

TESTIMONY OF
CONGRESSMAN WM. LACY CLAY
BASE REALIGNMENT AND
CLOSURE COMMISSION
SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI
JUNE, 20, 2005

**GOOD MORNING EVERYONE AND
THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE.**

**FIRST, I WANT TO EXTEND MY
PERSONAL GREETINGS TO ADMIRAL
GEHMAN, GENERAL TURNER AND MY
FORMER COLLEAGUE, CONGRESSMAN
HANSEN.**

**IT'S A PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU
TO ST. LOUIS AND I THANK EACH OF
YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATED PUBLIC
SERVICE.**

**THE BRAC PROCESS IS DIFFICULT,
COMPLEX, AND VITAL TO THE
DEFENSE OF OUR NATION.**

**YOUR FINAL REPORT TO THE
PRESIDENT WILL IMPACT THOUSANDS
OF WORKING FAMILIES IN
COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE NATION,
FOR DECADES TO COME.**

**I AM WELL AWARE OF THE KEY
CRITERIA THAT FORM THE BASIS OF
THE BRAC REPORT.**

**BUT TO ME, IT ALL BOILS DOWN TO
THREE PRIMARY MEASUREMENTS:**

**FIRST,
WE MUST MAKE THE RIGHT
DECISIONS TO DEFEND AMERICA.**

**FACILITY REALIGNMENTS MUST
ENSURE THAT WE CAN ACHIEVE OUR
FUTURE MISSION OBJECTIVES;**

**AND THAT WE MAINTAIN MAXIMUM
SUPPORT AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES
FOR OUR SOLDIERS.**

**SECOND,
WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO THE
TAXPAYERS TO ENSURE THAT EVERY
DEFENSE DOLLAR IS SPENT WISELY
AND YIELDS THE GREATEST VALUE.**

**AND FINALLY, WE MUST CONSIDER
THE TREMENDOUS IMPACT ON THE
LIVES OF THOSE WHO SERVE AND
SUPPORT OUR NATIONAL DEFENSE
STRUCTURE, AND THE COMMUNITIES
WHERE THEY LIVE.**

**OF COURSE, THE ST. LOUIS AREA IS
NO STRANGER TO BRAC.**

**PARTS OF MY DISTRICT ARE STILL
STRUGGLING TO RECOVER FROM THE
DEVASTATING LOSS OF OVER 4,700
JOBS AT THE ARMY
TRANSPORTATION COMMAND, WHICH
WAS CLOSED AFTER THE 1995 BRAC.**

**NOW THREE RECOMMENDED
CLOSURES AND REALIGNMENTS ARE
LOCATED IN MY DISTRICT.**

**THE 131ST FIGHTER WING OF THE
MISSOURI AIR GUARD PLAYS A VITAL
ROLE IN THE DEFENSE OF OUR
REGION.**

**THE UNIT HAS A PROUD HISTORY AND
UNIQUE CAPABILITIES. AND IT
DESERVES TO REMAIN IN ST. LOUIS.**

THE D-FAS FACILITY WAS CREATED IN 1996 TO PROVIDE MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY FOR ADMINISTERING DEFENSE CONTRACTS.

D-FAS-ST. LOUIS, HAS AN EXCELLENT AND HIGHLY SPECIALIZED WORKFORCE WITH YEARS OF TRAINING AND EXPERTISE THAT WOULD BE LOST, IF IT IS CLOSED.

IN THIS PANEL, WE WILL PRESENT COMPELLING TESTIMONY ABOUT THE FUTURE VIABILITY OF THE ARMY HUMAN RESOURCES CENTER IN OVERLAND, IN THE HEART OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY.

YOU WILL HEAR CLEAR AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE THAT REFUTES THE PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT.

ON A COMPARATIVE BASIS, WHEN MEASURED AGAINST FORT KNOX, THE ST. LOUIS FACILITY EXCELS IN EVERY KEY CATEGORY.

AND AS YOU WILL SEE, THERE ARE TREMENDOUS COSTS OF CONSOLIDATING HRC AT FORT KNOX THAT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCOUNTED FOR.

AMONG THE HIGH COSTS THAT MUST BE CONSIDERED UNDER A FORT KNOX REALIGNMENT ARE DOWNGRADES AND DISRUPTIONS TO VITAL SERVICES THAT OUR SOLDIERS AND VETERANS DEPEND ON.

**IN THE BROADEST COMPARISON OF
KEY FACTORS LIKE
INFRASTRUCTURE, READINESS,
WORKFORCE CAPABILITIES,
OVERALL COSTS, AND ESSENTIAL
COMMUNITY SERVICES;**

**SUCH AS ROADS, PUBLIC
TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING,
SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS;**

**A VERY STRONG ARGUMENT CAN BE
MADE, NOT ONLY TO MAINTAIN HRC –
ST. LOUIS...BUT TO CONSOLIDATE
OTHER ARMY PERSONNEL
OPERATIONS RIGHT HERE.**

**AS GENERAL TURNER DISCOVERED IN
HER VISIT TO HRC LAST MONTH;**

**THIS FACILITY OFFERS EXCELLENT
FORCE PROTECTION;**

**EASY ACCESSABILITY FROM ANY
PART OF THE COUNTRY;**

**AND A DEDICATED WORKFORCE
WITH A LONG TRADITION OF PUBLIC
SERVICE.**

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**BEFORE I INTRODUCE OUR
WITNESSES, I WANT TO SHARE A
BRIEF STORY FROM THE LAST BRAC
ROUND.**

**AS I MENTIONED, IT CLOSED ATCOM
AND CONSOLIDATED THAT COMMAND
AT REDSTONE ARSENAL IN ALABAMA.**

**AT THE TIME, MY FATHER, FORMER
CONGRESSMAN BILL CLAY,
PREDICTED THAT THE REALIGNMENT
WOULD RESULT IN NO REAL SAVINGS
TO THE TAXPAYER,**

**BECAUSE SO FEW CIVILIAN WORKERS
WOULD RELOCATE.**

HE WAS ABSOLUTELY CORRECT.

**LESS THAN FIFTY PERCENT OF THE
ATCOM WORKERS WHO WERE GIVEN
THE OPPORTUNITY TO MOVE, DID SO.**

**THE PROJECTED COST SAVINGS
FAILED TO MATERIALIZE.**

**AND INSTEAD, TAXPAYERS PAID
MILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO RECRUIT
AND TRAIN A NEW WORKFORCE IN
ALABAMA, THAT WAS LESS
EXPERIENCED AND LESS CAPABLE.**

**JUST LAST WEEK, A SURVEY OF THE
WORKFORCE AT HRC –ST. LOUIS,
CONDUCTED BY THE AMERICAN
FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT**

EMPLOYEES, FOUND THAT ONLY 40% OF CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES WOULD MOVE TO FORT KNOX.

