

BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

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The Nevada Air National Guard has been slated by BRAC to lose their 8 C-130 H-2 aircraft and some 140 full time and 400 traditional Guard positions.

These aircraft have been modified with "Scathe View", a "Predator like" Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance system. Because of this "Transformational" and critically needed mission capability, the aircraft have also been modified with "State of the Art" airborne defensive systems and upgraded on-board radar capability. **There are no other "like aircraft" in the DOD.** The unit has been flying these vital ISR missions in South West Asia, and has had an almost continuous presence in Iraq, Kuwait and Qatar for the last two years. This "real time" high demand low-density asset has been credited with coalition lives saved and enemies captured and killed.

The men and women of the National Guard and Reserve now make up some 43% of the forces currently serving on active duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, and with recruiting across all services down 15 to 20%, **these talented professional airmen and soldiers are now needed more than ever.**

The Nevada Air National Guard's 152nd Airlift Wing, it's aircraft and personnel, are also an absolute key element in almost every State of Nevada "Emergency Action" and "Homeland Defense" plan. Due to the size of the state any "event" would require rapid and responsive airlift to get teams and equipment on site. The aircraft and highly trained crews have also been called for and utilized during wildfire fire-fighting efforts due to the systems unique capability of "seeing through smoke". The "infrared picture" is fed immediately to command centers so fire-fighting equipment and personnel can be more effectively utilized.

This unit's aircraft and mission are unique and "transformational". The organizations recruiting and retention rates are among the very best in the nation, and there is room to expand into future missions.

If these aircraft and airman our lost, the small cost savings projected over the next twenty years by this BRAC's action will pale in comparison to the loss of combat proven capability to this nation, and to the vital role that these highly trained citizen soldiers and professional airmen play in our state's emergency action plans and fire-fighting efforts.

I implore you to re-visit and re-evaluate this decision. In this time of unprecedented Guard and Reserve call-ups and the need for highly trained personnel and combat proven flying units, **the 152nd Airlift Wing of the Nevada Air National Guard stands ready and able to continue to serve this state and our nation.**

Sincerely, 
Michael D. Gulkhur, Guardsman and Nevadan