



BRAC Commission

AUG 04 2005

Received

Office of the Governor  
State Capitol  
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Charleston, WV 25305

*State of West Virginia*  
*Joe Manchin III*  
Governor  
July 26, 2005

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The Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld  
United States Secretary of Defense  
The Pentagon  
1155 Defense Pentagon  
Arlington, Virginia 20301

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

In the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Report, the Department of Defense recommended realigning eight C-130H planes from the Yeager Airport Air Guard Station, 130<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, West Virginia National Guard, Charleston, West Virginia. The proposed realignment overlooks the decorated history of this outstanding unit and its ongoing role in the War on Terror.

More critically, 32 U.S.C. § 104(c) forbids a change in the organization or allocation of a National Guard unit located entirely within a State without the approval of its governor. As Governor of the State of West Virginia, I do not consent to the proposed realignment of C-130H planes from the 130<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing. Absent such consent, the proposed change in the branch, organization, or allotment of the Yeager Airport Air Guard Station would contravene federal law.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Manchin III".

Joe Manchin III  
Governor

cc: The Honorable Anthony J. Principi  
The Honorable Robert C. Byrd  
The Honorable John D. Rockefeller IV  
The Honorable Alan B. Mollohan  
The Honorable Nick J. Rahall II  
The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito

RESOLUTION # 2005-6

Sponsor: Village of Polk

**DECLARING OUR SUPPORT FOR THE REPEAL OF THE AIR FORCE BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE (BRAC) RECOMMENDATION FOR CLOSURE OF THE OHIO AIR NATIONAL GUARD'S 179<sup>TH</sup> AIRLIFT WING IN MANSFIELD, OHIO.**

**WHEREAS, the 179<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing of the Ohio Air National Guard has served the citizens of Ohio and the nation with valor and honor in military operations during the past fifty-seven years to include Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom; and**

**WHEREAS, the Ohio Air National Guard in Mansfield, Ohio has (8) eight modern C-130H2 aircraft assigned along with the highly trained personnel required to operate them; and**

**WHEREAS, the Department of Defense has made a recommendation to the BRAC Commission to transfer these aircraft to other states and eliminate the positions of over one thousand personnel; and**

**WHEREAS, the Department of Defense BRAC recommendation to close the 179<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing in Mansfield was not coordinated with the Governor, or the Ohio Adjutant General as required by Title 10 and Title 32 of the United States Code; and**

**WHEREAS, the Air Force BRAC process did not account for the incredible value/cost of the highly trained C-130 aircrews, maintenance and support personnel (\$214 million in training alone) which were not factored into the projected savings; and**

**WHEREAS, The Ohio Air National Guard is the "Hometown Air Force" and part of the only military force under the direct authority of the Governor of Ohio and provides the him with a large, highly mobile and ready force that may be dispatched for service anywhere in Ohio in response to natural disasters and civil disobedience; and**

**WHEREAS, the purpose of BRAC was to achieve savings by eliminating infrastructure; at Mansfield the lack of excess infrastructure was used as justification to close the base; and**

**WHEREAS, the 179<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing has room to expand and can do so for \$8 million fewer taxpayer dollars than it would take to expand the Alabama location – but under the flawed Air Force BRAC criteria, Mansfield was excluded from expansion consideration because it was never asked if expansion were possible; and**

**WHEREAS, the Air Force BRAC process did not consider the 179<sup>th</sup>'s status as the number one manned C-130 unit in the entire Air National Guard (105% of authorized strength) even though the first BRAC principle is "Recruit and Train"; and**

**WHEREAS, the Air Force BRAC process did not consider the critical homeland security and other missions performed by the 179<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing in the national interest; and**

**WHEREAS, the BRAC Commission is required by law to make final recommendations to the President of the United States not later than September 8, 2005.**

**NOW THEREFORE:**

**BE IT RESOLVED that this body declares it's support for the repeal of the Air Force BRAC closure recommendation to close the Ohio Air National Guard's 179<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing at Mansfield, Ohio.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the clerk of this body is hereby directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Chairman of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission in Arlington, Virginia.**