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August 29, 2005

BRAC Commission

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

SEP 08 2005

Received

Dear Chairman Principi:

As you and your fellow Commissioners begin the process of drafting a report to accompany the "Bill to Make Recommendations to the President Under the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990," we write to encourage you to include specific language in the report with regard to the Pittsburgh International Airport Air Reserve Station (ARS). Specifically, the language would recommend the Department of Defense (DoD) take action to allocate aircraft to the 911th Airlift Wing to support the Regional Joint Readiness Center (RJRC) and to ensure the unit has the ability to recruit and train effectively.

As you are aware, in its vote on Air Force Recommendation 35, Pope Air Force Base, North Carolina, Pittsburgh International Airport Air Reserve Station, Pennsylvania, and Yeager Air Guard Station, West Virginia, the BRAC Commission voted to strike the text of paragraph "d" of Chapter III, Section 103 of the bill and insert in its place:

"Realign Pittsburgh International Airport (IAP) Air Reserve Station (ARS), Pennsylvania. Establish a contiguous enclave at the Pittsburgh International Air Station (ARS), Pennsylvania sufficient to support continued operations of the reserve station units, including flight operations, and compatible with combined use of the civilian airport by the Air Reserve, Air National Guard and civilian users. Within the enclave, establish a Regional Joint Readiness Center (RJRC) at the Pittsburgh International Air Station with the mission of providing civil-military operations, homeland security and community-based medical support to the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security National Incident Management Plan and the National Response Plan. The enclave and RJRC will be staffed at the current manning level of the ARS. The PAA and personnel allocations of Air National Guard units at Pittsburgh are unaffected by this recommendation."

As you may know, Mr. George Bernier of Senator Santorum's staff spoke with Charlie Battaglia, Executive Director of the BRAC Commission, and submitted to him draft report language to accompany the 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment

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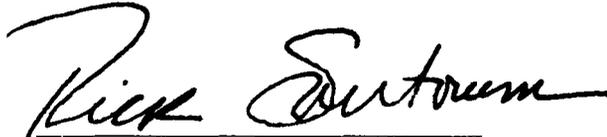
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Commission recommendations concerning Air Force Recommendation 35. For your benefit, we have enclosed a copy of the draft report language that Senator Santorum's staff submitted to Mr. Battaglia on August 27, 2005.

While we appreciate the BRAC Commission's vote to realign Pittsburgh ARS rather than close the installation, we believe that it is necessary to permanently locate and operate an optimum number of C-130H, or equivalent aircraft, as a detachment to the Pittsburgh ARS enclave to support the mission of the Regional Joint Readiness Center. In addition, these planes are essential in the recruiting and training of aircrews and maintenance personnel and are required to carry out the recommendation for the 911th Airlift Wing to perform community-based medical support for the Department of Defense. Furthermore, these aircraft will play a critical role in supporting civil-military operations with the Department of Homeland Security such as the National Incident Management Plan and the National Response plan.

We strongly urge the BRAC Commission to adopt this language in its report to accompany the bill. We appreciate your kind consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Rick Santorum
United States Senate



Arlen Specter
United States Senate

Enclosure

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SEP 08 2005

Received

To: Charles Battaglia, Executive Director
From: George Bernier, Office of the Honorable Senator Rick Santorum (R-PA)
RE: 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission & Enclave-Regional Joint Readiness Center
Date: August 27, 2005

Draft Report Language to accompany 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission recommendations concerning Air Force Recommendation 35, Pope Air Force Base, North Carolina; Pittsburgh International Airport Air Reserve Station, Pennsylvania; and Yeager Air Guard Station, West Virginia, appearing at Chapter III, section 103 of the Bill:

"The Commission recommends that DOD take affirmative action to permanently locate and operate an optimum number of C-130H (or equivalent) aircraft as a detachment to the Pittsburgh ARS enclave to support the mission of the Joint Readiness Center as well as current AFRC missions.

"By establishment of this detachment, significant resources for recruitment and training of aircrews and maintenance personnel will be saved."



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