

**BASE VISIT REPORT**

**Will Rogers World Airport  
Air National Guard, Oklahoma City, OK**

**Thursday June 9, 2005**

**LEAD COMMISSIONER:** None

**ACCOMPANYING COMMISSIONER:** None

**COMMISSION STAFF:** Ms. Colleen Turner

**LIST OF ATTENDEES:**

Maj Gen Harry M. Wyatt, The Adjutant General  
Brig Gen Larita A. Aragon, The Assistant Adjutant General  
Brig Gen Robert D. Ireton, Chief of Staff  
Col James M. McCormack, Commander  
Lt Col Doug Hayworth, Logistics Group Commander  
Lt Col Glen Baker, Operations Group Commander  
Lt Col Michael Cash, Base Civil Engineer Commander  
Lt Col Alan Gannon, Environmental Engineer  
Lt Col Stephen Howard, Logistics Officer  
Maj James Snow, Security Forces Commander  
Maj June Tillett, AES Senior Health Administrator  
Capt Elizabeth Kettler, Executive Officer  
Capt Rick Mutchler, Chief of Supply  
CMSgt Gerald Reeves, Chief, Mission Systems  
CMSgt Jackie Molder, Chief, Supply  
SMSgt John Dallarosa, Plans Chief  
SMSgt Scott Engler, Life Support Supervisor  
MSgt Kaye Drier, Recruiting  
MSgt Scott Evershed, Retention

**BASE'S PRESENT MISSION:** The mission of the Will Rogers World Airport Air National Guard Base's 137<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing is to enhance Global Reach by serving our nation, state, and community through the through the unique capabilities of the 137th Airlift Wing and the 205th Engineering Installation Squadron.

**SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATION:** Realign Andrews Air Force Base, MD, by relocating the Air Force Flight Standards Agency (AFFSA) and its two C-21 aircraft to Will Rogers World Airport Air Guard Station, OK. Realign Randolph Air Force Base, TX, by relocating the USAF Advanced Instrument School (AIS) to Will Rogers Air Guard Station. Realign Tinker Air Force Base, OK, by relocating the Global Air Traffic Operations Program Office (GATOPO) to Will Rogers Air Guard Station. Realign Will Rogers Air Guard Station by relocating the 137th Airlift Wing (ANG) to Tinker Air Force Base and associate with the 507th Air Refueling Wing (AFR). The 137th's C-130H aircraft are distributed to the 136th Airlift Wing (ANG), Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, TX (4 aircraft), and 139th Airlift Wing (ANG), Rosecrans Memorial Airport Air Guard Station, MO (4 aircraft). The aerial port squadron at Will Rogers moves to Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, the Aeromedical Squadron and fire fighters move to Rosecrans AGB. Other elements of the 137th's Expeditionary Combat Support remain in place at Will Rogers.

**SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JUSTIFICATION:** Consolidating AFFSA, AIS, and GATOPO at Will Rogers World Airport creates synergy between the Air Force administrative aviation functions and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) located at Will Rogers World. Associating the ANG operation at Will Rogers (64-airlift) with the AFR operation at Tinker (4-tanker) consolidates and streamlines Air Force reserve component operations in Oklahoma City at a base of high military value. Additionally, this realignment creates two larger C-130 squadrons at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth (53) and Rosecrans Air Guard Station (114) from three under sized squadrons. Finally, this recommendation moves federal assets out of the National Capital Region, reducing the nation's vulnerability.

**MAIN FACILITIES REVIEWED:** Drive around base

**KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED:**

- Potential negative impact upon mission effectiveness and potential future missions
- Concerns about how conclusions were drawn in terms of capacity/military value
- Clarity of changes: language used in terms of exact places referred to for relocations and conflicting data on timing
- Disadvantages of realignment at Tinker AFB
- Improvements made since data call
- Concern Title 10 status suppresses information important for objective assessment

**INSTALLATION CONCERNS RAISED:**

**Supplemented by attachments**

**1. Negative impact of realigning ANG flying operations on present and current mission**

- Long term potential cost savings benefits do not outweigh the near term loss in joint warfighting capability, training, and readiness given heavy dependence on the C-130 as the main in-theater transport for re-supply
- Movement of aircraft from Will Rogers to other locations would not necessarily mean qualified crews would follow. Majority of personnel will not follow the C-130's to out of state locations so recruiting, training and experience level issues could hamper mission effectiveness
- Time for gaining locations to crew aircraft and have a deployable asset to the warfighter does not appear to have been considered
- Already experiencing negative impact on recruiting and retention because of uncertainty created by the recommendations
- Relocating the 137<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron to another state could have a serious negative impact on DoD's ability to transport wounded and save lives
- Retaining the 137<sup>th</sup> Mobile Aerial Port could enhance the warfighting ability of the 507<sup>th</sup> at Tinker AFB because no Mobile Aerial Port assets currently exist at that location

