

August 12, 2005

AUG 16 2005

Received

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

Dear Chairman Principi and BRAC Commissioners:

It is with deep concern that I write regarding the proposed realignment at Yeager Air National Guard Base in Charleston, WV. I have studied, to the best of my understanding, the 2005 Regional Hearing held in Charlotte, NC. What can be said that hasn't been said already? The 130th is vitally important to our State of West Virginia!

I hope to suggest that the 130th, left intact at Yeager field, is also vitally important to our Nation. Secretary Rumsfeld's plan would seem to be aimed toward consolidated, Big Power, "shock and awe" type deployment abilities. **Is this really the military we need today?**

Americans, who are paying attention, fear terrorist attacks at **home**; we feel helpless and terribly saddened as each day brings new reports of multiple casualties from guerrilla-type warfare abroad. It's clearly a different war; no longer is it a war of air superiority or super powers – 9/11 removed our innocence forever. Civilians know they may be called upon at a moments notice to defend themselves or others.

Strong National Guard units are so important to our sense of well being. And, West Virginia has the best. We take pride in the training sites in state – Camp Dawson, the various Hazmat training around Charleston and the first responders' training at the WV Memorial tunnel at Paint Creek, Kanawha County, **which attract participants nationwide. Let us keep our National Guard full strength, please.**

The strength of our State's Army National Guard, the alliance of the 130th Airlift and Yeager Airfield **works** for us **and the Nation**. Please consider the **facts, as corrected** concerning the airfield space and ability.

I realize as a civilian my information is limited. I do know that this issue has united our State representatives unanimously across party lines – our Governor Manchin, Senator Byrd, Congresswoman Capito, Maj General Allen Tackett – all are in agreement about the need to keep our 130th Airlift. I join them and hope all West Virginians will take the time to do the same!

Sincerely,



Geraldine A. Kent

RR 4 Box 12
Hurricane, WV 25526
304.562.5245

BRAC Commission

August 16, 2005

AUG 16 2005

Received

Mr. Anthony J. Principi, Commission Chairman
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

As a follow-up to last week's BRAC hearings, I wanted to make you aware of my serious concerns with regard to Air Force officials referring to the Civil Air Patrol as a primary first responder available to Governors.

Civil Air Patrol units are components of the Air Force Reserve and are not trained, equipped or manned to provide long-term relief and/or recovery assistance to those affected by natural disasters or terrorist attacks. It is and always has been National Guard units that are a Governor's first line of defense and response for crises affecting West Virginia's citizens, and it is critical to the safety of our state and our nation that it remain that way.

Therefore, I once again respectfully ask that you and the members of the BRAC Commission allow the 130th Airlift Wing to continue on its current, and extremely important, mission and vote to remove it from the BRAC list.

With warmest regards,



Joe Manchin III
Governor

August 15, 2005

BRAC Commission

AUG 16 2005

Received

Mr. Anthony J. Principi, Commission Chairman
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

With last week's important BRAC hearings now complete, I wanted to reiterate to you and the Commission one more time that the U.S. Constitution provides for a state militia under the control of the Governor. That militia, as you are aware, is the National Guard.

The National Guard is a community-based defense force responding to the needs of a Governor during situations of civil unrest, natural disasters, or terrorist attacks. There is no doubt that the proposed realignment of West Virginia's 130th Airlift Wing as part of the BRAC process would have an adverse effect on our state and impede my duties as Commander-in-Chief. However, the Department of Defense and Air Force officials neglected to acknowledge that fact when they chose not to brief Governors or Adjutants General as to specifics of Future Total Force and base realignment and closure recommendations.

Therefore, I once again respectfully ask that you and the members of the BRAC Commission allow the 130th Airlift Wing to continue on its current, and extremely important, mission and vote to remove it from the BRAC list.

With warmest regards,



Joe Manchin III
Governor

BRAC Commission

AUG 18 2005

Received

We are writing this letter to strongly oppose the realignment of the 130th Airlift Wing at Yeager Airport in Charleston, WV. This realignment would result in the loss of all eight C-130 aircraft to Pope AFB, and will have a devastating impact on the local economy. The enclosed petition was signed by guests at the Ramada Plaza Hotel. They became aware of the 130th being placed on the BRAC Commission Recommendation list and signed the petition of their own free will.

