

RESOLUTION NO. 16 - 18

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR SELECTION OF THE
WALLOPS FLIGHT FACILITY AS THE EAST COAST
FORWARD OPERATING BASE FOR MQ-4C TRITON UNMANNED AIRCRAFT**

WHEREAS, the Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia is being considered as the East Coast Forward Operating Base for the MQ-4C Triton unmanned aircraft system (UAS), and awarding the Triton Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) contract to Wallops Island will have a positive economic impact on Worcester County, Maryland through the addition of new highly skilled residents; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Worcester County, Maryland recognize that Wallops Flight Facility is uniquely positioned in the mid-Atlantic region and has many positive attributes that enable UAS endeavors to flourish, which include a rural environment with no encroachment issues, uncrowded airspace, less adverse weather conditions and lower cost in home development and cost of living.

WHEREAS, Wallops Island has an extensive background with UAV activity, and thus awarding this contract will expand the scope and size of the aerospace industry on the Lower Eastern Shore, providing a platform for future contract considerations, and positively impacting economic development across the Eastern Shore as aerospace contractors locate to the area; and

WHEREAS, Wallops is located just south of Worcester County, Maryland on the Eastern Shore of Virginia less than 100 miles from the fleet concentration area in Hampton Roads where Naval aviation already has a well-established presence at Wallops, with E-2 and C-2 aircraft using Wallops on a routine basis for fleet carrier landing practice; and

WHEREAS, basing the first operation of Triton at Wallops would locate those aircraft in close proximity to NAS Patuxent River and Naval Air Combat Systems Command, where the Triton was developed and tested and would also locate them in close proximity to the fleet at Naval Station Norfolk, the Master Jet Base at NAS Oceana, and the entire Virginia Capes operating area; and

WHEREAS, basing Triton in close proximity to these other Navy facilities, headquarters, and operating forces will create synergies and facilitate faster integration of Triton into the Navy's battle network, and Wallops' location provides a superior base of operations for conducting maritime surveillance missions throughout the entire Atlantic seaboard; and

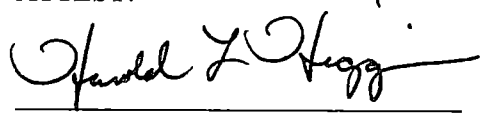
WHEREAS, Wallops, centrally located in the Mid-Atlantic, is an ideal site for basing unmanned aircraft, as it enjoys uncrowded airspace, has two 8,000-foot runways, and the taxiways and apron space to support additional aircraft, thus Wallops is ready to accommodate Triton with minimal additional construction; and

WHEREAS, Wallops is also already an established center of unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) activity and home to a number of UAVs, including NASA's RQ-4 Global Hawks, an aircraft very similar to Triton which unlike at many other locations, UAVs are a familiar sight in Wallops' airspace and Air traffic controllers in the region are familiar and comfortable with UAVs, including the Triton from its development period at nearby Pax River as compared to other locations being considered, Wallops is also less adversely impacted by hurricanes and other severe weather events that could disrupt operations and damage aircraft.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County Commissioners of Worcester County, Maryland do hereby realize Wallops and other Navy, Department of Defense, and Federal facilities in Virginia benefit from the strong support of the communities of which they are a part and therefore offer our support of an expanded Navy mission at Wallops in the event that Wallops is selected as the East Coast Forward Operating Base for the MQ-4C Triton unmanned aircraft system (UAS), and are awarded the Triton Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) contract at Wallops Flight Facility.

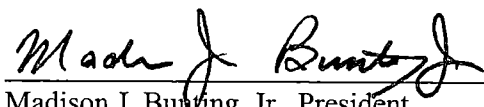
PASSED AND ADOPTED this 21st day of June, 2016.

ATTEST:

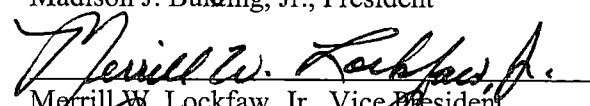


Harold L. Higgins
Chief Administrative Officer

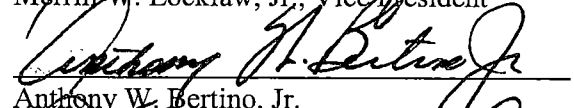
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
WORCESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND



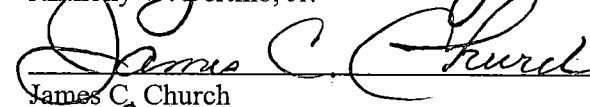
Madison J. Bunting, Jr., President



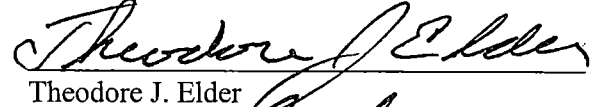
Merrill W. Lockfaw, Jr., Vice President



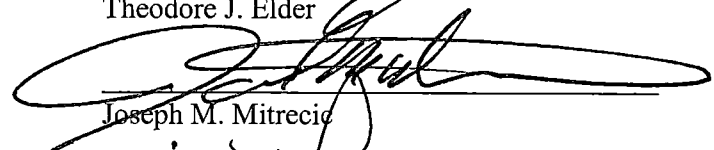
Anthony W. Bertino, Jr.



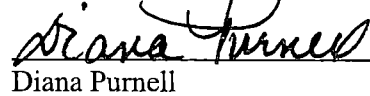
James C. Church



Theodore J. Elder



Joseph M. Mitrećić



Diana Purnell