

**BASE VISIT REPORT  
BOISE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AGS, ID  
June 9, 2005**

**COMMISSION STAFF:** Dr. Kathleen Robertson, Brad McRee

**LIST OF ATTENDEES:** (see attached)

**BASE'S PRESENT MISSION:** To support flying operations for A-10 and C-130 aircraft.

**SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATION:**

Realign Boise Air Terminal Air Guard Station (AGS). Distribute the four C-130H aircraft of the 124th Wing (ANG) to the 153rd Airlift Wing (ANG), Cheyenne, Wyoming. The new, larger unit at Cheyenne will create an active duty/ANG association.

**SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JUSTIFICATION:**

Currently, Boise (66-SOF/CSAR, 66-airlift) operates a mix of C-130 and A-10 aircraft. These aircraft have very different missions. This recommendation realigns Boise to operate only A-10s and distributes its C-130 aircraft to Cheyenne (118-airlift). Boise is a valuable A-10 base because of its proximity to air-to-ground ranges with scoreable strafing and bombing, threat emitters, and integrated air combat training. In turn, Cheyenne is robusted to a larger, more effective C-130 squadron size. Additionally, Cheyenne's proximity to an active duty Air Force installation (F.E. Warren Air Force Base) allows it to host an active/ANG associate unit.

**MAIN FACILITIES REVIEWED:** Entire base (windshield tour)

**KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED:**

- \* C-130 unit in the process of converting from E to H models. They currently have (3) H 2.5s and (2) H 2s. This is the only unit in the ANG that has only 4 Primary Aircraft Assigned (PAA)
- \* One key mission is the "Senior Scout" mission related to intelligence gathering.
- \* The unit would like to get a firefighting mission known as Modular Airborne Firefighting and Suppression (MAFFS)
- \* A Combat Support Team (CST) is based at Gowen Field. Other HLS assets are also at Gowen or in the region. Who would transport the CST, vaccines, FEMA equipment in Seattle, National Communications Cache in Boise?

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- \* Additional missions and uses not evaluated by Air Force. For example, 130 acres used for Army Air Drop Mission, CAS training that can be done at the range and multiple uses for training and readiness for current and emerging missions..
- \* State officials say that the benefits of having the C-130s in Boise is worth the costs of keeping the 192 positions

**INSTALLATION CONCERNS RAISED:**

- \* There are many joint users at Boise (Realigning the C-130s is the only BRAC issue)
- \* Boise has (2) 10,000 ft runways plus a C-130 assault strip. There is not a huge amount of commercial traffic.
- \* Many new facilities for the C-130 operation are less than 10 years old and can accommodate 8 C-130's.
- \* The current lease expires in 2035
- \* The control tower is civilian staffed and operates 24/7.

**COMMUNITY CONCERNS RAISED:** (Did not meet with the immediate community, but Governor Kempthorne raised issues of concern:

- \* State responsibilities in support of DHS requires mobility capability. Loss of C-130's will significantly impact that.
- \* This is the third largest metropolitan area in the Northeast (after Seattle and Portland) with significant exposure that cannot be defended.

**REQUESTS FOR STAFF AS A RESULT OF VISIT:**

Where would the Aerial Port Flight move to?