The 130 AW has been in existence since 1947 and has always stepped up to serve our country, state, and community when called upon. The unit was activated for the Korean conflict, Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom, Noble Eagle, and continues to have its members deployed to 13 different countries to this very day.

It is incomprehensible that a unit of the caliber of the 130th Airlift Wing would be in this position.

- ◆ Since 2001, the 130th has had its men and women serving all over the world, meanwhile receiving numerous inspections by the Air Force and performing to excellent standards each time.
- ◆ Since 2001, the retention rate for the 130th has stayed steady between 96-98% while other units have suffered losses, some of them the very units scheduled to gain from BRAC.
- ◆ The current strength of the unit is 103.2%
- ◆ The 130th Airlift Wing not only performs its duties efficiently and with excellence, it does so economically. Four comparable units spent an average of \$2.2M for operations and maintenance; the 130 AW spent 1.78M while performing the same mission.

If indeed our military is seeking efficient use of resources, outstanding performance, and commitment to service, there can be no doubt that C-130 aircraft will stay at the 130th Airlift Wing. For the sake of the local economy, the guardsmen of the 130th, and the United States of America, I urge you to do everything within your power to Keep'em Flyin.'

Sincerely,

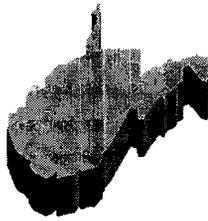


Ami Peters

BRAC Commission

AUG 18 2005

Receiver



Petition to Keep the 130th Airlift Wing Flying
We, the undersigned, strongly oppose the realignment of the 130 AW.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
<u>Harold J. Harmon</u>	<u>P.O. Box 614</u> <u>Inglis FL 34449</u>
<u>Phillip A. Thompson</u>	<u>P.O. Box 974 Inglis FL</u> <u>34449</u>
<u>Eric Becker</u>	<u>11240 W. Northwood Dr #56</u> <u>Inglis, FL 34449</u> <u>6605 No. Khyber Av.</u>
<u>Carol B. McWatters</u>	<u>Dunnellon, FL 34433</u> <u>PO Box 863</u> <u>Sparr, FL 32192</u>
<u>Kimberly D. Thompson</u>	<u>PO Box 974</u> <u>Inglis, FL 34449</u>
<u>Sarah Wade</u>	<u>19713 SE 105th Ave, Inglis FL 34449</u>
<u>Margaret Harmon</u>	<u>86 Our Road, Inglis FL 34449</u>
<u>Michelle Greer</u>	<u>981 Hwy 40 E, Inglis 34449</u>
<u>Aaron Kramer</u>	<u>1920 NW 150th Ave Ocala FL 34482</u>
<u>Elish Weber</u>	<u>10955 SW 47th Ave Ocala FL 34476</u>
<u>Blair S. Allen</u>	<u>16654 SW 38th St Ocala FL 34481</u>
<u>Tina Beatty</u>	<u>16100 SE 21st Ave Summerfield FL 34491</u>
<u>Margaret Felton</u>	<u>3375 SE Hy 42, Summerfield FL</u> <u>34491</u>
<u>Helen Hawk</u>	<u>2960 S.E. 169 Pl. Summerfield FL - 34491</u>

BRAC Commission

AUG 18 2005

Received

August 2005

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

Dear Chairman Principi and BRAC Commissioners:

I am so concerned by the Defense Department's recommendation to realign Yeager Air Guard base. This recommendation is not in the nation's best interest and the BRAC Commission should reverse this decision and remove them from the closure list.

It is hard to understand why the Air Force has decided to take planes, missions and jobs away from so many Air Guard and Air Reserve bases and put them on the more costly Active Duty bases.

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. This demonstrates that the Air Guard, especially the 130th Airlift Wing, is willing to "step-up" and take the lead initiative on important missions. Now, DOD wants to take all this away and is promising a "new and exciting" mission that is still not defined.

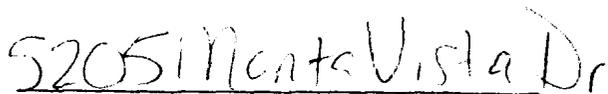
The impact of this decision will be devastating to the West Virginia Air National Guard and will make the Pentagon's efforts to recruit and retain military personnel even more difficult than it is now.