THE ASSUMPTION THAT CIVILIAN WORKERS WILL RELOCATE TO A COMMUNITY THAT DOES NOT OFFER THE BASIC QUALITY OF LIFE SERVICES THEY ARE ACCUSTOMED TO, IS SIMPLY FALSE.

SO ON BEHALF OF MY CONSTITUENTS, MY STATE, AND THE TAXPAYERS OF THIS COUNTRY.....

PLEASE DON'T LET HISTORY REPEAT ITSELF BY SUPPORTING A REALIGNMENT THAT HAS NO HOPE OF ACCOMPLISHING BRAC'S IMPORTANT MISSION.

THANK YOU.

#1 (Craig Borchelt)

OUR FIRST WITNESS IS A MILITARY ANALYST WHO WILL DIRECTLY ADDRESS THE KEY BRAC PRIORITIES.

CRAIG BORCHELT IS A GRADUATE OF THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT.

HE SERVED AS AN OFFICER WITH THE FIRST INFANTRY DIVISION AND CURRENTLY SERVES AS A MAJOR IN THE ARMY RESERVE. AND HE HAS JUST BEEN APPOINTED TO THE MISSOURI MILITARY PREPAREDNESS AND ENHANCEMENT COMMISSION.

I 'M PLEASED TO PRESENT MR. CRAIG BORCHELT.

#2 (*Michael Brincks*)

**OUR SECOND WITNESS IS AN EXPERT
IN FACILITIES, BUILDING
SUITABILITY, EFFICIENCY AND REAL
ESTATE MANAGEMENT.**

**HE CURRENTLY SERVES AS THE
DIRECTOR OF PORTFOLIO
MANAGEMENT FOR THE HEARTLAND
REGION OF THE GENERAL SERVICES
ADMINISTRATION.**

**I'M PLEASED TO PRESENT
MR. MICHAEL BRINCKS.**

#3 (*Charley Dooley*)

**OUR FINAL WITNESS IS A DEDICATED
PUBLIC SERVANT WHO SERVES THE
CITIZENS OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY WITH
ENERGY, INTEGRITY AND
DEDICATION.**

**I'M PLEASED TO PRESENT MY GOOD
FRIEND, ST. LOUIS COUNTY
EXECUTIVE CHARLEY DOOLEY.**

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CONGRESSMAN LANE EVANS

REMARKS TO BRAC COMMISSION REGIONAL HEARING

ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY, MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2005

I have always felt that if the Department of Defense (DoD) based its BRAC recommendations on the merits, we would have a very strong case to make for the military facilities at the Rock Island Arsenal.

Unfortunately, the Department of Defense (DoD) failed to base its recommendations on the BRAC criteria. **The Department of Defense greatly deviated from the selection criteria by not basing its decisions regarding the Rock Island Arsenal on military value and cost savings.**

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I expected the DoD to follow the criteria outlined in the BRAC legislation. It failed to do so. BRAC decisions are suppose to be made primarily on military value. The DoD's recommendations regarding military operations at the Rock Island Arsenal failed this test drastically.

The Commission should take a serious look at the current recommendations regarding the proposed realignment of the Tank Automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM), the Civilian Personnel Operations Center (CPOC), and other facilities at Rock Island Arsenal.

You, the members of the Commission, are like a jury. If you use a fair, independent, and equitable evaluation of the data and the BRAC selection criteria, I am confident the Commission will determine that many of the Department of Defense recommendations for the Rock Island Arsenal are flat wrong.

The Quad City community is prepared to make its case to the Commission. It has prepared a detailed response to the BRAC recommendations regarding the Rock Island Arsenal. In the next several minutes, local officials from the Quad Cities will expand upon these points.

I think we would all agree that in many instances the consolidation of facilities makes military sense and will result in substantial cost savings and improved efficiencies for our armed forces. However, the recommendation to realign TACOM-Rock Island to the Detroit Arsenal in Michigan makes little sense and is seriously flawed with respect to cost and savings.

The TACOM facilities in Michigan have no space to accommodate the Rock Island realignment. An analysis of the economic data shows the government will have to construct an office building and parking facility to accommodate the move of 1,100 TACOM employees at Rock Island to Michigan. The new office building, equipment and parking facility will cost the government at least \$80 million. This cost was never considered by the DoD in its BRAC recommendation. Also an increased

annual recurring expense of \$5 million in locality pay will occur with the move to Michigan. **According to the economic analysis the government will never receive a financial payback from this move.**

A move to Michigan also raises serious Force Protection and Antiterrorism issues. The Rock Island Arsenal offers a very secure location that meets and exceeds all force protection requirements. In contrast the Detroit Arsenal fails to meet new Force Protection Regulations.

Finally, the Detroit Arsenal ranked #74 on military value, just above leased facilities. On military value the Rock Island Arsenal wins again.

The recommendation to move TACOM Rock Island should be reversed. The BRAC decision should be to leave TACOM Rock Island in place. The Commission should consider relocating TACOM-Detroit to Rock Island.

Both the Civilian Personnel Operations Center (CPOC) and Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) Center located at Rock Island were rated number one in military value compared to other facilities in the nation. These facilities not only were rated #1, but far exceed other sites. The Personnel Center was recently assigned the highest priority missions for human resources, further proving its outstanding performance.

As mentioned previously, I support consolidation of some DoD missions as a way to improve efficiency and save costs. However, **the move of the CPOC facility from Rock Island to Fort Riley and Aberdeen is wrong and needs to be overturned.**

If the DoD needs to consolidate Civilian Human Resource Agencies it should be moving personnel operations to the Rock Island Arsenal. The Arsenal has the space and facilities to add over 2,000 additional employees. In 1996, a \$15 million renovation of Building 86 provided a remarkable facility to house DFAS and CPOC employees. The building has more than enough space to accommodate an expansion.

Besides failing to recognize the military value of these facilities the Pentagon recommendations also inaccurately evaluated the capacity of these facilities. The Department of Defense BRAC reports state the CPOC and DFAS offices located at Rock Island have no capacity to expand. This is not true. There is over 800,000 square feet of available office space.

