



**BOB TAFT**  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF OHIO

June 30, 2005



The Honorable. Anthony J. Principi  
2005 Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
2521 South Clark St., Ste. 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

07052005

Dear Commissioner Principi:

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Thank you for your attention during the Ohio Regional Hearing in Buffalo on Monday, June 27<sup>th</sup>. Ohio presented many diverse issues to you and your fellow commissioners. I left the hearing with great confidence that you understood those issues and that Ohio will be treated fairly during your deliberations.

Attached is an additional copy of my testimony. If you have any questions on my remarks or any issue concerning Ohio please don't hesitate to contact me directly. You may also contact my Aerospace & Defense Advisor, Joe Renaud at (614) 466-4292.

Sincerely,

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Bob Taft  
Governor

Attachment

**Ohio Governor Bob Taft's Remarks  
BRAC Regional Hearing  
Buffalo, NY  
June 27, 2005**

Thank you, General Newton, for coming to Ohio last week. And to you and all of your fellow Commissioners, thank you for your service on the BRAC Commission.

Today you have heard that Ohio is focused on military value, and especially on the first BRAC principle:

*"...to attract and retain ... personnel who are highly skilled and educated and have access to effective, diverse, and sustainable training space in order to ensure current and future readiness..."*

We have respectfully concluded that the Department of Defense substantially deviated from this BRAC Criterion by not considering the exceptional staffing levels at our Air Guard facilities.

The Ohio Air National Guard is the top state guard in the Nation in recruiting and retention. The manning at Springfield is 109 percent and Mansfield is 105 percent. No other F-16 unit or C-130 unit matches these numbers. The Department of Defense substantially deviated by not considering this fact.

How is it possible that the number one units in their class for recruiting and retention be recommended for closure or realignment, when other units, that are significantly below 100 percent strength, are slated to grow?

The BRAC Statute requires the Secretary to *"consider all military installations inside the United States equally...."* Yet the Air Guard Station at Mansfield was not considered equally. Cost figures weren't developed for expansion even though Mansfield is capable of supporting an increase to 12 C-130s on existing land plus adjacent acreage available for a one dollar lease. The bottom line is that Mansfield can expand for less money than the cost to close.

In addition, Homeland security was not adequately addressed by the Air Force with respect to the C-130s at Mansfield. Ohio has six of the 120 critical cities, defined by the Nunn-Lugar-Domenici Preparedness Program. The Mansfield base is critical to Ohio for crisis support, supplies and evacuation and from a federal standpoint is ideally located to respond to our critical cities and other cities all across the eastern seaboard. Unlike Little Rock, Mansfield is within a one-hour flight of more than half of the U.S. population. Housing the bulk of C-130s in one location does not make sense for Homeland Security.

In addition to overlooking the high level of manning at Springfield, the Air Force substantially deviated from the BRAC criteria by collecting data on Springfield as a Formal Training Unit (FTU), but then evaluating the 178<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing as an operational unit. As a result, the Air Force based its decision on inaccurate information about the capacity of Springfield's ramps and operations building.

With regards to Cleveland DFAS, I express my strong support for Fred Nance's comments on behalf of the Cleveland community. The fact that the GSA charges above market rentals in Cleveland should not be counted against the Cleveland DFAS operations. As General Newton learned during his visit, the State is a strong partner in the alternative proposal to provide a secure, stand-alone, expandable and cost-competitive facility for DFAS operations.

Cleveland DFAS has been recognized repeatedly as a superior operation with excellent customer service and that too should be considered, especially with respect to a civilian workforce with limited mobility. The performance of the Cleveland DFAS team was validated by the decision last year to transfer reserve and guard payroll operations to Cleveland and by the successful implementation of the 19 unique, unduplicated applications to which Fred Nance alluded.

I also wish to call your attention to the recommendation to remove the Army Vehicle Technology Directorate from the NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland. These 50 scientific and support positions have been at NASA Glenn since 1970, taking advantage of NASA facilities and expertise in aeropropulsion and power for fixed and rotary wing systems.