All West Virginians stand with the Air Guard community and are united in its support for this base, and its retention. Please, overturn the Pentagon's recommendation and keep the base open and keep the C-130's in Charleston!

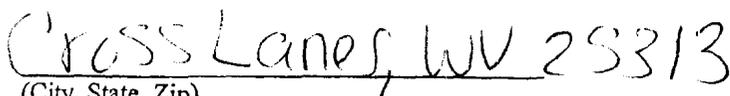
Sincerely,



(Concerned Citizen)



(Address)



(City, State, Zip)

BRAC Commission

August 2005

AUG 18 2005
BRAC Commission

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

Received
AUG
Received

Dear Chairman Principi and BRAC Commissioners:

I am so concerned by the Defense Department's recommendation to realign Yeager Air Guard base. This recommendation is not in the nation's best interest and the BRAC Commission should reverse this decision and remove them from the closure list.

It is hard to understand why the Air Force has decided to take planes, missions and jobs away from so many Air Guard and Air Reserve bases and put them on the more costly Active Duty bases.

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. This demonstrates that the Air Guard, especially the 130th Airlift Wing, is willing to "step-up" and take the lead initiative on important missions. Now, DOD wants to take all this away and is promising a "new and exciting" mission that is still not defined.

The impact of this decision will be devastating to the West Virginia Air National Guard and will make the Pentagon's efforts to recruit and retain military personnel even more difficult than it is now.

All West Virginians stand with the Air Guard community and are united in its support for this base, and its retention. Please, overturn the Pentagon's recommendation and keep the base open and keep the C-130's in Charleston!

Sincerely,

Joanne Savine
(Concerned Citizen)

129 Overlook Drive
(Address)

Hurricane WV 25526
(City, State, Zip)

BRAC Commission

August 2005

AUG 18 2005

Received

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

Dear Chairman Principi and BRAC Commissioners:

I am so concerned by the Defense Department's recommendation to realign Yeager Air Guard base. This recommendation is not in the nation's best interest and the BRAC Commission should reverse this decision and remove them from the closure list.

It is hard to understand why the Air Force has decided to take planes, missions and jobs away from so many Air Guard and Air Reserve bases and put them on the more costly Active Duty bases.

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. This demonstrates that the Air Guard, especially the 130th Airlift Wing, is willing to "step-up" and take the lead initiative on important missions. Now, DOD wants to take all this away and is promising a "new and exciting" mission that is still not defined.

The impact of this decision will be devastating to the West Virginia Air National Guard and will make the Pentagon's efforts to recruit and retain military personnel even more difficult than it is now.

All West Virginians stand with the Air Guard community and are united in its support for this base, and its retention. Please, overturn the Pentagon's recommendation and keep the base open and keep the C-130's in Charleston!

Sincerely,

Barbara G. Step
(Concerned Citizen)

3469 Leap Valley Rd Apt 13
(Address)

Hurricane WV 25526
(City, State, Zip)

August 2005

BRAC Commission

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

AUG 18 2005

Received

Dear Chairman Principi and BRAC Commissioners:

I am so concerned by the Defense Department's recommendation to realign Yeager Air Guard base. This recommendation is not in the nation's best interest and the BRAC Commission should reverse this decision and remove them from the closure list.

It is hard to understand why the Air Force has decided to take planes, missions and jobs away from so many Air Guard and Air Reserve bases and put them on the more costly Active Duty bases.

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. This demonstrates that the Air Guard, especially the 130th Airlift Wing, is willing to "step-up" and take the lead initiative on important missions. Now, DOD wants to take all this away and is promising a "new and exciting" mission that is still not defined.

The impact of this decision will be devastating to the West Virginia Air National Guard and will make the Pentagon's efforts to recruit and retain military personnel even more difficult than it is now.

All West Virginians stand with the Air Guard community and are united in its support for this base, and its retention. Please, overturn the Pentagon's recommendation and keep the base open and keep the C-130's in Charleston!

Sincerely,

Beth Eskine
(Concerned Citizen)

5 Lee Circle
(Address)

Hurricane WV 25520
(City, State, Zip)