The Rock Island Arsenal CPOC was rated number one in military value yet its workforce is being transferred to facilities rated nine and eleven in military value. The Rock Island Arsenal DFAS was rated number one in military value out of twenty-six facilities and its workforce is being realigned to facilities rated three, seven and nine. The Pentagon's BRAC recommendations are not based on military value and make no sense.

The Rock Island Arsenal manufacturing facilities have been able to quickly adjust its operation to armor Humvees and meet our commitments in the Middle East. The DoD has finally begun to recognize the Arsenal's manufacturing capabilities and expertise.

The BRAC report calls for the relocation of the 155mm Artillery metal parts, and cartridge case parts functions from the Mississippi and Riverbank Army Ammunition Plants to Rock Island Arsenal. This recommendation should be approved. Rock Island is the Army's only fully integrated metal manufacturing facility and the only remaining Army foundry. The manufacturing center is a one-stop shop offering the technical expertise and equipment to provide full service design and manufacturing for all of the Armed Services.

The BRAC recommendation also calls for a move of the contracted Depot Maintenance workload for combat vehicles at the Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center (JMTC) to Anniston and Letterkenney Army Depots. The BRAC analysis for this decision is the most confusing and the numbers most suspect. First, there are not 181 work hours of Depot Maintenance work being performed at Rock Island. Second, there are not 160,000 square feet of space devoted to Depot Maintenance workload. Third, any machines being used for Dept Maintenance workload are not sole use machines and cannot be moved from JMTC-Rock Island to anywhere.

I strongly urge the Commission reverse the decision to move contracted Depot Maintenance workload from the JMTC-Rock Island Arsenal.

The Department of Defense has also recommended the consolidation of the Installation Management Agency (IMA) Northwest Region Headquarters and the Southwest Region Office to form the IMA Western Region at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

I urge the Commission to review this recommendation and consider consolidation of the IMA Western Region at Rock Island.

Finally I strongly **urge the Commission to approve the recommendation to realign the 1st U.S. Army currently headquartered at Fort Gillem to the Rock Island Arsenal.** The Army is converting the 1st U.S. Army Headquarters into the single Headquarters for oversight of Reserve and National Guard mobilization and demobilization. Rock Island offers a central location for this command. The 1st Army Headquarters will be based at Rock Island near the U.S. Army Field Support Command and the Army Joint Munitions Command.

After review of the Rock Island Arsenal recommendations it appears some officials in the Pentagon at one time had suggested closing the Rock Island Arsenal. Different tenant activities such as TACOM and the CPOC were realigned from Rock Island to different locations. These decisions were not based upon military value but with the suggestion of closing the Rock Island Arsenal.

Pentagon officials wisely recognized the military value of the Rock Island Arsenal and decided to keep the facility open. However, not all the Arsenal tenant activities were put back into place. I am asking the Commission to correct the Pentagon's mistakes and **overturn the Pentagon's BRAC recommendations to realign the Tank Automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM), CPOC and other activities at Rock Island Arsenal to other locations.**

The Pentagon mentions in its BRAC recommendations that it also used "military judgment" to make base closures and realignments. As a former Marine, I am familiar with "military judgment". We have a different term for it in the Marine Corps. I will simply refer to it today as hogwash. The evidence is clear. **The Department of Defense greatly deviated from the BRAC selection criteria regarding the Rock Island Arsenal recommendations.** I urge the Commission overturn these drastic mistakes.

SPRINGFIELD AIR NATIONAL GUARD 183RD FIGHTER WING

I strongly disagree with the Pentagon's decision to realign the Springfield Air National Guard 183rd Fighter Wing to Fort Wayne, Indiana. **The Department of Defense greatly deviated from its BRAC selection criteria by not basing the realignment of the Air National Guard facilities on military value and cost.**

The Springfield 183rd Unit has a higher military value for fighter missions than the Fort Wayne base to which it is being transferred. Springfield also has better facilities and newer F-16 aircraft. The 183rd Unit has an outstanding recruitment record. It has never had a problem in meeting its recruitment goals. It would be just as easy and cost less for the Department of Defense to recommend the fighter planes from Fort Wayne be realigned to Springfield.

The Pentagon estimates the savings of this move will be about \$6 million over 20 years. **I request the Commission review these cost estimates and evaluate the cost savings if the Air Force realigned the Fort Wayne 122nd Fighter Wing's planes to Springfield.** I believe this move will result in more cost savings and better military value for our nation's armed forces.

Congressmen Ray LaHood and John Shimkus, and Senators Durbin and Obama, along with Springfield officials, will offer similar testimony regarding the Springfield 183rd Air National Guard Unit today.

We all feel if the Commission evaluates the Springfield Air Guard facility on the merits and selection criteria, Springfield will provide more cost savings and prove the better military value for our nation.

Testimony of Mayor Timothy J. Davlin
Mayor of Springfield, Illinois
BRAC Regional Hearing, St. Louis, Missouri
June 20, 2005

Thank you, Chairman Principi, and members of the Commission for the opportunity to testify before you today. My name is Tim Davlin, and I'm the Mayor of Springfield, Illinois. I represent the individuals, families, and the communities of Illinois that will be affected by your decision regarding the 183rd Air National Guard unit based at Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport.

As you know, the Department of Defense has recommended moving our seventeen assigned F-16 fighter aircraft from Springfield, IL, to Ft. Wayne, Indiana – a decision we believe substantially deviates from the Base Closure and Realignment Committee criteria.

Here's why:

1. Moving the aircraft to Ft. Wayne does not demonstrably improve our overall national defense or homeland security missions;
2. This shift of assets to Ft. Wayne will not result in net savings for our military—not one single penny—and , in fact, it will cost money;
3. The facility at Ft. Wayne is simply not as well-equipped to meet the future force requirements of our military as the base in Springfield; and
4. The economic impact to Springfield, Illinois, and the surrounding area has been drastically miscalculated by the Air Force.

I will speak briefly to each of these points, but I encourage each of you to closely review our white paper that provides an in-depth analysis of these arguments.

First, you as Commissioners have been given a monumental and no doubt, at times, a disagreeable task. I do not dispute that our military needs some changes. Certainly the military must constantly improve its efficiencies, but the purpose of these closings and realignments should be to make our military stronger.

Changes to National Guard units must not undermine our homeland defense efforts.

Yet, that is exactly what would happen if our F-16 fighter aircraft are moved from Springfield, Illinois.

The 183rd FW has a proud heritage of answering our nation's call to duty. The military value of the wing is undeniable. Most recently, personnel from the 183rd FW played an integral role in both "Operation Southern Watch" and "Operation Enduring Freedom".

