

EOMAC Annual Report



The primary focus of the Eastern Ohio Military Affairs Commission (EOMAC) is preserving and promoting the value of military operations between Cleveland and Pittsburgh, with an emphasis on the Youngstown Air Reserve Station, home of the 910th Airlift Wing and Camp James A. Garfield Joint Military Training Center (CJAG). EOMAC is the primary interface with state officials in Columbus and federal representatives and the Department of Defense in Washington DC.

EOMAC, a non-profit fund of the Community Foundation of Western PA & Eastern Ohio, was founded in 2015 at a time when the Youngstown Air Reserve Station had lost eight C130H-2 aircraft and a flying squadron to the Department of Defense through asset realignment. EOMAC pledged to change the direction of military investment so that the Mahoning Valley could once again see increases in investment in the Valley's second largest employer. Eight years later, EOMAC has helped bring millions in project improvements to YARS and CJAG and over \$500M of economic impact to the Mahoning Valley.

Since its inception, EOMAC has championed funding for nearly \$42 million in MILCON projects, including:

- State-of-the-art Firing Range Complex at YARS
- Multi-Purpose Range at CJAG
- Relocation of the Main Gate Complex at YARS
- Assault Strip Widening Project to Support C-17 training capability at YARS

In partnership with the Western Reserve Port Authority, EOMAC has also helped champion the following efforts, which also support the Youngstown Warren Regional Airport:

- Runway lighting enhancements and surface improvements, which includes crucial maintenance of the runway our airmen and airwomen use daily

We are currently working to fund additional projects important to the area, including:

- Unpaved Assault Runway at CJAG, which will benefit not only CJAG and YARS, but several military bases in the Midwest United States
- Construction of an alternate commercial gate at YARS
- Continued runway surface improvements at YARS in partnership with the WRPA.

With the major announcement in December 2022 that YARS is the preferred location to place eight new C130J airplanes worth \$879 million, EOMAC's work will continue to finalize



delivery of those new planes to the Mahoning Valley along with the associated \$1B in new economic investment.

The Youngstown Air Reserve Station continues to be a powerful economic catalyst for the entire Mahoning Valley. 2022 saw the eighth consecutive year of increased economic impact, with a total of \$140 million dollars flowing into the region. This is nearly a \$50 million dollar increase from when the Eastern Ohio Military Affairs Commission was founded in 2015. An additional \$21 million is provided via military expenditures. CJAG generates approximately \$40 million dollars annually into the local economy in Portage County. Current federal assets at the station include 321 acres, 71 buildings, and eight aircraft with a total value of more than \$1 billion dollars.

In 2017, the Department of Defense and Trumbull County teamed to initiate a Joint Land Use Study (JLUS), a study analyzing the land surrounding YARS / KYNG and its compliance to DOD standards. The Joint Land Use Study Phase 1 analysis and review is now complete with the YARS / KYNG component meeting nearly all of the requirements. Phase 2 of JLUS is now underway, which includes adoption of zoning and land-use regulations to ensure compliance to DOD standards for future land use and development. With meetings coming to a close soon with local stakeholders, ranging from commissioners to township trustees, this project will ensure that we, as a defense community, can fully leverage MDG efforts in the foreseeable future.

EOMAC went to work to create a joint land use agreement between the Western Reserve Port Authority (WRPA) and Youngstown State University (YSU) to utilize the outstanding amounts of land appropriated by our local state delegation for infrastructure improvements around the facility and its inevitable footprint. This will also allow additional land to be acquired for an alternate gate along State Rt. 193, which will allow requisite fuel trucks needed for base operations to enter much closer to the strip, thus also greatly creating operational security around fuel operations.

Continued state and federal investment in YARS and CJAG will help to ensure long-term success and viability for both installations, and continue the positive economic impact both have across the Mahoning Valley. The 910th Airlift Wing is comprised of more than 2000 Air Force Reserve and civilian professionals and is equipped with eight C-130H2 aircraft. The wing trains and employs the C-130 Hercules globally on medium-range airlift, tactical airland and airdrop, and Aeromedical Evacuation missions. The 910th AW is home to the Department of Defense's only large-area, fixed-wing aerial spray mission. In addition, the 910th is becoming a center-of-expertise for Air Force close-combat tactical training and marksmanship, as well as a regional training center for C-17 assault and close-combat tactical support training.

We thank all of the men and women of YARS and CJAG for their service to the American people and the Mahoning Valley.

