

DCN 1204

ORIGINAL

STATE OF DELAWARE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RUTH ANN MINNER
GOVERNOR

May 25, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
BRAC 2005 Independent Commission
2521 South Clark Street Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

5/25/05

Dear Chairman Principi

In its May 13, 2005 recommendations to the BRAC Commission, the Department of Defense (DoD) recommended a realignment of 148 personnel from our Air National Guard facility and the transfer of all eight C-130s to bases in other states. I am writing to you today to request a BRAC Commission site visit at the New Castle County Air Guard Station in Delaware. I believe that the impacts derived from this decision deserve closer examination prior to the final decision of the BRAC Commission.

I appreciate your comments over the past few weeks about ensuring a transparent process that works with Governors and communities and examines the facts. I am confident that the additional information we can provide during a site visit would prove particularly useful to the Commission. As you know, DoD did not consult with me or my National Guard leadership regarding the recommendation. Consultation with us would have shown, among other things, that our number of personnel affected grows to 512 - roughly half of our total personnel - when traditional Guard personnel are taken into account.

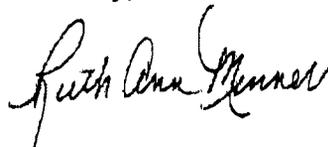
Based on my review of the proposal, the impacts of the realignment will dramatically impact national, regional, and statewide security and economies. Specifically, the transferring of planes and personnel will hinder state homeland security efforts in the event of natural disasters or terrorist attacks in Delaware or the Mid-Atlantic region. Additionally, the realignment will adversely affect not only the personal lives of those losing their jobs because of the transfer of the planes and missions, but also the businesses surrounding the base that provide goods and services integral to the domestic and international missions of the Delaware Air National Guard.

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I will continue to consider the impacts of the Department of Defense's recommendation to realign the New Castle County Air Guard Station in Delaware. I am hopeful that you will consider accepting my offer to visit our Air Guard base and look forward to discussing it in the very near future the base and its missions in further detail. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly, the Adjutant General of the Delaware National Guard, General Frank Vavala (302-326-7001), or my Washington DC director, Kate Finnerty (202-624-7724).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ruth Ann Minner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and "M".

Ruth Ann Minner
Governor