Specifically:

- From a national perspective, the 183rd FW is centrally located in the U.S. and can easily support any mission in the region whether it is federal, state or homeland security.
- From a regional perspective, Illinois has 28 locks and dams along the Mississippi, the Illinois and the Ohio Rivers. Having the 183rd FW located at its current base is an important Homeland Security issue for the state.
- 15% of all commodities in the country are shipped on the inlet waterways at 3% of the cost. The bulk of these shipments are on the Mississippi, Illinois and Ohio Rivers, which all border Illinois.
- Additionally, Illinois has 11 nuclear facilities while other surrounding states have between 1 and 4 facilities. Again, this has critical Homeland Security ramifications for the region.
- While on the surface it may not appear to be much of a difference between locating the Fighter Wing in northern Indiana versus central Illinois, we believe an in-depth study by Commission will raise serious doubts about whether such a move will improve our nation's homeland security defenses.
- From a performance perspective, the 183rd FW, with a military value of 115, is ranked 3rd out of 10 F-16 ANG units. Seven other units have lower military value, yet the 183rd FW is 1 of 5 units recommended for realignment. Yet DoD proposes moving the aircraft from the 183rd FW to a guard base which ranks below Springfield.

Next, and this point is related to improving the future capabilities of our military and the National Guard: if your task as Commissioners is to find the appropriate mesh of bases that meet the Defense Department's future force requirements, this recommendation simply has it all wrong.

Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport in Springfield has many environmental and infrastructure advantages that position the 183rd FW to carry out current and expanded future missions.

Specifically:

- Unlike Ft. Wayne, Springfield is not hampered by any air quality restrictions. The county of Allen (Ft Wayne), however, is classified as a non-attainment area for 8-hour ozone standards.
- In fact, the 183rd has just completed a Base master Plan. The state and local community are working together with the airport authorities to acquire financial aid and assistance to provide additional acreage to the base in order to accommodate force protection, munitions storage and homeland security alert facility.

Finally, we know that many communities around the country will suffer an economic impact when their military bases are closed and realigned. Perhaps that is a painful but necessary step when we are trying to right-size our military. However, let's at least be honest about the impact those closings will have on our communities before making those painful decisions.

The devil is in the details and in the case of Springfield, the Air Force simply has it wrong. The claim that only 163 positions will be lost is also wrong—for it fails to include those who work part-time at the military base. Include those part-time workers and the numbers skyrocket to almost 600 individuals.

The loss of the firefighting unit at the military base, which also serves Capital Airport, will cost the airport between \$500,000 and \$600,000 every year. Additionally, the unit is relied upon to provide runway maintenance and snow and ice removal.

Such a loss would be devastating for the 9-county central Illinois area economy.

We cannot afford losses of this magnitude.

I have lived my entire life in Springfield, Illinois. When I talk to my neighbors, my friends and the citizens of Central Illinois, there is no mistaking the tremendous, button-popping pride they have in our Air National Guard base.

Personnel from the 183rd FW responded to the call of duty, after the events of September 11, 2001. The unit deployed for a three month period starting in March 2002 and as I mentioned, took part in both "Operation Southern Watch" and "Operation Enduring Freedom." During the unit's first 30 days in theater, personnel from the 183d flew more than 1,000 hours.

Because of the long hours, and to get all its pilots combat flying experience, the squadron rotated all of its 33 assigned pilots, six of whom stayed the entire rotation. These men and women are not full-time military – they are part and parcel of our community. Yet, they answered the call of duty without hesitation.

The 183rd Air National Guard base has been a close partner with the community of Springfield, Illinois for over 50 years.

They served our country with distinction and honor.

Commissioners, they deserve better than this. The people of Central Illinois understand the military; they understand what is required of our fighting men and women to protect us at home and abroad. And I'll take a solid base in the Heartland any day.

In closing, the decision regarding the Springfield-based 183rd is not consistent with BRAC's own criteria. A decision that will cost the taxpayers money, not save money. And Commissioners, you have the power to change this recommendation for the benefit of our military and our future force requirements.

I hope that you seriously consider whether realigning Springfield's aircraft is in the best interest of our country's national security and homeland defense.

We in Springfield have many reasons to believe it is not.

**Testimony of Colonel (ret.) Gene W. Blade
On Behalf of the City of Springfield, Illinois
Before the Base Closure and Realignment Commission
June 20, 2005**

Thank you Chairman Principi and members of the Commission for allowing me to testify before you today regarding the 183rd Air National Guard unit based at Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport in Springfield, Illinois.

My name is Gene W. Blade; I am a retired Army colonel and a member of the Peoria/Springfield BRAC committee.

I certainly agree with Mayor Davlin that the Air Force's decision to relocate the 183rd Fighter Wing is not consistent with the published BRAC criteria and should strongly be reconsidered by this Commission.

Keeping the 183rd Fighter Wing in Springfield is advantageous for many important reasons. I'm going to discuss two of those.

1. Military Readiness
2. Recruiting and retention

The 183rd FW mission is two fold:

- The Federal mission
- The State mission

This unit has a long and proud tradition in the fighter mission including the first unit with the F-84F in the 1950s and the F-4C in 1970s.

Since converting to the F-16 aircraft, this wing has proven itself continually with its Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) rotations and other demanding missions. I recently read in the AEFC news that the Air National Guard performs 34% of these missions for the Air Force.

One combat support unit, the 217th Engineering Installation Squadron, is also based with the wing. The Springfield based wing and combat support unit are authorized at 1,088 officers and airmen.

First, let me address the importance of the 183rd on military readiness.

From a training perspective, the current location of the 183rd FW is extremely advantageous. Regardless of weather, the F-16s of the 183rd get exceptional training because there are numerous training areas in every direction.

As a result, the wing almost never has to cancel a training run.

The 183rd FW has access to a number of Military Operating Areas (MOAs) within 150 miles. This allows them to perform low and high level training, air interdiction, air to ground, Combat Search and Rescue and Counter air.

There are even several additional MOAs that are up to an additional 100 miles out which the unit can reach with just a few additional minutes of flight time.

The base has two active runways (8,000 ft and 7,000 ft) which adequately accommodate both commercial and fighter operations. The runways cross each other allowing for operations during most weather conditions.

Both runways are equipped with barrier arrests and instrument landing systems. In addition, the base has excess ramp capacity to accommodate future missions and/or mobilization requirements.

It is not surprising then, on the subject of Mission Capable Rates, to learn that the 183rd FW out-performed all other units for the reporting period of October 2001 to March 2005.

