

Delaware Delegation Applauds New Housing Development at Dover Air Force Base -- January 12, 2007

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Delaware's Congressional delegation -- Senators Joe Biden and Tom Carper and Congressman Mike Castle today applauded the opening of the first homes that have been privatized at the Dover Air Force Base in the Eagle Heights housing area. Although they were not able to attend the ribbon cutting today at the Base due to legislative business in Washington D.C., the delegation praised the project and said it was another sign of the continuing progress taking place at the Dover Air Force Base.

Dover Air Force Base started the multi-year housing privatization initiative in 2005 with a goal of 980 homes. The construction is part of a \$196 million, 50-year lease agreement between the base and the privatized housing contractor. When complete there will be running trails, walking paths, a volleyball court, and a community center which has already been completed, among other amenities. The construction is scheduled for completion in January of 2009.

"Dover Air Force Base is now and will always be vitally important to our state and our nation," said Senator Biden. "Mike, Tom and I work very hard to make sure that the folks in Washington recognize its value and provide the necessary funding to ensure the Base and surrounding communities have the support, the tools and the resources they need to perform their duties. These new homes are part of our commitment to the men and women who serve us so honorably and so well."

"I wish they had had housing like this when I was in the military. It is hard for the military to meet personnel needs and to attract and keep good people. This housing project is a wonderful thing for the Air Force and for the taxpayers," said Senator Carper.

"Today's ribbon cutting symbolizes the ever growing number of improvements taking place at the Dover Air Force Base that continue to establish its excellence and make it one of the premier military bases in the Country. I look forward to seeing firsthand the construction of the new homes as well as the accompanying facilities such as the new community center," Congressman Castle said.

Ceremony attendees today had the chance to tour one of the finished four-bedroom homes and visit the new 10,000 square-foot community center. The new community center holds a fitness room, game room; a business center and kitchen area for community functions, as well as offices for the base's privatized housing managers.

Many military bases around the United States, including the Dover Air Force Base have privatized their housing in an attempt to invigorate the nation's military housing under the backing of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative which was authorized by Congress in the 1996 National Defense Authorization Act.

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