

August 3, 2005

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

Dear Chairman Principi,

I am deeply troubled by the Department of Defense's recommendation to realign the 130<sup>th</sup> 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 130<sup>th</sup> 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 130<sup>th</sup> 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,



Jennifer Schoppert  
[www.savethe130th.com](http://www.savethe130th.com)

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi, Chairman  
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
2521 S. Clark St., Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

I am writing to urge you to reject the Air Force plans to ground a third of the Air National Guard (ANG) under the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process. The recommendations made by the Air Force affecting ANG bases are outside the scope of the BRAC process. As hearings held by the Commission and by the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) have proved, these recommendations substantially deviate from published BRAC selection criteria.

I am also concerned about the effects of proposed base closures, both active and reserve component, on my access to health care, commissary, and MWR benefits. DoD did not consider retiree and reserve component populations surrounding military bases in their evaluation and selection of sites for closure. These closures will have a significant impact on my ability to use those benefits that I have earned, since I am an Air Force and Air National Guard veteran of more than 20 years.

The men and women of our National Guard are playing an increasingly integral role in military operations both domestically and around the world. There is a crisis in recruiting and the potential for one in retention. Closing these facilities would not only force National Guard members to drive farther to drill, it will also, in many cases, take away the missions they have been trained to do and enjoy doing. This will cause yet another drop in morale that the services cannot tolerate at this time.

Please consider these issues carefully as you finalize your recommendations for base closure. I ask that you remove the Air National Guard facilities from the list and make changes to reduce the impact of potential loss of installation-based benefits for National Guard members and retirees. If you have any questions, please contact me or my representative at the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States, 1-800-234-3264. I am a member of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States.

Sincerely,



Teddy T. Ostrowski Sr.  
Senior Master Sergeant  
Wisconsin Air National Guard

August 2005

Chairman Anthony J. Principi  
Base Realignment and Closure Commission  
2521 South Clark Street  
Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi and BRAC Commissioners:

I am deeply troubled by the Defense Department's recommendation to realign Yeager Air National Guard base. This recommendation is a terrible mistake and I urge the BRAC Commission to reverse this decision and remove them from the list.

It is hard to understand why the Air Force has decided to take planes, missions and jobs away from so many Air Guard bases and put them on the more costly, larger bases. Of all the units to realign, why would they pick the base whose unit helped rescue Jessica Lynch in Iraq? The 130<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing is the lead night vision C-130 unit in the Air National Guard. They are currently deployed in their twelfth rotation in the Global War on Terror.

Other questions concern Homeland Defense and how the Air Guard can respond to man-made or natural disasters when they occur after these massive cuts take place.

As the BRAC voting date of August 22 fast approaches, I urge the Commission in the strongest possible terms to remove Yeager Air National Guard Base from the Pentagon's recommended list of base realignments and to stop the continuing retreat of the military from our community.

Sincerely,

David R. Stottland (SM5) (Ret.)  
(Concerned Citizen)

1510 Strawberry Road  
(Address)

St. Albans, W 25177  
(City, State, Zip)

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Sincerely,

Dwain B. Taylor Ret. MSG  
(Concerned Citizen)

2717 Lakeview Dr  
(Address)

ST. ALBANS WV 25177  
(City, State, Zip)

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Sincerely,

Donald M. Adleman  
(Concerned Citizen) *CMSgt, Ret*

101 Adleman Drive  
(Address)

Elkview, WV 25071  
(City, State, Zip)

August 2005

Chairman Anthony J. Principi  
Base Realignment and Closure Commission  
2521 South Clark Street  
Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi and BRAC Commissioners:

I am so concerned by the Defense Department's recommendation to realign Yeager Air Guard base. This recommendation is not in the nation's best interest and the BRAC Commission should reverse this decision and remove them from the closure list.

It is hard to understand why the Air Force has decided to take planes, missions and jobs away from so many Air Guard and Air Reserve bases and put them on the more costly Active Duty bases.

Also, it is important to note that the 130<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing was the lead unit in General Schwarzkopf's famous "left hook" tactic during Desert Storm. This demonstrates that the Air Guard, especially the 130<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, is willing to "step-up" and take the lead initiative on important missions. Now, DOD wants to take all this away and is promising a "new and exciting" mission that is still not defined.

The impact of this decision will be devastating to the West Virginia Air National Guard and will make the Pentagon's efforts to recruit and retain military personnel even more difficult than it is now.

All West Virginians stand with the Air Guard community and are united in its support for this base, and its retention. Please, overturn the Pentagon's recommendation and keep the base open and keep the C-130's in Charleston!

Sincerely,

  
(Concerned Citizen)

322 Walgrove Rd.  
(Address)

Elkview WV 25071  
(City, State, Zip)

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