

August 19, 2005

BRAC COMMISSION

AUG 21 2005

Received

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

Dear Chairman Principi:

With regard to the Adjutant General testimony that you heard last week in response to the BRAC proposal, I want to reiterate that the TAG's arguments against BRAC, as well as the arguments of myself and other Governors, are not simply rhetoric; rather, they are factual conclusions based upon available Department of Defense data. During the hearings you heard for yourself in the sworn testimony of senior officials that Department of Defense and Air Force conclusions were often based solely on military judgment, which many times was contrary to data that was more objective and should have been used in the decision-making process.

Therefore, I respectfully ask that you and the members of the BRAC Commission review the facts available to you very closely. I am confident that when you do, you will see that it simply makes common sense to allow the 130th Airlift Wing to continue on its current, and extremely important, mission by removing it from the BRAC list.

With warmest regards,



Joe Manchin III
Governor

August 23, 2005

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

Dear Chairman Principi:

With final BRAC deliberations and voting scheduled to begin tomorrow, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you and your fellow Commissioners for your hard work during what I know has been a grueling process. Your service and professionalism has not gone unnoticed.

Throughout the last several weeks, I have sent you many letters detailing the importance of the 130th Airlift Wing not only to the state of West Virginia but to our nation, and why it should be removed from the BRAC list. I sincerely appreciate your taking the time to consider these letters and the topics they addressed (constitutional rights of Governors, Air National Guard strength levels, educational assistance, homeland security issues, natural disaster response, National Capitol Region response/protection, etc.).

I have said from the beginning of the BRAC process that West Virginia and the 130th were not looking for any special treatment, we were simply asking for a fair review of the facts. Those facts, as I, and others, have shared with you, speak for themselves and are most definitely on the side of the 130th Airlift Wing.

Therefore, on behalf of the members of the 130th and the people of West Virginia, I respectfully ask one last time that you and the members of the BRAC Commission review the information presented to you very closely. I am confident that when you do, you will see that it just makes common sense to allow the 130th Airlift Wing to continue on its current, and extremely important, mission by removing it from the BRAC list. It is without a doubt the right thing to do.

With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Manchin III", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joe Manchin III
Governor

August 17, 2005

BRAC Commission

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

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Dear Chairman Principi:

During last week's BRAC hearings, Department of Defense and Homeland Security officials testified that Northern Command could respond to the needs of Governors if and when the nation was under the type of attack that occurred on 9/11. However, it must be noted that while Northern Command's response plans may be well-suited to incidents involving a violation of the nation's airspace, this is only one of the types of attacks that may be waged against America.

NORTHCOM has yet to address the staging of assets (aircraft, equipment, people) necessary to respond to the needs of a Governor if states should come under chemical, biological or any other form of land-based terrorist attack. 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 18, 2005

BRAC COMMISSION

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

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Dear Chairman Principi:

During last week's hearings, supporters of the proposed BRAC process pointed to emerging missions that may be available to Air Guard units losing aircraft. I would like to take this opportunity to point out that a significant amount of time will elapse before many units are ready to assume new missions. As a result, strength levels will suffer as people who may have wanted to serve will not be willing to wait on these new missions that have in no way been guaranteed.

Therefore, I once again respectfully ask that you and the members of the BRAC Commission allow the 130th Airlift Wing (a unit with a current strength level of 103%) 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