2-13-1967

News Release #67-31

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CONGRESSMAN CHARLES W. WHALEN, JR.

FOR RELEASE: NOON TUESDAY, FEB. 14, 1967

Congressman Charles W. Whalen, Jr. has asked the Air Force to reconsider the proposed transfer of the 1350th Motion Picture Squadron from Wright-Patterson AFB to Norton AFB, California.

Whalen said the plan "appears uneconomic and will represent an added burden to the taxpayers of our nation," in a letter to Air Force Secretary Harold Brown.

The move of the 1350th includes the shift of three other squadrons and consolidation of all four at Norton AFB.

Whalen said he understood the over-all cost was "approximately $25 million" but that construction has not begun on the new facility.

The move was announced two years ago and is planned for completion by December, 1968.

Whalen listed five reasons for reopening the case:
1. Present facilities at the base are admirably suited for the storage of some 100,000,000 feet of film presently on hand and with the transfer "this reasonably new building may have to be abandoned."

2. Cost for the new facility at Norton "would be prohibitive ... (and) almost twice the original estimate."

3. Substantial rehiring and retraining will be required since many of the present employees at Wright-Patterson do not intend to make the move.

4. The shift would increase the squadron's cost of doing business since its procurement branch "does approximately two-thirds of its business with firms east of the Mississippi River."

5. The squadron's service unit does 70 per cent of its business east of the Mississippi River and is the "money-making" branch of the squadron supplying film for various movies and television productions.