



**RICK SCOTT**  
GOVERNOR

October 18, 2018

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

Today, I visited Tyndall Air Force Base (AFB) and witnessed firsthand the devastation brought to this community and critical military asset by Hurricane Michael. As a Navy veteran and the Governor of Florida, I have been clear in my total commitment to the strength of our nation's military. Tyndall serves a critical role in not only the lives of thousands of Floridians, but in the safety, security and strength of the United States of America - it deserves our full and immediate attention following the devastation of Hurricane Michael.

Now that I have visited Tyndall and seen the scope of the work ahead, I am requesting that you direct immediate action to dedicate the needed resources, manpower and funding to return Tyndall AFB to full operations as soon as possible. You have my commitment that the State of Florida will do whatever possible to aid in this important mission.

As I have traveled to communities in every impacted county over the past eight days since Hurricane Michael made landfall, I have been struck by the loss suffered by so many but also moved and amazed by the outpouring of love, support and willingness to carry forward by countless Florida families. Like all Floridians, the servicemen and women and families of Tyndall are strong and resilient.

Mr. President, during my visit the message I received from those who call Tyndall home about their future was clear - the resolve of Tyndall Air Force Base is unwavering and this community will recover, it will rebuild and it will not be beaten.

The recovery of every community impacted by this storm, especially where impacts and damage are most severe, including Tyndall and Bay County, is being expedited so they can get back on their feet. There is nothing more important than returning these communities to normal and restoring operations at Tyndall must be a major part of our joint efforts.

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Tyndall AFB is proudly home of the 325<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing which ensures our military retains total superiority in the skies through vigorous training and maintenance of a fleet of F-22 Raptor fighters. Last year, Tyndall was chosen as the new home of the MQ-9 Reaper Wing, a fleet of unmanned planes, which is projected to bring 1,600 new jobs and more than \$250 million in capital investment to this community over the next five years.

In 2017, Tyndall AFB reported their economic impact was more than \$596 million - a clear indicator of the incredible economic power this installation brings to Bay County and the State of Florida. In fact, last year, Tyndall reported employing more than 26,000 Floridians and serving a population of nearly 3,400 active duty military as well as nearly 9,400 retired military. When I was in the Navy, my wife, Ann, and I were newly married and we didn't have much. We relied on the resources available to us through the military. So many families depend on Tyndall and we must act now to ensure their recovery is not delayed by bureaucracy.

I want to again thank you for visiting Florida this week and for your continued support in providing every resource I have requested in the preparation for, response to and recovery from Hurricane Michael. I know you share my dedication to our nation's military and to the recovery of every family impacted by this storm. I look forward to working together to get Tyndall and every community recovering from Hurricane Michael back up and running very soon.

Sincerely,



Rick Scott  
Governor