

United States Senate

June 15, 2020

General Charles Q. Brown
Chief of Staff, United States Air Force
U.S. Department of Defense
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1670

Dear General Brown,

I would like to congratulate you on your confirmation as the 22nd Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force. You are going to be leading the Air Force during a critical period of change and modernization for our military forces, and I look forward to working closely with you on behalf of our men and women in uniform. To that end, when appropriate, I invite you to visit Malmstrom Air Force Base, and the Montana Air National Guard's 120th Airlift Wing in Great Falls, and to meet personally with the Montanans who work tirelessly to keep our nation secure. Their perspective and input will be invaluable as you seek to ensure the Air Force remains the most capable and respected in the world.

At Malmstrom, I encourage you to visit the missile fields and inspect the aging Minuteman infrastructure as the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent Program moves forward. It is critical that we adequately resource Minuteman modernization efforts to maintain our nation's strategic deterrent, and fully fund the effort to modernize those systems. But I believe we must also make the appropriate investments to ensure the quality of life for the men and women who operate and maintain these systems, as well as their families. I am specifically concerned about the housing challenges facing service members at Malmstrom and elsewhere, and urge you to directly engage with the Base leadership to help address the shortages of housing that affect those airmen.

I also ask that you take time to visit with the 120th Air Wing, of the Montana Air National Guard. The 120th returned from deployment to the Middle East last fall, and continue to perform their mission with distinction every day. These Guardsmen operate and maintain the oldest C-130H aircraft in the fleet, and they are in critical need of additional upgrades to ensure the men and women of the 120th can carry out their missions safely and effectively. I am sure you would agree that we need to provide our servicemembers with the very best equipment and aircraft to carry out their missions.

General Brown, I want to thank you for your continued service to this nation. I have no doubt that you will serve with distinction and always act on behalf of the best interests of our Air Force and Nation. I stand ready to help you in any way, and I look forward to working together during your tenure.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester
United States Senator