

BRAC Commission

AUG 04 2005

Received

August 2, 2005

2005 BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

To Whom It May Concern:

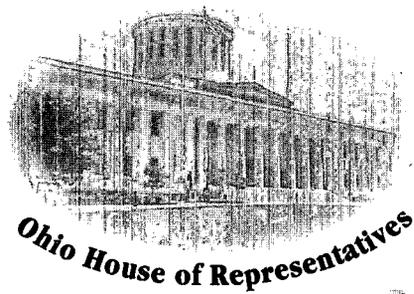
As Representative of Ohio's 82nd House District, it is my pleasure to contact you and urge your support of retaining the 179th Air National Guard Base in Mansfield, Ohio.

The important reasons this base should remain open are far more numerous than most are aware of. The 179th base provides over \$70 million in revenue to the local area. The unit started celebrating Earth Day in 1998 and each year more than 200 unit members support over 30 environmental projects in Mansfield, Shelby, and Galion and surrounding areas in Ohio. Also, for more than thirty years, the unit has supported the Special Olympics by providing medical support to participants. This is a joy to the communities.

The National Guard was the first government organization to embrace the Adopt-A-School concept, initiating its program in 1989. The 179th has adopted two elementary schools in Shelby County. Guard Members volunteer as tutors, act as mentors and positive role models and participate in other activities with students. They have also been supportively involved in many community projects.

Without this base, Northern Ohio (Cleveland) will serve as a recruitment base due to the excessive distance to the nearest Air National Guard Unit. Sixty-five percent of the reductions called for in the BRAC list are in the area of the Guard and Reserve components. Recruitment and retention nation wide will be devastated. This is the most important aspect!

I urge you to support these men and women of the 179th, who leave their families and jobs to support you, me, and this great country! Please prevent this base closure from occurring. It would mean so much to these people to know that you support them and this base as much as I do. The impact will be devastating to this region of Ohio if the closure occurs.



Stephen Reinhard
State Representative

82nd House District
Crawford, Wyandot and Parts of
Marion Counties

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I support the 179th Air National Guard base in Mansfield, Ohio and also urge for your support. If I may be of additional assistance to you in this regard, please do not hesitate to contact my office. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Steve

Steve Reinhard
State Representative
82nd Ohio House District