The cost to duplicate facilities and equipment at another location would be prohibitive, and the loss of expertise would be substantial. Many of the civilian Army experts wouldn't move and the Army will lose the benefit of working with its NASA partners.

With regards to DFAS Dayton, I want to endorse the comments of Mayor Smith and Congressman Hobson. In terms of both effectiveness and efficiency, the military value of DFAS Dayton's close proximity to their prime customers at Wright Patterson Air Force Base should be self-evident.

In support of the comments of Mr. Marsh and Congressman Hobson, I've had the opportunity to visit and tour the Defense Supply Center Columbus and have personally observed the outstanding quality of workforce and modern, efficient facilities available at that location.

I want to add my enthusiastic support for the mission realignments to Wright Patterson Air Force Base. Ohio is a leader in the field of medical research. One out of every four clinical trials in the country is performed in Ohio. We have 17 of America's Best Hospitals and the Aerospace Medicine Program at Wright State University in Dayton is the oldest in the nation; it has been continuously funded by NASA for more than 2 years.

I am however deeply concerned about the proposed realignment of the computer-based business management systems from Wright Patterson Air Force Base to Hanscom Air Force Base. This is a "military value" issue. This work is incorrectly characterized as C-4-I-S-R. It is simply business management activity and should be located in proximity to the business process owners who will remain at Wright Patterson. In addition, Dayton is home to a number of leading companies in the business management systems field, including NCR and LexisNexis.

Finally, I want to point out a small but important issue with the Joint Systems Manufacturing Center at Lima, known to many as the Lima Tank Plant. The Army, in their data call, found excess capacity at Lima.

But since the data call, this situation has changed. Lima was awarded all manufacturing for the Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle and the Resetting of Abrams Tanks, pushing capacity to almost 100 percent. Please investigate this situation. I believe the Army will agree with a decision to reverse the realignment recommendation.

Ohio is proud of the fact that we deliver outstanding military value to the Department of Defense. We ask that you fully consider the additional information that we have presented to you today.

Thank you for your commitment to our country and a stronger, more effective military.



**BOB TAFT**  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF OHIO

*It was a  
pleasure having  
you in Ohio!*

June 30, 2005

 **RECEIVED**

**07052005**

General Lloyd W. Newton  
2005 Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
2521 South Clark St., Ste. 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Commissioner Newton:

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Governor

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BRAC Regional Hearing  
Buffalo, NY  
June 27, 2005**

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The Ohio Air National Guard is the top state guard in the Nation in recruiting and retention. The manning at Springfield is 109 percent and Mansfield is 105 percent. No other F-16 unit or C-130 unit matches these numbers. The Department of Defense substantially deviated by not considering this fact.

How is it possible that the number one units in their class for recruiting and retention be recommended for closure or realignment, when other units, that are significantly below 100 percent strength, are slated to grow?

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Cleveland DFAS has been recognized repeatedly as a superior operation with excellent customer service and that too should be considered, especially with respect to a civilian workforce with limited mobility. The performance of the Cleveland DFAS team was validated by the decision last year to transfer reserve and guard payroll operations to Cleveland and by the successful implementation of the 19 unique, unduplicated applications to which Fred Nance alluded.

I also wish to call your attention to the recommendation to remove the Army Vehicle Technology Directorate from the NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland. These 50 scientific and support positions have been at NASA Glenn since 1970, taking advantage of NASA facilities and expertise in aeropropulsion and power for fixed and rotary wing systems.

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June 30, 2005

The Honorable James H Bilbray  
2005 Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
2521 South Clark St., Ste. 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

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Dear Commissioner Bilbray:

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Bob Taft  
Governor

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BRAC Regional Hearing  
Buffalo, NY  
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GOVERNOR  
STATE OF OHIO



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June 30, 2005

**07 05 2005**

Brigadier General Sue E. Turner  
2005 Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
2521 South Clark St., Ste. 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear General Turner:

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Bob Taft  
Governor

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