

13 January 2014

Gen. Janet Wolfenbarger,
Commander
Air Force Material Command
Wright Patterson Air Force Base
WPAFB, OH 45433

Dear Gen. Wolfenbarger,

I am writing on behalf of the IEEE-USA to express our concern about the potential relocation of the Air Force Office of Scientific Research to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio.

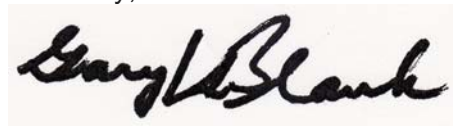
IEEE-USA believes it is important to understand the consequences of such a move, because of the key role that the AFOSR plays in efficiently managing and supporting the Air Force's investments in mission-relevant basic research performed at U.S. universities, industry, and federal laboratories. IEEE-USA believes there is a high risk that relocation of the AFOSR would result in significant attrition of talent and disruption of that important research enterprise.

We also anticipate that researchers that are supported by multiple federal agencies in addition to AFOSR, who previously could cost-share travel expenses for program review and sponsor visits, will no longer be able to minimize overall travel costs; and, thus, this move could ultimately translate into increased expense requirements for AFOSR's programmatic operations.

We are further concerned that the relocation could result in a significant degradation to AFOSR's fiscal flexibility and capabilities. At a time of severe budget pressures, relocation could result in cannibalization of the Air Force's basic research budgets, which would have widespread and negative implications on one of the nation's more successful research enterprises.

For these reasons, we ask that you not approve moving AFOSR.

Sincerely,



Gary L. Blank, Ph.D.
2014 President, IEEE-uSA