force. Looking ahead, Seymour Johnson is the planned recipient of the F-15EX aircraft procured through the Fiscal Year 2027 budget, if authorized and appropriated by Congress. Those aircraft will provide the replacement capability needed before any F-15Es could be reassigned to another installation.

The briefing material referenced in your inquiry discusses a potential future relocation of F-15E aircraft from Seymour Johnson to support an Air Force Reserve mission. This basing action is being considered through the Department's governance process, and the final decision is expected in Fall 2028. Any future movement of aircraft would occur only after Seymour Johnson receives replacement F-15EX aircraft, ensuring there is no gap in its operational or training missions.

I assure you that the Air Force's commitment to Seymour Johnson has not changed. We remain fully committed to preserving both the operational F-15 mission and the Formal Training Unit at the installation.

I appreciate your continued support of the Department of the Air Force and the men and women who serve our Nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Troy E. Meink", is located below the "Sincerely," text.

Troy E. Meink