When I mention all other units, I am talking about in comparison to the other 5 sister Big Inlet Engine bases (115 FW Madison, WI; 120 FW Great Falls, MT; 140 FW Buckley, CO; 149 FW Kelly, TX; 187 FW Montgomery, AL).

The 183rd FW was above the Big Inlet average MC rate 83% of the time.

When we look at the Total Not Mission Capable Maintenance Rate, this condition occurs when aircraft cannot do assigned missions because of maintenance. We find that the 183rd again outperformed sister units 64% of the time. This consistently proves that reliable maintenance by an experienced workforce is a key factor to meeting Air Force homeland security mission requirements and force protection efforts abroad. The 183rd maintenance efforts and maintenance personnel have unquestionably proven to be of high military value to the U.S. Air Force.

The only way you achieve these results is to have a very dedicated workforce with many years of experience servicing the aircraft.

I am concerned that, if relocated, the 183rd will have difficulty maintaining this impressive record because of diminished training cycles and infrastructure assets.

[One final note. Boeing Phantom Works is working with the 183rd FW to test out a new decal that can be easily installed and removed. The benefit of this is that the decals are light weight (compared to paint) and can easily be removed during wartime. With the Boeing Corporate headquarters located in Illinois, it makes sense for the 183rd to remain in its current location so as to facilitate this existing relationship.]

Finally, the strength of recruiting at the 183rd is exceptional.

The State of Illinois provides benefits to its Guard members, that beats any state in the union, including educational opportunities, employment preference, and increased benefits for military families. This has allowed the 183rd to consistently maintain staffing levels above 100% of authorized positions. The 183rd also maintains a highly educated force with over 40% of its members holding college degrees.

- Of critical AFSCs, the 183rd FW has 774 authorized with 776 assigned. So, the 183rd FW is over 100% critically manned. Overall, the 183rd FW was manned over 100% until May of 2004.
- In the last year, Springfield's recruiting has dropped, yet their average recruiting levels are at 98.5%, (due to the temporary loss of a recruiter on medical leave) but still they are in the green.
- Additionally, many Air Guard pilots are commercial air line pilots. Being centrally located between Chicago and St. Louis certainly helps to recruit them.
- Here in Springfield we have two major hospitals and Southern Illinois University for Medicine from which to attract doctors into the Guard.
- I've been around this unit for over 30 years and they've always been at 100% or over of authorized positions unless they had a recent mission change in authorized strength levels. Recruiting just has never been a real problem for 183rd unit.

Additionally, the airport recently made available an additional 13 acres for the 183rd to meet security clearance distances for anti-terrorism/force protection. A new \$10,000,000 three-story composite command center building is nearly complete. It meets all the anti-terrorism/force protection DoD standards.

We have identified specific reasons why this decision should be reversed – not only because we value our Air National Guard base, but because the recommendation is not consistent with lawful BRAC criteria, nor does it improve military readiness or homeland security. This unit is being penalized for doing a superb job in flying missions, maintenance performance and recruiting performance. **Where is the reward for being one of the best??**

The loss of experienced air crews, maintenance, and flying support personnel on the total Air Force would be hard to replace in a timely manner. I don't believe the loss of flying experience and training dollar investment has been adequately considered in the military value model. Not only will the effectiveness of our present force be diminished, but it will take decades to return the force to anywhere approaching an equivalent level of performance that we have been accustomed to.

As General Heckman stated previously, "[T]here also seems to be a homeland security benefit to having smaller (18 aircraft) Guard units more spread out than concentrating 24 aircraft units into a smaller local. This would enable more airspace to be effectively covered in a time of emergency."

For this strategic reason, I fully agree with General Heckman. I believe this logic, combined with the unique attributes of the Capital Airport, dictates that the 183rd FW should continue to be based at its present location.

THE 183rdFW ALWAYS READY—ALWAYS THERE

SLEEP WELL TONIGHT YOUR NATIONAL GUARD IS AWAKE

Testimony of the Honorable Ray LaHood, IL-18
BRAC Regional Hearing, St. Louis, Missouri
June 20, 2005

Admiral Gehman, General Turner, and Congressman Hansen, thank you for the opportunity to submit a short statement on behalf of the 183d Fighter Wing, Capital Air National Guard Station, Springfield, Illinois.

I would like to commend the men and women of the Illinois Air National Guard, and the 183rd Fighter Wing in particular, for their hard work in the defense of our nation. Additionally, the local community strongly supports the 183rd. From our U.S. Senators Durbin and Obama, to Congressmen Shimkus, Evans, and myself, through the local leadership of Mayor Tim Davlin and the many grassroots supporters, no community is more proud of their local unit than Springfield is of the 183rd.

We need to be clear on what the Department of Defense's base closure recommendation is: it is a way to move equipment, not reduce infrastructure. We have all heard the many media stories about how this BRAC round will shed excess infrastructure and save billions of dollars. Moving aircraft from the 183rd Fighter Wing to the 122nd Fighter Wing does neither. It is an attempt to go around the Congress and move equipment with no oversight, no plan, and no benefit.

It will be pointed out in testimony today that the Pentagon completely ignored their own announced criteria when choosing to move aircraft from the 183rd Fighter Wing. Simply put, the Pentagon plan moves the aircraft to a base with a lower military value. Much has been made of the unprecedented amount of data that this round of BRAC has generated. That data does not lie – Springfield has a higher military value, a higher fighter MCI, and a higher F-16 unit ranking than the 122nd Fighter Wing in Ft. Wayne.

One of the only reasons the Pentagon gave in their recommendation for moving the 183rd Fighter Wing's aircraft is recruiting, which is not one of the 2005 BRAC selection criteria. In fact, in this one case, the Pentagon says recruiting is more important than military value. I say go ahead and consider recruiting. The 183rd has outstanding recruiting numbers, and has for many years – in times of peace and times of war. The Springfield unit is more than 100% critically manned. You simply cannot get much better than that.

The outstanding recruiting statistics reveal much about the 183rd Fighter Wing, and about Central Illinois. These men and women are *eager* to serve. They joined the Air National Guard so they could serve both their community and their country, and they have done both superbly. If we lose these planes, if we lose the fire fighters, we lose all of those who support them. These folks will not move to Indiana. The Springfield area is their home. It is where they chose to work, raise their families, and serve our country. The Guard will lose these fantastic men and women, and it will be a terrible loss for our armed forces.

I urge the Commission to continue to carefully scrutinize the Pentagon's recommendations. You will see that there is no military, financial, political, or practical reason to move the 183rd Fighter Wing. We need them right where they are.

