

***DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION
2521 CLARK STREET, SUITE 600
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22202
(703) 699-2950***

MEMORANDUM OF MEETING

DATE: June 9, 2005

TIME: 2:30 PM

MEETING WITH: Mayor Tom Barrett, Milwaukee

SUBJECT: General Mitchell ARS recommendation

PARTICIPANTS:

Name/Title/Phone Number:

Tom Barrett/Mayor of Milwaukee/414-286-2200

Paul Bock/Chief of Staff for Senator Herb Kohl/202-224-5653

**Rocky Marcoux/Commissioner, City of Milwaukee Department of City
Development/414-286-5800**

Stephen Moffitt/Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek Government Affairs, LLC/202-551-1428

John C. Rogers/ Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek Government Affairs, LLC/414-978-5337

Commission Staff:

Tim MacGregor, Senior Air Force Analyst

*** Tanya Cruz, Air Force Analyst**

MEETING SUMMARY:

Officials commented that by closing the 440th Airlift Wing, the Air Force Reserve is leaving a huge pool of talent in the Milwaukee/Chicago area. Also, the recommendation to close the 440th at General Mitchell Air Reserve Station is a departure from the Abram's Doctrine to have a Guard and Reserve presence throughout the U.S. This issue pertains to the Military Value Criteria 1, "...impact on operational readiness of the total force...." In addition, from a recruitment and retention standpoint, closing Gen. Mitchell ARS would leave a hole in the region.

Given that BRAC is designed to reduce infrastructure, the C-130 consolidation appears to be an airplane grab by the Actives, which goes against congressional intent. Since the Air Force did not budget for the C-130s, officials questioned whether the Air Force was using BRAC as a backdoor

mechanism for moving the aircraft to the Active side. According to Mr. Bock, from Senator Kohl's perspective, this could create a problem for the future of the Force.

Officials made the following points regarding quantitative as well as qualitative things that were not factored into the Air Force's Military Value calculation:

- Those on active duty were not counted as part of the military jobs lost.
- They estimate an 80 percent loss to the Reserve unit if moved as recommended.
- The base had an additional taxiway built and their ramp expansion project is two-thirds complete.
- The depot activity at the base saves \$1.1 million annually.
- The level and extent of recruitment and retention at General Mitchell, which is greater than 100 percent and 90 percent, respectively.
- The installation is able to expand. There is property of a nearby church as well as state land available for purchase.
- The amount of their unrestricted airspace.
- The average pilot at General Mitchell ARS has 3400 flying hours.
- On the whole, the base has 1800 years of flying experience.
- There are no TRICARE issues in the Milwaukee/Chicago area.
- They have low hotel rates (used for housing visitors) and the cost of living is relatively low.
- The 440th provides presidential support to Air Force One. Officials noted that the Air National Guard is not equipped to provide this support without a cost.

Officials expressed concern regarding the raw data call information available. They said that it is in a difficult format to review and did not understand why there are NAs (not applicable) for a number of entries. Given that the scoring is still classified, with the Regional Hearing only 10 days away, officials were concerned that they would not have sufficient time to analyze the data. In response, we told officials about the public and classified reading room and suggested that they inquire as to whether they can have a staffer in Senator Kohl's office review the classified information.

* Denotes individual responsible for completing the memorandum