**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Mayor Sykes Welcomes Qatari Emiri Air Force Partnership at Mountain Home Air Force Base**

*“An International Training Facility Agreement Strengthens Defense Cooperation and Community Growth”*

**MOUNTAIN HOME, IDAHO** – Alongside Col. Michael A. Perez, Group Commander of 366th Maintenance Group, Mountain Home AFB, ID, Mayor Rich Sykes released the following statement today welcoming the announcement by Honorable Pete Hegseth, Secretary of War, and Qatari Minister of Defense Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani regarding the establishment of a Qatari Emiri Air Force training facility at Mountain Home Air Force Base.

*"On behalf of the City of Mountain Home and our community, I am honored to welcome this historic announcement," said Mayor Sykes. "This international partnership represents a significant milestone for our community and exemplifies the type of responsible, strategic growth that Mountain Home embraces. The addition of Qatari F-15s and pilots to our base will enhance combined training operations, increase interoperability between allied forces, and further strengthen the vital role Mountain Home Air Force Base plays in national and international security."*

**What This Collaboration Means for Mountain Home**

Strategic partnerships like this demonstrate that responsible growth in Mountain Home is built on foundations of mutual respect, shared security interests, and long-term commitment to excellence. This collaboration will:

***Strengthen Our Economic Foundation*** – Supporting the local economy through increased base operations, potential job creation, and sustained investment in community infrastructure.

***Enhance Our Global Significance*** – Positioning Mountain Home as a hub for international military cooperation and advanced tactical training.

***Support Measured, Sustainable Growth*** – Expanding the base's mission in ways that align with the community's capacity and values.

***Foster Cultural Exchange*** – Creating opportunities for residents to engage with international partners and broaden the community's global perspective.

***Maintain Quality of Life*** – Ensuring that growth benefits existing residents through careful planning and community-centered development.

**Partnership with a Trusted Ally**

Qatar has established itself as one of the world's safest and most stable nations. According to the Expatriate Group Report 2025, Qatar ranks as the 8th safest country in the world for foreigners and is the only Middle Eastern nation on the list. The country maintains the second-lowest crime rate globally, features stable governance and political peace, and experiences minimal risk from natural disasters.

*"Mountain Home has long been proud of our partnership with Mountain Home Air Force Base, and we understand that responsible growth means welcoming opportunities that strengthen both our military mission and our community fabric," Mayor Sykes continued. "This agreement reflects the trust that our nation and its allies place in Mountain Home—trust that we have earned through decades of dedicated support for our military families and strategic operations."*

The City of Mountain Home looks forward to welcoming Qatari partners and continuing its tradition of hospitality, professionalism, and community support that has made Mountain Home a premier location for military excellence.

Mountain Home Air Force Base is home to the 366th Fighter Wing and plays a critical role in U.S. air combat training and readiness. The base has a long-standing relationship with the Mountain Home community and is a significant contributor to the local economy. *Col. Michael A. Perez, Group Commander of 366th Maintenance Group, Mountain Home AFB, ID, confirms that the Mountain Home Air Force Base is equally as honored to host the Qatari Emiri Air Force in the foreseeable future.*

*For more information, contact Nikki Stornetta, Public Relations Director at (208) 587-2104 or* *NStornetta@Mountain-Home.us*