## **2. Favorable availability of land, facilities and associated airspace to support contingency mobilization and surge requirements not taken into account**

- Land available to accommodate all missions programmed to realign from other Air Force locations and host an ANG/AFRC associate flying operation not considered. Can accommodate as many as twelve KC-135 aircraft
- Future MILCON in the Future Years Defense Plan (FYDEP) would provide Ramp space for as many as 24 C-17 size aircraft
- Will Rogers could serve as an alternate operating location (bugout) for some or all of Tinker's flying missions
- Proven ability to accommodate C-5 aircraft for deploying personnel and equipment
- City and airport are very accommodating. In addition to future parking for 24 C-17 size aircraft on its own ramp, additional parking could be made available on the FAA ramp and civilian cargo ramp for a surge

## **3. Advantages over Tinker AFB for realignment**

- The location of the 507<sup>th</sup> ARW at Tinker AFB is land-locked, with limited possibilities for expansion

- Relocating the 507<sup>th</sup> to Will Rogers would free up space for future expansion of Tinker's primary ALC mission or joint missions with the United States Navy
- Will Roger's proximity to Tinker facilitates future city basing of active duty personnel due to its quick (20 minute) access to Tinker for commissary, BX, clinic etc. plus space to construct Visiting Officers/Airmen's quarters (VOQ/VAQ)
- Manpower implications would be the same whether association was at Tinker or Will Rogers
- The proposed move location does not have enough jobs in the nursing or medical technical career fields to support an active Aero Medical Evacuation squadron. The Oklahoma City area has roughly 30 hospitals that are a source for recruitment and employment for these members.

#### **4. Favorable cost of operations and manpower implications**

- Expenses as runway/taxiway maintenance, navigation aids etc. are borne by the airport authority and Federal Aviation Agency
- Will Rogers World Airport is a joint use facility. The joint use agreement would remain in place regardless of ANG flying operations at Will Rogers
- The COBRA REALIGNMENT SUMMARY REPORT lists personnel moves and dollar savings/expenses in a columnar format on a fiscal year by year basis and how the DoD derived these numbers is unknown

#### **5. Marked improvements in infrastructure potential since data call**

- Ramp Space will increase approx. 120 thousand square yards with no obstructions
- Fuel Storage Capacity being increased to 100 thousand gallons
- Acreage Available for Development has increased by approx. 200 acres
- 120 thousand square feet of recent construction, "modern buildings"

#### **6. Favorable community/environment**

- Excellent relationship with the local airport authority. The Cooperative agreements regarding the availability, (and condition of land), facilities, and airspace were undervalued
- Current joint use agreements with the Will Rogers World Airport authority include mutual aid and efficient, low cost: snow removal, fire protection, and disaster preparedness and response.

- Recently scored top marks on environmental compliance and impact inspections
- No existing runoff or ground water problems and have the systems in place to ensure our outstanding environmental safety record holds
- Involvement with the Aerospace America Air show event serves as awareness and recruiting tool
- Surrounded by agricultural land owned by Airport Authority and recent environmental studies show agricultural buffer zone eliminates noise level problems with the surrounding community
- Other civilian and military flight departments conduct training at Will Rogers due to the flying training opportunities available at our location

#### **7. Infrastructure capabilities: ramp strength/space, buildings, communications**

- Infrastructure is adequate to support KC-135's or other large aircraft and associated missions
- Hangar facilities large enough to enclose two KC-135 sized aircraft.
- Ramp adequate to accommodate 12 KC-135 aircraft and funded future construction will support 24 C-17 sized aircraft.
- State of the art communications infrastructure: cable plants sufficient to double in capacity; voice, video, and data networks continuously modernized
- All Secure Internet Protocol Routing Network (SIPRNET), Non-secure Internet Protocol Routing Network (NIPRNET), Communication Security (COMSEC) network systems recently upgraded to industry leading standards.
- Base telephone switching network recently upgraded to latest technology (voicemail system, interconnection to data network, information management system to integrate voice messaging, fax, and data to data messaging system)

#### **6. Potential new missions**

- Expansion of joint basing opportunities with the Oklahoma Army National Guard Aviation Battalions
- Currently host one tenant Army Guard aviation unit that flies two light twin engine transports. Unit scheduled to be one of the first to receive four of the new Army's new light theater Airlift aircraft. Plan to continue this tenant agreement.

- Looking at expanding tenant agreements with another Army helicopter unit and with a local U.S. Coast Guard detachment

**COMMUNITY CONCERNS RAISED** : Community members not present

**REQUESTS FOR STAFF AS A RESULT OF VISIT** : None at this time