



Why Light Attack Aircraft (LAA) in Iowa?



132d Wing, Des Moines ANGB, Iowa Air National Guard

October 2018

WHY DES MOINES?

#1 BEST PLACE FOR MILLENIALS

- Growella, 2017

#2 BEST CITY TO WORK IN TECH

- SmartAsset, 2018

#3 LOW COST OF LIVING

- Business Insider, 2017

#4 US BEST PLACE TO LIVE

- US News & World Report, 2018



Ethan D. Wagner, U.S. AIR FORCE, 31 July 2017

United States Air Force (USAF) & Air National Guard (ANG) Basing Process

The ANG uses three criteria when selecting bases for its future missions: ANG Capstone Principles, the Guard Missions Assessment Process (GMAP) and the ANG's participation in the USAF's Strategic Basing Process. Ultimately, these criteria hinge on three key aspects: *Acceptability, Suitability and Feasibility.*

“Retaining irregular warfare as a core competency at a lower cost and strengthening our alliances are key elements of our National Defense Strategy.”

-USAF Posture Statement Fiscal Year 2019 on Light Attack Aircraft

Acceptability:

Q: How does the LAA mission support Federal and Iowa priorities?

A: The mission aligns with the National Security Strategy, the National Defense Strategy, Air Force, National Guard Bureau and Iowa ANG priorities. A LAA unit could fill a new squadron slot in the USAF's 'Air Force We Need' expansion.

Suitability:

Q: Why are LAA a good fit for the Iowa Air National Guard?

A: It meets AF Chief of Staff priorities for cost-effective modernization and driving new innovation. Des Moines' Distributed Training Operations Center (DTC) enables a force cost-avoidance of \$900 million a year by using simulators vs live fly. Next is to integrate a Live, Virtual, Constructive (LVC) network to combine simulated and live entity training. Iowa LAA coupled to Fort Dodge's 133d Test Squadron & the DTC will enable the ANG to cultivate this USAF effort.

A: LAA will excel in both state Title 32 and federal Title 10 mission sets. The 124th Attack Squadron retains a strong relationship with the US Special Operations community. RC-26 crews have built a strong reputation among the nation's law enforcement community. 132d Wing is set to lead foreign & domestic LAA ops.

Feasibility:

Q: How will the Iowa ANG recruit and sustain the LAA force structure?

A: Right People: Current aircrew with fighter, attack, bomber & recon backgrounds.

A: Right Base: Current infrastructure in-place to support LAA at minimal cost.

A: Right Community: Recruiting & retention potential as well as quality of life are both very high for Des Moines. Excellent historical support from the community.



www.132dwing.ang.af.mil



@132dWingDesMoinesIowa



@132dWing