**Testimony of Congressman John Shimkus (IL-19)
BRAC Regional Hearing
St. Louis University
Busch Student Center
St. Louis, MO
June 20, 2005**

**Commissioners in attendance:
Admiral Harold Gehman (USN, Ret.)
General Sue Ellen Turner (USAF, Ret.)
Honorable James Hansen**

Admiral Gehman, General Turner, Congressman Hansen, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to offer my testimony on behalf of the 183rd Fighter Wing located at Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport in Springfield, Illinois.

Springfield is split between three Congressional Districts, and I would be remiss if I did not mention the hard work Congressmen Ray LaHood and Lane Evans, along with Senators Durbin and Obama, have put forth to ensure that accurate data and military judgment were used to decide the fate of our seventeen F-16 fighters, the pilots who fly them, the mechanics who keep them in the air, and the civilian employees who rely on their presence.

As a past active duty member and current Reserve member of the United States Military, I understand the need for the BRAC process. I commend my fellow warriors who tried their best to come up with an objective plan that will provide a long term vision for our Armed Services. That is why I'll focus on the facts and figures instead, and try to stay away from the emotional attachment we all have for the Fighter Wing.

There are numerous instances where the data and the formulas used to arrive at a decision to close or realign a facility were well evidenced, but the rationale for realigning the 183rd was less than consistent. This realignment decision seems to hinge on much more subjective measures such as recruiting rates.

Currently, Springfield has a Manning End Strength of 99 percent, which is well above average nationwide, and when compared to Fort Wayne, we see that there is not much of a difference in recruiting and retention success. Even more telling than the percentages is the real difference between the two bases is only three people.

In fact there are six other units on the BRAC list that score far below the 183rd in recruitment and retention but are gaining airplanes. These are:

BRAC Testimony from Congressman Shimkus

June 20, 2005

Page Two

- the 113th at Andrews Air Force Base,
- the 149th at Lackland Air Force Base,
- the 144th at Fresno Air National Guard Base,
- the 158th at Burlington Air National Guard Base,
- the 169th at McEntire Air National Guard Base,
- and the 187th at Montgomery Air National Guard Base.

Additionally, the cost justification is weak and subject to questioning. The BRAC report itself indicates that the net cost during implementation is 13 million dollars. And an annual payback of only two million dollars means it takes 13 years for the Air Force to break even on this decision. This cost savings is only realized when including Terre Haute in the move along with Springfield to Ft. Wayne.

More objective measures such as military value, full cost benefit analyses, geographic proximity to higher target homeland security threats, and the ability to expand current operations seem skewed in this instance too. Our next speakers, Mayor Davlin and Colonel Blade, will provide more detailed evidence on each of these points.

Throughout this entire process, I have not heard how much weight was given to statistics compiled when the 183rd has been called to active duty.

While serving in the Middle East, our maintenance personnel made sure our planes were flying at a higher rate than many other units that are not being realigned. The Mission Capable Rates of the 183rd were stellar when compared to other units performing sorties with the very same jets as well as all others in theater.

These successful soldiers, who because of a statistical difference of three people, may have to make the difficult choice of leaving our military if their citizen soldier duties are moved far away.

The 183rd has repeatedly answered the nation's call to arms and completed missions with distinction. It is imperative that these in theater-performance statistics are considered when determining how to spend such large amounts of money with minimal projected savings.

Lastly, the relationship that the 183rd Fighter Wing has with Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport is second to none. The airport has worked in conjunction with the military to save thousands of federal dollars on an annual basis by providing space and access to non-federal facilities.

BRAC Testimony from Congressman Shimkus
June 20, 2005
Page Three

This relationship was enhanced by the addition of a new administrative building that was built with Congressional assistance and a keen eye on expanding the current military facilities at Capital Airport.

And as you have heard in prior testimony, the State of Illinois has committed to building a munitions storage facility that will allow the Air Guard a central location for munitions, at virtually no cost to the Department of Defense.

You all are entrusted with a difficult mission of your own. The decisions you will make can have a tremendous effect on our future military capabilities and our abilities to effectively protect our homeland.

This is why it is so important that we offer our evidence to this commission. We can then be assured that the most accurate information is used to determine the future of our 183rd Fighter Wing.

I would also like to submit this written testimony from Congressman Ray LaHood. He is unable to personally attend, as he is in Springfield with Commissioner Skinner touring the 183rd facilities.

Again, I thank you for this opportunity and ask that you carefully consider the testimony you hear today.

Statement for the Record
Senator Richard G. Lugar
before
The Base Realignment and Closure Commission
Regional Hearing
June 20, 2005
St. Louis, Missouri

Members of the Commission, on behalf of the State of Indiana, thank you for holding this hearing to receive our views regarding the impact of Secretary Rumsfeld's 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) recommendations on the people of Indiana.

The Commission faces a daunting task. The commission must review the Secretary's proposed recommendations regarding the entire inventory of U.S military installations and make its own by September 8 – now only two-and-a-half months away. The Governor of our State – Mitch Daniels – has put together a series of witnesses to discuss the recommendations that pertain to us. You will find, I believe, three truths as the hearing progresses: first that Indiana was hit sharply in each of the previous BRAC rounds and has learned significantly from the experience. Second, that Hoosiers are proud of their military and with some 590,000 Veterans in a State of 6.2 million people, and tens of thousands in uniform today, Hoosiers not only speak with pride and patriotism, but serve the cause of freedom with valor. This is equally true of the talented and experienced civilian work force that populates the military installations in the State of Indiana. Third, without exception, you will find that the communities that are home to our bases are hospitable and supportive of the work that is done there, and would welcome the addition of more work and more activity should the commission so recommend.

Previous rounds of BRAC have resulted in substantial savings of taxpayer dollars, some of which have come from cuts to infrastructure in the State of Indiana. The Defense Department to date has closed 97 major bases and realigned 55 others. The recurring savings each year is now \$7 billion and growing. In Indiana, previous realignments have closed Fort Benjamin Harrison, the Naval Air Warfare Center (NAWC) Indianapolis (which was later privatized), and the Indiana Army Ammunition Plant in Clark County. Jefferson Proving Ground, although used for some air-to-ground weapons training, is run by the Fish and Wildlife Service. And Grissom Air Force Base surrendered many of its missions and squadrons and became Reserve facility. Indiana is left with only one active military facility – Naval Support Activity Crane which Commissioner Skinner visited two weeks ago.

