

25 July 2005

Inquiry Response**Re:** BI-0164 (CT-0667)**Requester:** Ken Small, Air Force Team Leader, BRAC Commission R&A

Issue: An Air Force White Paper dated 16 Jul 2004 and entitled "Air Force Organizational Principles" describes how Air Force bases will be organized to produce "equally capable AEFs". Page 4 of this report states "Bomber bases should be located near the geographic center of the CONUS for strategic-level force protection. Given the relatively small bomber force, basing should be consolidated to leverage common support requirements."

Alternatively, the preceding paragraph on the same page states "airlift mobility bases must have robust inter-modal transportation infrastructure to mobilize joint, interagency forces and be geographically separated to reduce the likelihood of a single point of failure due to environmental or infrastructure problems. Airlift bases located near or with primary users can enhance joint training and responsiveness."

Question: Please explain what happened between 16 July 2004 and the release of the 13 May 2005 OSD BRAC recommendations to cause the Air Force to contradict its own organizational principles by recommending that a large part of the C-130 airlift capability be consolidated at a single location in Little Rock Air Force Base, AR, and not in a joint setting.

Answer: Under the BRAC 2005 laydown, air mobility installations continue to provide robust inter-modal transportation infrastructure (mobility hubs serviced by strategic mobility aircraft that go to the user), they capably support mobilization of joint, interagency forces (using the same strategic mobility aircraft); they are geographically separated and in many cases they are located near or with the Army (McChord/Ft Lewis, McGuire/Ft Dix, Seymour-Pope-Charleston/Ft Bragg-Ft Benning). Joint training opportunities abound as aircraft from all over the US deploy in support of sister-service training requirements.

The White Paper "guided" BCEG decisions for future aircraft basing and its decisions are consistent with Mr. Small's excerpt cited above. Little Rock has the capacity and training infrastructure to accommodate the increased force structure as proposed by the SECDEF's recommendation. Little Rock AFB is centrally located (Camp Robinson AR, Ft Chaffee AR) and adjoins or is near Kansas (Leavenworth, Riley), Missouri (Ft Leonard Wood), Kentucky (Campbell), Alabama (Rucker, McClellan) Mississippi (2 ARNG Camps), Louisiana (Polk and 4 ARNG Installations), Texas (Bliss, Hood) and Oklahoma (Sill) and is two hours flight from anywhere in the central CONUS.

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The C-130 is a tactical airlift platform that trains at the home station and deploys forward to perform its wartime mission. Consolidation of C-130s at Little Rock and other installations makes that train-at-home, deploy-to-fight mission more efficient and effective. As Mr. Dominguez, Acting Secretary of the Air Force, testified before the BRAC Commission, "...fighting forward or defending our homeland through an AEF concept...requires optimally sized garrison forces to sustain the forward forces without undue strain on those sustaining the mission at home."

Approved

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. L. JOHANSEN', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

DAVID L. JOHANSEN, Lt Col, USAF
Chief, Base Realignment and Closure Division