

WASHINGTON, June 28--Senator Strom Thurmond (D-SC) disclosed today he has received encouraging reports from high Air Force officials in his bid to have a Reserve troop carrier squadron established at Greenville, S. C., and that he expects an early decision on his request.

The South Carolina Democrat stated further he was informed that establishment of the Greenville unit would not preclude the future location of a Reserve jet unit at Spartanburg.

In early February, he urged Air Force officials to establish a jet unit at Spartanburg Memorial Airport.

The authorized strength of a Reserve troop carrier squadron is 51 officers, one warrant officer, 411 airmen, and 16 twin-engine aircraft.

Sen. Thurmond said Maj. Gen. George G. Finch, commander of the 14th Air Force, Warner-Robins Air Force Base, Ga., has assured him Greenville will be given high consideration because existing facilities there are adequate to meet squadron requirements without additional expenditures.

Gen. Finch also gave encouragement to future establishment of a unit at Spartanburg, ~~after Senator Thurmond urged prompt and favorable action on his request for Spartanburg.~~ In his conferences with high Air Force officials and Gen. Finch, Senator Thurmond said it has been pointed out that the runways at Spartanburg must be lengthened and other facilities provided before a jet unit can be located there. Senator Thurmond expressed the hope, however, that both units will be established at the South Carolina cities.