Indiana communities have learned a great deal in transforming themselves following base closures. Some, like the town of Lawrence are experiencing increased economic vitality since the military closed Fort Benjamin Harrison. The area around Grissom Joint Reserve Air Base struggled for some time, but now is showing new life. While the military jobs have left, there are now more civilian employment opportunities. In Clark County, where the Indiana Army Ammunition Plant was once located, River Ridge Commerce Center is working to improve economic redevelopment opportunities. The State, counties and municipalities that may be affected by BRAC 2005 must begin to develop local reuse authorities with strategies to ensure a prosperous future and effective transformation.

In establishing the process for this round of BRAC, changes were made to make the process less

politically charged, and base decisions on a practical good business basis. Closures and realignments should be made on the facts, using hard core analysis of data that factor in the nuances that the witnesses will speak about today. That data must be sufficiently comprehensive to factor in the cost of developing a new work force of veteran engineers and scientists – such as we have at Crane; to calculate opportunity costs associated with moving jobs where people will not follow; to recruiting and retaining Guardsmen and Reservists whose jobs may be relocated to another State; to consider the support of the communities in which those bases are located; to assign a score to environmental and other encroachment issues; and, as well, to assess in some meaningful way the ability of a town or community to recover from the loss of the economic lifeblood that a base can be.

My staff has worked with the other members of the Indiana delegation, Governor Daniels and the community groups to attempt an assessment of the Pentagon's recommendations. A tremendous amount of data was collected and crunched and an honest effort was made to take all of these factors and more into account. Nevertheless, there is so much data that the analysis and assumptions must undergo careful scrutiny, which is critical to the integrity of the process and to ensure that we do not make hasty choices that may jeopardize the security of the Nation, or, lead to increased costs rather than savings. I believe in at least one instance you will hear today that the savings for one of the realignments proposed for Crane has factored in a long-term savings that will never be realized, simply for the fact that that system – the ALQ-99 – is slated for retirement with our fleet of EA-6B aircraft.

I do not intend to go through all of the recommendations and repeat what will be said by the expert witnesses that Governor Daniels has assembled, but simply to offer my assistance to the Commission in whatever way might be helpful.

Nevertheless, as members of the commission may be aware, I have expressed my concern over the past several months at the impact closing the Naval Recruiting District offices in Indianapolis will have on the Navy's ability to recruit from what has traditionally been an active and responsive pool of future talented Sailors and Officers. This history includes such figures as the legendary architect of the Navy's victory in the Battle of Midway, Admiral Raymond Ames Spruance, right on down to a group of young Hoosiers who I swore in just last month at Indianapolis Motor Speedway during Armed Forces Day celebrations that I participate in annually. From a simple numbers standpoint, Indianapolis with a population of 863,251 in Marion County and an additional 811,242 in the surrounding counties is our nation's twelfth largest city, and significantly suited to serve as a headquarters for a recruiting district.

Lt. Governor Skillman and the other witnesses today will cover amply the views of the delegation regarding Secretary Rumsfeld's proposal to more than double the size of the Air National Guard Unit in Fort Wayne, to transfer fighter jets now housed at the Terre Haute ANG units to Fort Wayne; to expand the Defense Finance and Accounting Service in Lawrence at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service in Lawrence at the former Fort Benjamin Harrison, adding 3,495 jobs; to close the Navy and Marine Corps reserve operations at Grissom Reserve Base at Bunker Hill; to close the Newport Chemical Depot and eliminate its 300 jobs – as expected after VX demilitarization is completed; to close Army Reserve centers in Lafayette and at Camp Atterbury and a Naval Reserve center in Evansville, eliminating 40 jobs; to close the Navy recruiting district headquarters in Indianapolis, where 38 people work; and to cut more than 700 civilian and contractor jobs at the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Crane, the largest employer in

southern Indiana.

In votes held in the Senate over the last four years I supported Secretary Rumsfeld's proposal to conduct this round of base closures. Like previous rounds, elimination of unnecessary excess physical capacity was one of the primary objectives of BRAC 2005. Secretary Rumsfeld was also clear in his desire to ensure that BRAC 2005 would be a path for transformation, to rationalize infrastructure with our national defense strategy and to reconfigure our military infrastructure in a way that maximizes war-fighting capability and efficiency for the next twenty years. It is absolutely essential that we implement prudent cost-cutting measures in the Department of Defense, and indeed in all sectors of our government.

The Bush administration estimates that the Pentagon could save between \$3 and 6 billion a year by eliminating as little as 12 percent excess capacity. Of course these efforts at budgetary savings should be considered in the necessary context of the very significant dangers facing our national and homeland security interests. While planners consider the rival powers of the world who may challenge the United States in the long term, the likeliest threats in the short term remains unscrupulous terrorist violence, which will be magnified exponentially if such actors become capable of unleashing weapons of mass destruction.

Any redesign of America's defenses today must be counterbalanced with the vision of a possible military engagement tomorrow. While peace is preferable, history counsels us against complacency. Future conflicts may not provide the convenient grouping of conventional or asymmetric, but may manifest as a confluence of the two. Even as we recognize the unprecedented mobilization capacity Americans have demonstrated in past wars, ensuring a military second to none remains my foremost priority in this exercise.

So I will end by simply re-stating that we are pleased that you took the time to take into account these viewpoints and encourage you to contact me at any time if I can be helpful in your weighty endeavors over the coming months.

**Senator Richard Durbin
Talking Points
Base Realignment and Closure Regional Hearing
CLOSING REMARKS
St. Louis
June 20, 2005**

Once again, I would like to thank Admiral Gehman, General Turner, and Congressman Hansen for coming here to St. Louis University today and for your work on this commission. I know you have weeks of hearings still before you and then more weeks poring over data and analyzing lists.

I believe that we have collectively presented here compelling arguments to re-examine the Department of Defense's recommendations for Rock Island Arsenal and Capital Airport in Springfield.

The proposed moves of people, equipment, and planes out of these facilities will result in a loss of military value, an increase in costs, and a likely decline in recruiting and retention.

Those results don't simply deviate from the established base realignment and closure criteria, they defy them, and they defy common sense.

I appreciate the attention that you have given us today and look forward to continue working with the commission and your staff over the course of the summer.

Again I want to thank you; the members of the Illinois and Iowa delegations; the community leaders and military experts who have traveled here; and the citizens of Springfield, Rock Island and other towns and cities who journeyed here today because they recognize the importance of these facilities to our state's economy and our nation's security.

