

Response to Questions on the FY 2005 Advertised Budget Plan

Request By: Chairman Connolly

Question: What is the total funding provided to date to the Dulles Air and Space Museum and what is the County's total commitment?

Response: In 1999, the Dulles Air and Space Museum (Udvar-Hazy Center) requested a commitment of \$4.8 million from Fairfax County to be payable over three years. The Board of Supervisors did not agree to a specific contribution or timeframe, but made an initial contribution of \$300,000 in FY 2000. Based on fiscal constraints, this payment was reduced to \$240,000 for FY 2003 and FY 2004. Fairfax County has provided a total of \$1,380,000 through FY 2004. The FY 2005 Advertised Budget Plan includes \$240,000 for this contributory. The projected cost of the Center is \$311 million and is anticipated to attract an annual visitorship of approximately 3 million.

With regard to other area jurisdiction contributions, Loudoun County provided \$35,000 to the Udvar-Hazy Center in FY 2004. This was a decrease from the \$50,000 contribution they provided in FY 2003. Prince William County has not provided any monetary support for the museum to date.

All of the branches of the military either already have a centralized museum, or are in the process of building one. The Air Force Museum is at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio; the Navy Museum is at the Washington Navy Yard; and the U.S. Marine Corps is building its National Heritage Center at Marine Base Quantico, less than 20 miles south of Fort Belvoir in Prince William County. It is scheduled for completion by November 2005. Prince William County donated 135 acres of land for the museum and provided \$850,000 to bring utilities to the facility.