



OFFICE OF GOVERNOR BRAD LITTLE
OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR MIKE CRAPO
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OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN MIKE SIMPSON

October 16, 2025

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary
Department of War
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Hegseth,

Thank you for your continued efforts to support President Trump in rebuilding a strong and capable U.S. military. We are writing about the announcement that a Letter of Agreement had been signed to build a Qatari Air Force facility hosting a training squadron at Mountain Home Air Force Base (AFB).

Like many foreign military sale agreements to allies, the plans to sell F-15QAs to Qatar have been in the process for years. However, we were given no advance notice that this agreement had been finalized or that it was going to be formally announced. While Qatar, as a long-time U.S. ally, provides substantial support to the U.S. military in the Middle East, such as allowing a U.S. base hosting thousands of U.S.-ready-to-fight-warriors, it is understandable that Qatar's history of funding Iran-backed terrorist groups like Hamas and the extremism espoused by Qatari-based Al Jazeera has raised concerns among Idahoans.

In the interest of informing our constituents, maintaining open lines of communication, and fostering closer federal and state collaboration regarding this training squadron, we would like the Department to provide more information about the plans and intentions of this mission now that it appears to be finalized. We request that you provide a briefing to the Idaho Congressional Delegation, as well as for the Governor of Idaho and state legislators potentially impacted by the agreement, in Boise on the details of this agreement.

We request for the briefing to answer the following questions – many of them from our state partners:

- Given the technological capabilities of the Mountain Home AFB range complex, what measures will be implemented to safeguard against any compromise to our national security?
- What screening, intelligence, or vetting processes are in place to ensure no trainees have ties to hostile or extremist organizations?
- Are there any specific security concerns for the surrounding communities and for U.S. military personnel stationed at Mountain Home AFB?
- Is there a long-term plan to convert Mountain Home AFB into a multi-national training facility for foreign allies?
- How many Qatari personnel will be involved in the training mission?
- How long will they be deployed to Idaho?
- Will families be allowed to accompany Qatari personnel, and what restrictions, if any, will be placed on their travel?
- Is there a cost to American taxpayers to house, train, and feed the foreign military personnel covered by this agreement?

This agreement is of significant importance and has understandably elicited many questions from our constituents. We appreciate your attention to these matters and your continued support of a stronger, more capable U.S. military. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Brad Little
Governor of Idaho



James E. Risch
United States Senator



Mike Crapo
United States Senator



Mike Simpson
Member of Congress

