

BRAC Commission

Major General Stanley F. H. Newman, USAF (Retired)

1400 Dorchester Drive  
Oklahoma City, OK 73114

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Received

e-mail: [sfhot@cox.net](mailto:sfhot@cox.net)

11 July 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi  
Chairman, 2005 BRAC Commission  
2521 South Clark Street (Room 600)  
Arlington, VA 22202

RE: Dod Recommendation  
137<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing  
WRANG Base

Dear Chairman Principi:

I was deeply concerned and astounded over DoD's recommendation to the BRAC that the 137<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing [AW], located at the Will Rogers ANG [WRANG] Base, Will Rogers IAP, Oklahoma City, be moved to Tinker AFB and "Associated" with the AF Reserve Air Refueling Wing [ARW]. Over half of my 40 years military service was devoted to the airlift mission in which I served as a commander from flight to wing and ultimately as the ANG Assistant to the CINC of the then Military Airlift Command. I believe my experience well qualifies me to evaluate the efficacy of this DOD recommendation to you.

I definitely believe that the DoD recommendation defies logic, flies in the face of common sense and should be reversed for at least the following reasons:

WRANG Base already has more than enough existing ramp space and state-of-the-art facilities to increase by at least four more C-130 aircraft, WHILE simultaneously accommodating the Tinker ARW and with minimal military construction to do so. Air traffic at Will Rogers IAP is not congested, highway access is excellent and the vicinity of the airport is mostly open land. Tinker AFB itself is relatively congested and I have been told that it would cost upward to \$150 M to accommodate the 137<sup>th</sup> AW at Tinker AFB.

The 137<sup>th</sup> is an acknowledged leader in the Tactical Airlift mission—truly a "Gold standard" in the Total Force tactical airlift world. Their flying squadron with its "airlift package" recently returned from Iraq, having served with distinction for two years. They were primary players in the rescue mission extracting "Jessica"—the well publicized female POW—and among the first to land at the Baghdad airport while it was still under fire. They were lauded [in part]:

"...unprecedented...with respect to our deployment and operations tempo. Your performance has been nothing less than *spectacular*." [Italics mine].

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This was typical 137<sup>th</sup> performance. The wing has flown over 45 years mishap free in war and peace to developed and undeveloped world areas. This virtually unprecedented safety record attests to the professionalism, expertise and devotion to duty of its people. This splendid wing long has been and remains today fully **COMBAT READY!**

The Total Force will lose this much needed airlift capability and many of the highly experienced professionals will be unable or unwilling to make the recommended move to Tinker

It is only logical, cost effective and mission capability-wise to

**[RECOMMENDATION]:** reverse DoD's recommendation by instead moving the ARW from Tinker to WRANG Base and placing both organizations into one Composite Air Mobility Wing consisting of both an AF Reserve Air Refueling Group and an ANG Airlift Group. (The ANG AATTC at Rosecrans ANG Base, St Joseph MO is comprised of both Air Force Reserve and ANG personnel and could serve as an excellent model for the proposed composite wing structure.)

Please retain the 137<sup>th</sup> at WRANG Base. It will save money, operational capability and highly experienced professional personnel!

Respectfully yours,



Stanley F. H. Newman  
Maj Gen, USAF (Retired)