



AUG 11 2005

Received

August 9, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi, Commissioner
Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi,

The Charleston Regional Chamber of Commerce is deeply troubled by the Department of Defense's recommendation to realign the 130th Airlift Wing at Yeager Air Guard base. This recommendation is built on inaccurate information and not in the nation's best interest. We respectfully request the BRAC Commission reverse this decision and remove the 130th from the closure list.

We thank each of the commissioners for allowing the 130th Airlift Wing to present detailed accurate information. We believe our unit's representatives successfully demonstrate a deviation from the criteria in their presentation at the BRAC hearing in Charlotte. The National Guard Headquarters indicated Charleston has a maximum capacity of 8 C-130s, disregarding the unit's master plan and current aircraft parking configuration of 12 C-130s, as well as the relatively inexpensive cost that would be incurred in expanding to a 16 C-130 configuration. Closing the 130th Airlift Wing at Yeager Air Guard base would move planes, missions and jobs to more costly Active Duty bases.

This is the base whose unit helped rescue Jessica Lynch in Iraq. Also, it is important to note that the 130th Airlift Wing was the lead unit in General Schwarzkopf's famous "left hook" tactic during Desert Storm. The 130th Airlift Wing is the lead night vision C-130 unit in the Air National Guard. They are currently deployed in their twelfth rotation in the Global War on Terror. This demonstrates that the Air Guard, especially the 130th Airlift Wing, is willing to "step-up" and take the lead initiative on important missions.

As the BRAC voting date of August 22nd fast approaches, the Charleston Chamber of Commerce respectfully urges the Commission in the strongest possible terms to remove Yeager Air National Guard Base from the Pentagon's recommended list of base realignments and to stop the continuing retreat of the military from our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brenda H. Robertson".

Brenda H. Robertson
WesBanco Bank, Inc.
Kanawha Valley Regional President

WesBanco Bank, Inc.
Kanawha Valley Region
300 Tennessee Avenue
P.O. Box 6607
Charleston, WV 25362-6607
(304) 347-4000

August 2005

BRAC Commission

Chairman Anthony J. Principi
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

AUG 11 2005

Received

Dear Chairman Principi and BRAC Commissioners:

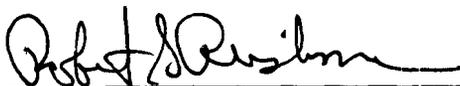
I am deeply troubled by the Defense Department's recommendation to realign Yeager Air National Guard base. This recommendation is a terrible mistake and I urge the BRAC Commission to reverse this decision and remove them from the list.

It is hard to understand why the Air Force has decided to take planes, missions and jobs away from so many Air Guard bases and put them on the more costly, larger bases. Of all the units to realign, why would they pick the base whose unit helped rescue Jessica Lynch in Iraq? The 130th Airlift Wing is the lead night vision C-130 unit in the Air National Guard. They are currently deployed in their twelfth rotation in the Global War on Terror.

Other questions concern Homeland Defense and how the Air Guard can respond to man-made or natural disasters when they occur after these massive cuts take place.

As the BRAC voting date of August 22 fast approaches, I urge the Commission in the strongest possible terms to remove Yeager Air National Guard Base from the Pentagon's recommended list of base realignments and to stop the continuing retreat of the military from our community.

Sincerely,



(Concerned Citizen)

1409 Semankeyton Rd
(Address)

Charleston W.Va. 25314
(City, State, Zip)