

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Wally Herger (R-CA) issued a statement after the Air Force confirmed today that Beale AFB will be the home of the MC-12 after completing an Environmental Impact Study. The Air Force had previously designated Beale as its “sole preferred alternative” for the MC-12 mission. With this news the Air Force will commence moving the MC-12 planes to Beale, with seven being stationed there by the end of July 2011. In total the MC-12 mission contains thirty-seven planes that will be deployed on a rotating basis. Beale, a standout among Air Force bases nationally, has over 4,000 personnel and has a total economic impact of over \$451 million in the surrounding counties. Along with the planes, Beale AFB will be adding approximately 550 servicemembers.

Herger stated, “I’m pleased to see that Beale AFB has passed the Environmental Impact Study and that it will now officially be the home of the MC-12 mission. The decision to place this reconnaissance mission at Beale is a testament to the leadership and airmen who serve there along with the outstanding communities that support the base. The additional servicemembers that will be stationed at Beale will provide a much needed shot in the arm for local businesses and the local economy.”

Herger and other California lawmakers had earlier [contacted](#) Air Force Secretary Michael Donley urging his consideration of Beale for this mission. The Air Force describes the MC-12 as a medium- to low-altitude, twin-engine turboprop aircraft. Its primary mission is providing intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance support directly to ground forces. The Air Force stated that Beale AFB was chosen over six other bases to permanently house the spy planes, already deployed in the War on Terror, because of its “access to training opportunities, synergy with existing Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance flying missions, and collocation with the Distributed Ground Station mission.”