

Senator Strom Thurmond (D--SC) ~~ad~~ announced today that he has urged the Air Force to establish a base at Spartanburg Memorial Airport for an Air Force Reserve jet unit.

The Senator has talked with Major-General William E. Hall, Air Force assistant chief of staff for reserve forces, and asked that the survey recently completed of facilities at the Spartanburg Base ^{receive} earliest and most favorable attention possible.

Air Force officials informed Senator Thurmond that, although the survey has been completed by a survey team from Warner-Robins, Ga., recommendations were not made to the Pentagon on the basis of the findings. Rather, the findings were submitted for evaluation by the appropriate officials at the Pentagon. It was also learned that several other cities in the Southeast are under consideration as well as Spartanburg. Air Force officials said it might be several months before a selection is made.

Should the Spartanburg Airport be selected for use by the Reserve Unit, one of the runways would have to be lengthened considerably. It is understood that approximately 100 officers and men would be assigned to the unit.

S. S. Wallace, Jr., of Spartanburg, chairman of the South Carolina Aeronautics Commission, and Charles B. Culbertson, director for the commission, visited Senator Thurmond's office during the past week in connection with the Spartanburg Airport ~~and~~ and the Air Force Reserve plan.

Mr. Wallace has consulted with officials regarding the requirements of the Air Force for the field.

Senator Thurmond expressed the hope that Spartanburg might be selected. He requested General Hall to inform him as soon as a decision is reached.