



**OHIO AIR NATIONAL GUARD**  
**HEADQUARTERS 179TH AIRLIFT WING (AMC)**  
 MANSFIELD, OHIO

15 June 2005

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 Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
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On behalf of the men and women of the 179<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, I would like to thank you for visiting with us yesterday and for making us an "extension of your staff." We are grateful that, like us, you were sufficiently concerned with the grave potential losses to state and national security posed by closure of Air National Guard C-130 units that you felt the visit was warranted.

I am fully aware, too, that we covered a lot of ground in our meeting and that you face a daunting task as you analyze not only Mansfield, but the many units affected by DoD's BRAC proposal. In the hope of making your jobs a little easier, I would like to share a few key points that I think distill the essence of our message yesterday:

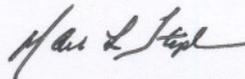
1. Land is not an obstacle here, but the Air Force's *flawed* capacity analysis process used land to preclude us from further consideration:
  - How 12 or even 16 aircraft could have been accommodated on our existing land was never considered.
  - Options for additional land were readily available, but the AF's BRAC data calls never allowed for submission of this fact.
2. The Air Force's inconsistent and biased Military Value analysis contained many significant errors and, incredibly, completely *ignored* the value of the 179<sup>th</sup>'s deeply experienced and highly skilled patriots.
  - ANG personnel are *not fungible*.
  - They are not easily, and certainly not readily, replaced.
3. There is a demonstrably *negative* correlation in the Air Force's plan between the distribution of new missions (*gains*) and ANG units with a record of recruiting and retention success.
  - Mansfield draws from a rich recruiting base, and makes good use of it. When coupled with a unit culture that produces equally excellent retention, the 179<sup>th</sup> boasts the *best* strength figures of any ANG C-130 unit.
  - There is *no logical* correlation in the AF analysis between this indisputable fact and the gain/close recommendations.
4. Strikingly, the military value of ANG C-130 units to the Governor's state security mission is nowhere to be found in the AF analysis.
  - ANG airlift units provide direct support to Homeland Security missions like EMEDS and the Civil Support Teams
  - We can and do train with joint state forces.
  - We will be providing you with much more specific data in this area soon.

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5. From the data currently available to us, these flaws, errors and omissions led to a significant miscalculation of at least \$ 773 million in NPV:
- Mansfield can expand to accommodate 12 aircraft at a (COBRA modeled) infrastructure cost of \$13.7 million. Compared to the total cost of \$21.6 million projected in the Air Force analysis, *this represents a savings to the taxpayer of \$7.9 million.*
  - Our investment in the training of our people amounts to at least \$ 214 million. It will be substantially lost, since the close community ties of our members precludes their ability or desire to move "with the iron", (even if they could,) to units that are hundreds of miles away. This loss appears nowhere in the COBRA calculations.
  - AF COBRA costs do not include projections for aircraft conversion or associated retraining costs at either of the bases to which Mansfield's aircraft are slated to transfer. At Maxwell alone, the cost will be over \$ 41 million.
  - And, finally, the COBRA costs do not include allowances for the hallmark efficiency which units like the 179<sup>th</sup> operate. The taxpayer only pays for our traditional members when they are used, yet members in this status were not modeled (nor were state or contract employees.) An active duty unit of the same size as the 179<sup>th</sup> would cost the taxpayer an additional \$ 54 million *per year.*

I thank you again for inviting us to collaborate with you in this undertaking on behalf of the American people.



MARK L. STEPHENS, Colonel, Ohio ANG  
Commander

cc: MG Gregory Wayt  
MG Harry Feucht  
BG Homer Smith  
Mr. Joe Renaud