

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 16, 2016

The Honorable Ray Mabus  
Secretary of the Navy  
Office of the Secretary of the Navy  
1000 Navy Pentagon, Room 4D652  
Washington, DC 20350

It has been brought to my attention that the Navy is currently preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the establishment of facilities and functions to support East Coast home basing and maintenance of the MQ-4C Triton Unmanned Aircraft System (Triton UAS). Of the three locations being considered, two are located in the state of Florida, which I represent: Naval Air Station Key West and Naval Station Mayport. The final chosen location would be the launch and recovery site for four home based triton UAS aircraft and support an operational-level maintenance hub for up to four additional aircraft undergoing maintenance as well as be the permanent duty station for up to 400 personnel plus family members.

As you may know, Florida has the longest coastline in the contiguous United States allowing the aircraft quick and easy access to overwater ranges and international waters where the Triton's intended operations will take place. Florida is home to three combatant commands and several vital military installations supporting all services. The MQ-4C would be able to complement other training and operational missions already conducted in the state, and I believe Florida is the most military friendly state in the union.

It is my hope that the Navy will select Florida as the permanent duty station for these Triton UAS. Please let my office know if there is anything we can do to support this decision. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio