

BRAC Commission

August 12, 2005

**AUG 16 2005**

BRAC Commissioners  
2521 Clark St., Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

Received

Dear Commissioners:

I was unable to attend the BRAC rally in Battle Creek, Michigan because of a family emergency. I would like to bring to your attention some points that you should consider when making your decisions.

Battle Creek's base has more flying hours than any A-10 unit in the Air National Guard. It has the best Fully Mission Capable rate of all A-10 units and the best retention rate. It also has the highest percentage rating of A-10 facilities rated Code One in the Air National Guard.

We need to retain our base here because they are NOW the best. I believe this would be the best decision for our country and our Battle Creek, Michigan base.

Thank you for the good work you do. We know you will make the best decision based on the facts in this matter.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Kopitzke  
160 Easthill Drive  
Battle Creek, MI 49014

Deborah L. Miller  
375 Garrison Road  
Battle Creek, MI 49017

August 15, 2005

BRAC Commission  
2521 S. Clark St.  
Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

BRAC Commission

AUG 18 2005

Received

Dear Commissioners:

Recently I participated along with 274 others to create a "human flag" at our local airport in Battle Creek as a part of Battle Creek's welcome of Commissioner Skinner to our city. The residents who gathered to greet Commissioner Skinner that day were there in support of the 110th Fighter Wing of the Michigan Air National Guard which is located in our city at the W.K. Kellogg Airport. The effort and enthusiasm of our citizens that day reflects the support our citizens have shown in other ways through the years for our beloved ANG base.

Battle Creek is "invested" in our local Air National Guard base. Voter approved bonds have paid for the 10,000 foot runway which allows the "big birds" to land here. Our city has also provided matching funds for a new traffic control tower and parallel runway which will free up the "big" runway for the aircraft of the 110th Fighter Wing. In addition, the city has worked diligently to divert commercial development away from the base and has rigorously kept that area at the west side of our city intact for the base's operation and future growth if necessary.

It is my understanding that the BRAC Commission has suggested a move of our 110th Fighter Wing, ANG to the eastern part of Michigan. The airspace in that area, near Detroit, is of course MUCH more busy than here in southwest Michigan. It seems to me that our location is perfect in that it offers relatively free airspace while, at the same time, being close enough to the big cities in our state for fighter planes to reach the more vulnerable, more densely populated areas in a very short period of time.

It is my hope that BRAC decisions related to closing and relocating bases is based on cost and quality factors. If so, the 110th Fighter Wing located in Battle Creek must rise to the top for reconsideration and reversal of the earlier decisions to close it. Ours has been described as the most combat ready A-10 fighter wing in the nation. That quality should be rewarded AND maintained and kept in a state of readiness to serve our nation in these troubled times.

Sincerely,



Deborah L. Miller, Battle Creek citizen