Senator Richard Durbin
Talking Points
Base Realignment and Closure Regional Hearing
St. Louis
June 20, 2005

I want to thank the Commissioners, Admiral Gehman, General Turner, and Congressman Hansen, for coming here to St. Louis University. And thanks to Senator Bond and the Missouri delegation for hosting this important discussion.

I especially want to thank the community members who have journeyed here from Illinois and Iowa because they recognize the critical importance of military facilities to our economies and our security.

Basic Principles

As set out in law, the base closure and realignment process is governed by several core principles.

First, the single most important factor to be considered is the military value of a facility to our national security.

Second, the process is to be open and transparent.

Third, the objective is to enhance readiness and security while saving money.

The integrity of the base closure process depends upon adherence to all these principles.

Military Value

Military value measures current and future mission capabilities, land and air availability, surge and mobilization capacities, environmental factors, and cost of operations and labor force implications.

In all these categories, our Illinois facilities score well.

As we will demonstrate, the Department of Defense has in some cases seriously deviated from its own criteria in making its realignment recommendations.

Data Delayed is Data Denied

The second issue is one of process.

The Department of Defense released its base closure and realignment list on May 13th.

It has taken weeks, however, to pry loose the data that theoretically justifies that list, and that effort is still going on.

The Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee has had to go so far as to issue a subpoena to the Pentagon to try and gain full access to the decision making process.

And I know that you, the BRAC Commission, and your staff, have been handicapped by these same delays and same denial of information. I appreciate the fact that this hearing was postponed, to give us more time to prepare.

However, these are thousands and thousands of documents for communities, congressional offices, and the Commission itself to sift through and evaluate. Data delayed is effectively data denied.

Illinois and the Realignment Process

A number of facilities in Illinois are affected by the Department of Defense's proposed realignments.

Scott, Peoria, and Great Lakes

First, Scott Air Force Base and Peoria Air National Guard Base are scheduled to receive both additional planes and additional people to serve expanded missions.

Scott and Peoria are well situated to undertake these expanded responsibilities.

Great Lakes Naval Training Center, however, is slated to receive heavy cuts in its work force, which Mayor Rockingham will address.

Rock Island Arsenal

Today, though, I would primarily like to discuss the proposed realignments of Rock Island Arsenal and Capital Airport in Springfield.

Rock Island Arsenal is a vital national security asset that really consists of two different installations.

The first is the traditional manufacturing center, which has been a critical and reliable source of materiel during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Along with gun mounts, artillery carriages, and recoil mechanisms, much of the armor that is now protecting soldiers and vehicles in Iraq was manufactured right at Rock Island.

Despite this critical work, the Pentagon recommends cutting 180 positions from the manufacturing center.

We believe this recommendation is based on an error in classification and a misunderstanding of this work.

The second side of Rock Island Arsenal are its administrative and headquarters employees.

The Department of Defense proposes removing a number of these administrative functions. That would be a mistake.

Rock Island has the space, the security environment, and the work force to grow. Those are assets we should take advantage of.

The Department of Defense proposes taking as many as 1500 direct jobs from the Arsenal, according to our estimates.

Key proposals include moving TACOM, the Tank-automotive and Armaments Command; transferring so-called depot maintenance work; and moving the Army's top-rated Civilian Human Resources Agency, all to installations with lower overall military value rankings.

When you factor in the true costs of such a move – including substantial construction costs and higher annual operating expenses at the receiving end – the financial return on your investment is zero.

These moves appear to be based on flawed assumptions, mistaken measurements of available space, and outdated workload estimates.

These proposals deserve serious reconsideration by the Commission.

Springfield Capital Airport

The Department of Defense has also recommended transferring the 15 F-16s of the 183d Fighter Wing to Fort Wayne, Indiana.

This recommendation is deeply flawed because it is based on flawed data about military value, recruiting, retention and cost.

Military Value and Recruiting

The primary consideration of the BRAC process is supposed to be military value.

This recommendation, however, moves these aircraft to a base in Fort Wayne that DOD has numerically scored as having a lower military value than Springfield.

The reason cited for violating the military value principle is the strong recruiting potential in Fort Wayne.

This reason doesn't hold water. Here in Springfield, the 183rd already has excellent recruiting; it's over 100 percent critically manned.

Enclave Units and Undervaluing the Air Guard

Indeed, this recommended move may create a problem where none previously existed.

The Air Force has done no studies about the viability of Air Guard wings without any actual Air Guard aircraft.

Will such units be able to recruit and retain good people if the central mission – flying fighter aircraft – is removed?
The Air Force has no idea!

The Air Force has substantially underestimated the true costs of this move, by not paying sufficient attention to the unique recruiting and retention patterns of the Air Guard.

When the Air Force projected the personnel costs of this move, it only considered full-time Guardsmen, not the many part-time Guardsmen who make of the bulk of the force.

These Guardsmen are rooted in their communities and their full-time careers. They are not going to move to Fort Wayne.

DOD officials have frankly admitted that they did not calculate the costs of losing experienced Guardsmen. These losses just did not fit into their models and algorithms.

The war in Iraq has taught us many things, not least the enormous contribution that the National Guard makes to our defense.

Cost Payback: Never

Furthermore, the Air Force's own analysis shows that there is no cost savings in this move. The projected payback for the transfer of the Capital Airport F-16s to Fort Wayne is not 5 years, it's not 10 years, it's never.

Fighter Capabilities

The 183rd Fighter Wing has a long history of fighter operations and performs vital homeland defense missions. It is a top-notch unit. The 183d has outperformed all comparable units in Mission Capable Rates since 2001.

It is unwise for America to disrupt the capabilities of this unit with a move when that move is based on flawed information.

Legal Argument

Finally, we do not believe that it is legal to move the planes without the permission of the Governor. As you probably know, the Illinois Attorney General is looking into this matter.

Conclusions

BRAC was designed to make us safer as a nation, to save money, and to be an open and transparent process.

The Pentagon's proposed realignments will produce none of these results.

The Rock Island and Springfield decisions defy common sense and ignore the clear degradation of military value and the significant negative community impact.

I hope the Commission will take a hard look at these Illinois realignments.

I want to again thank you for coming here today and for your work on the Commission.

From Illinois, you will hear from Senator Obama, Governor Blagojevich, Congressmen Evans and Shimkus, Mayors Freemire, Davlin, and Rockingham, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Director Jack Lavin, as well as a dedicated team of community leaders.

My colleagues from Iowa, Senator Grassley and Harkin and the Iowa delegation, will talk to you about their concerns and support for the Rock Island Arsenal.

Again, let me thank you for your time and commitment and let me introduce to you to my colleague, Senator Barack Obama.