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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 03/16/09

SPONSOR Payne LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Air Force Emissaries for 150th Fighter Wing SM 5

ANALYST Weber

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY09	FY10	FY11	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		\$3.0		\$3.0	Non	General

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

The 150th tactical fighter wing of the New Mexico National Guard, which is known as "The Tacos", has served the United States as a fighter wing since its inception, flying single-seat, single-engine fighters in combat tours in Vietnam and Iraq. The fighter wing has been based at Kirtland Air Force Base since 1947 and consists of 1,000, from pilots to aircraft maintenance workers. An effort is underway to shift the mission of the Tacos from a fighter wing to a transport wing because of intense pressure from active air force personnel to gain more fighters.

New Mexico's airspace and landscape are ideal as training grounds for a fighter wing. The New Mexico National Guard has more usable training areas than other National Guard units in the United States, has ideal weather for flying and training and has proximity to Fort Bliss, a military base with a growing need for close air support, which is the Tacos' forte.

The 150th fighter wing is rated as one of the best fighter units in the country. It is in New Mexico's and the United States' best interests to preserve the Tacos' mission as a fighter wing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be requested to appoint retired Lieutenant General Ed Baca, retired Major General Mel Montano and retired Major General Randy Horne, all of whom are former adjutant generals of the New Mexico National Guard, as special emissaries from the state of New Mexico to meet with and urge top air force officials and National Guard Bureau officials to preserve the long-standing mission of the 150th Fighter Wing; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate stands ready, as the men and women of the Tacos have for the United States, to assist at any time and in any manner to protect the traditional and critical mission of the 150th Fighter Wing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the governor, the adjutant general of the New Mexico National Guard, the members of the New Mexico congressional delegation, the Secretary of the Air Force and the Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The memorial requests the former adjutant generals to act as emissaries representing the Tacos to preserve its traditional mission. The \$3 thousand operating estimate is based on a cost of \$1 thousand for each emissary to take a trip to plead the Tacos case. It is assumed that an emissary travels to the other party's location and it is further assumed this location is Washington, D.C. or another similar location.

MW/mc