



CITY OF FORT DODGE

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MEDIA RELEASE

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For 75 years, the Iowa Air National Guard 133rd Test Squadron has been a fixture in Fort Dodge, offering critical defense, emergency response, and community engagement services. Despite this morning's announcement of a potential relocation, the city remains committed to keeping the 133rd Test Squadron in Fort Dodge. It plans to work closely with state and federal entities to explore viable options and strategies to accomplish this goal.

"The 133rd Test Squadron is part of our community's heart and history," states Fort Dodge Mayor Matt Bemrich, "We are fully committed to doing everything within our power to ensure that the squadron remains in Fort Dodge. City leaders stand ready to work collaboratively with state and federal partners to keep the 133rd Test Squadron an integral part of our community's future."

The 133rd Test Squadron is not just a military unit but a community within our city. The potential relocation poses significant implications for their members and families who have been members of the Fort Dodge community. These individuals are our neighbors, friends and contributors to the economic landscape of Fort Dodge. Members of the squadron and their families are active participants in local events, schools, and volunteer initiatives, enriching the lives of others in our community.

The 133rd Test Squadron's role in our community extends beyond its economic contributions. It provides crucial assistance as directed by the Governor of Iowa, including flood response, power generation, and disaster relief efforts. These services are vital to Fort Dodge and the broader state, highlighting the squadron's indispensable role in emergency management and public safety.

The city is dedicated to continuing conversations with all relevant parties to discuss the proud history of the squadron, its ongoing contributions to the community, and a future that includes keeping the 133rd Test Squadron in Fort Dodge.

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