

**MONDAY MORNING GROUP OF WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY
ANNUAL ADVOCACY TRIP – WASHINGTON, DC
APRIL 9 – 11, 2024**

INTERMEDIATE STAGING BASE CAPABILITY AT MARCH AIR RESERVE BASE

ISSUE: March Air Reserve Base, California (March ARB) has experienced a consistent increase in requests for support as an Intermediate Staging Base (ISB) over the last three years and continues to increase at an alarming rate. March ARB is a prime location to provide logistical and tactical support to most aircraft in commission today due to over 300 days a year of optimal flying weather, abundant ramp space, and the second longest runway on the West Coast.

ACTION: The Monday Morning Group requests Congressional direction for a comprehensive study focused on augmenting the capabilities of March ARB's Intermediate Staging Base (ISB) capability. To ensure optimal functionality and alignment with evolving geopolitical challenges, it is imperative for a thorough examination of manpower, equipment, and resource needs to be conducted. This study will provide invaluable insights to refine ISB operations, identify areas for enhancement, and ultimately strengthen the national defense infrastructure. Allocating resources for this critical analysis would demonstrate a steadfast commitment to the preparedness and effectiveness of United States military forces.

BACKGROUND: March ARB has been a key element in joint military operations for over a century, playing a vital role in every major conflict since WWI. However, due to a lack of logistical support functions and an aging infrastructure, March ARB is unable to keep up with the demand signal of ISB requests. Addressing these negative aspects is crucial to ensuring the continued effectiveness and operational capabilities of March ARB, as well as the continued ability to support ISB requests. Increasing manning and equipment plus upgrading and modernizing infrastructure are essential steps in overcoming these challenges while maintaining a resilient and adaptive military presence as well as serving as a crucial hub for staging activities.

Geographically, the installation's proximity to the Indo-Pacific region reduces the logistical challenges associated with deploying forces over long distances. This proximity allows quicker response times in the event of crises or contingencies in the Indo-Pacific Theater. In addition, March ARB's location is in an area that includes ease of access to ports, airports, and transportation networks that facilitate the movement of personnel, equipment, and supplies to and from the Indo-Pacific. Currently, the March ARB requests for ISB support include joint and multinational training exercises, which foster stronger military relationships and improve coordination in addressing regional security challenges, White House Support Missions, and FEMA ISB requests for national disaster and emergency response within the region. A well-equipped and efficiently managed ISB is critical in safeguarding our nation's security interests.