

Castle Secures \$26.4 Million for Dover Air Force Base in Military Construction and Veterans Appropriations Bill -- May 19, 2006

Washington, D.C. -- Delaware Congressman Mike Castle today voted to pass the FY07 Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill which includes \$26.4 million for various projects that will help the Dover Air Force Base prepare for its incoming C-17 air transport mission. The money was supplied as part of a multi-year commitment by the Department of Defense to spend over \$60 million in support of military construction projects related to the C-17 military transport plane bed-down at Dover.

Dover AFB is scheduled to begin receiving the C-17 aircrafts by the end of the year and this funding will be used to build necessary aircraft hangars, storage facilities, and maintenance shops associated with this new mission. This funding was included in President Bush's FY07 Budget Request and was supported by the Delaware Congressional delegation.

"I am extremely pleased at the money secured today for the Dover Air Force Base C-17 mission. Our military needs the ability to transport equipment and personnel at a moment's notice, and to get supplies where they are needed most as quickly as possible. Over the past five years, the Department of Defense has invested over \$200 million in the Dover Air Force Base. The new C-17 mission will also supplement Dover's vital C-5 mission, which the Pentagon recently indicated has at least 25 years of service life remaining. When combined, the larger C-5's and the more-maneuverable and tactical C-17's will enhance Dover's operational flexibility," Castle said.

Specifically, the funds will be allocated as outlined below:

- \$2.6 million for new C-17 composite shop

- \$7.4 million for C-17 aircrew life support

- \$13.4 million for C-17 hangars

- \$3 million for C-17 engine storage facilities