

20 August 2005

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Received

Dear Sirs.

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the realignment of the 130th Airlift Wing of the West Virginia Air National Guard. By taking away the 130th you will be drastically reducing West Virginia's Home Land Security defensive strength. The members of the 130th and their families reside in 40 different West Virginia counties which means that their children would be uprooted and pulled out of their local schools having to start over in a new school environment and having to make all new friends. These guardsmen participate and volunteer in local and statewide programs like Special Olympics, Kids Camp, Youth Leaders Camp, the mountaineer Challenge Academy, the Salvation Army Toy Drive, the Make A Wish Foundation, Combined Federal Campaign, Anti-Drug Educational Programs, and Jr. ROTC programs, the 130th Airlift Wing Star-base Academy, a program emphasizing math, science, technology and goal setting for thousands of 5th graders throughout Kanawha Co. these are but a few of the reasons that West Virginia benefits from having the 130th in our state and the list of benefits goes on. The unit has provided countless hours of support during major flooding disasters throughout West Virginia, has provided training to area law enforcement for Domestic Terrorism and other security concerns. They provide assistance and support to Industries regarding Hazardous Materials emergencies and have come to the aid of West Virginians during, Tornadoes, Forest Fires, Droughts, snow removal and are readily available for any other similar natural or man made disaster. Realigning the 130th Airlift Wing would be disastrous to West Virginia's economy and to the thousands of residents who depend upon the unit for their valued support and assistance. Businesses, jobs, schools, children and youth programs would be adversely affected by the move. Not to mention the strain on the other West Virginia National Guard Units having to readjust their personnel and take on additional missions, formerly handled by the 130th Airlift Wing. I also believe that closing any military base or installation is wrong and is harmful to America's National Security. Our military forces are already spread too thin throughout the United States and this can only serve as a weakness in national strength and as a danger to it's citizens. We should be reopening military bases, NOT closing them. We should be recruiting more Air Force, Army, Marine Corp, Naval and Coast Guard personnel for full time military service, not depending upon the guard and reserves so much. A smaller, smarter military is at the very least ridiculous and worse than that, I feel that it is insanity. Our enemies will one day take advantage of this and we will no longer be a land of the free. We will come under the control of a world leader, The Anti-Christ. Maybe this sounds a little extreme. But extreme circumstances call for strong opposition to unwise and unwanted decisions being made by people who are not affected by their actions. I am a veteran of the United States Army and of the West Virginia Army National Guard and I know the importance of the role the 130th Airlift Wing plays for our state and for the nation. Please do not remove this highly honored and valuable unit from our state. We, the citizens of West Virginia are proud of our service members and are proud to have such a unit of high standards and honored traditions. Thank you for your valued time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Stephen R. Amis

BRAC Commission

August 2005

AUG 11 2005

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

Received

Dear Chairman Principi,

I am deeply troubled by the Department of Defense's recommendation to realign the 130th Airlift Wing. This recommendation is a terrible mistake built on false information, and I thank each of the commissioners for every effort made in order to allow the 130th Airlift Wing to present the truth.

I believe the Department of Defense collected information that was biased against the Air National Guard and slanted to favor large, expensive military bases. 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. The 130th AW was written off as an unreasonable expense!

The BRAC law states that the BRAC Commission may make changes in any of the recommendations made by Secretary Rumsfeld and the Department of Defense if the commission determines that the Secretary deviated substantially from the selection criteria in making these recommendations. I believe our unit's representatives successfully demonstrated a deviation from the criteria in their presentation at the BRAC hearing in Charlotte.

I understand that each commissioner must face difficult decisions – every decision and every vote affects families across the country. But, thus far, I have found the panel's questions and methods to be both fair and balanced, and for that, I thank you.

As the commission's voting date of August 22 fast approaches, I urge you to continue in your efforts to discover the truth about this wonderful unit and allow this unit to continue with the mission it has unselfishly devoted itself to for the last 58 years.

Sincerely,

Sue Chase

(Concerned Citizen)

537 South Fork Drive
(Address)

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(City, State, Zip)