

**MONDAY MORNING GROUP OF WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY  
ANNUAL ADVOCACY TRIP – WASHINGTON, DC  
APRIL 25 – 27, 2023**

**DEPLOYMENT OF THE BOEING KC-46A TANKER TO MARCH AIR RESERVE BASE**

**ISSUE:** The March Air Reserve Base (March ARB) has not yet been assigned the Boeing KC-46A tanker, a wide-body, versatile aircraft that will revolutionize the capability of air mobility missions in the United States armed forces.

**ACTION:** The Monday Morning Group urges federal elected leaders and public officials to support assignment of the Boeing KC-46A tanker to relevant units at March ARB because it has the manning capabilities, infrastructure, and community support necessary for its deployment.

**BACKGROUND:** The Boeing KC-46A can refuel all US, allied, and coalition military aircraft compatible with international aerial refueling procedures, any time, on any mission, and can carry more passengers, cargo, and patients whenever and wherever needed. The ability to detect, avoid, defeat, and survive threats using robust defensive systems and cockpit armor protection will allow the KC-46A to operate safely in medium-threat environments. With unmatched operation flexibility, the KC-46A is a mobility game changer. In February 2011, the tanker was selected by the United States Air Force (USAF) to replace older KC-135 Stratotankers.

March ARB is a joint base sustaining all three components: Active Duty, Air National Guard, and Air Reserve. Current Active Duty and Air Reserve units at March ARB operate KC-135 Stratotanker and C-17 Globemaster missions. While the 163<sup>rd</sup> Attack Wing of the Air National Guard currently has a remotely-piloted aircraft mission, the unit previously had a KC-135 mission. These three branches together provide the air refueling capabilities needed to meet USAF criteria. March ARB, as a former Strategic Air Command base, also boasts the infrastructure to host the KC-46A tankers.

In January 2013, USAF announced the candidate bases for the KC-46A. March ARB was under consideration at this time; however, the Base received too low of a ranking to be competitive. This ranking was primarily attributed to March ARB's runway and taxiway being identified as insufficient to handle the weight load of the KC-46A. However, updates and repairs to March ARB's runway and taxiway have been made since the selection process and plans are underway for additional repairs in the immediate future.