



# Why MQ-9 Launch & Recovery Element (LRE) 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



Paul Holcomb, U.S. AIR FORCE, 13 May 2013

## 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.*

### Domestic vs Overseas MQ-9 Operations:

“Instead of ISR, we do IAA—Incident Awareness Assessment. We’re using the same piece of equipment but we’re using it...to find and save lives as opposed to find and protect ourselves from the enemy.”

-Lt. Gen Scott Rice,  
Director, ANG

### Acceptability:

**Q:** How does the LRE 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. An Iowa LRE could fill a new squadron slot in the USAF's 'Air Force We Need' expansion.

### Suitability:

**Q:** Why is an LRE 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 (DTOC) 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. An Iowa LRE coupled to Fort Dodge's 133d Test Squadron & the DTOC will enable the ANG to cultivate this USAF effort.

**A:** An MQ-9 LRE will excel in Title 32 missions. The 124th Attack Squadron retains a skilled MQ-9 aircrew corps that can add an LRE qualification. RC-26 crews have built a strong reputation among the nation's law enforcement community. Together the 132d Wing will be poised to lead LRE domestic ops.

### Feasibility:

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

**A:** Right People: Current MQ-9 aircrew. RC-26 aircrew proficient in mission. Intel personnel current in Incident Awareness. Logistics unit with F-16 background.

**A:** Right Base: Current infrastructure in-place to support LRE 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](http://www.132dwing.ang.af.mil)



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