

**BASE VISIT REPORT
MANSFIELD-LAHM MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AGS, OH
June 14, 2005**

COMMISSION STAFF: Dave Van Saun, Brad McRee

LIST OF ATTENDEES: (see attached)

BASE'S PRESENT MISSION: To support operations related to the operation of (8) assigned C-130s in the Intra-theater airlift mission.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATION:

Close Mansfield-Lahm Municipal Airport Air Guard Station (AGS). Distribute the eight C-130H aircraft of the 179th Airlift Wing (ANG) to the 908th Airlift (AFR), Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama (four aircraft) and the 314th Airlift Wing, Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas (four aircraft). Flying related Expeditionary Combat Support (ECS) moves to Louisville International Airport AGS, Kentucky (aerial port) and Toledo Express Airport AGS, Ohio (fire fighters).

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JUSTIFICATION:

This recommendation distributes C-130 aircraft to two bases with higher military value, Little Rock Air Force Base (17) and Maxwell Air Force Base (21). The addition of aircraft at Maxwell Air Force Base creates an optimally sized Reserve Component squadron. Additionally, these transfers move C-130 force structure from the Air National Guard to the Air Force Reserve and active duty--addressing a documented imbalance in the active/Air National Guard/Air Force Reserve manning mix for C-130s.

MAIN FACILITIES REVIEWED: (Entire base – windshield tour)

KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED:

- * Mansfield has responsibilities for transporting the state Civil Support Team (CST.)
- * The unit did a detailed analysis of the types of questions asked by the Air Force. The Reserve Component was put into the same category as the Active Component. (unlike the way the other services did it.) The unit was in full compliance with ANG installation guidelines and thinks it is being penalized for “following the rules.”

Library Routing Slip 2006 BRAC Commission Materials

Title of Item: Base Visit Report

Installation or Community: Mansfield-Lahm Municipal Airport AGS, OH

Source: Commission Generated

Certified Material? yes no

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- * Mansfield officials also found some interesting AF BRAC Red Team comments which were critical of the AF BRAC plan.
- * The unit has much recent deployed experience. Aircrews and maintenance personnel especially are very experienced.
- * The unit has some very good strength statistics.
- * They expect that maybe 15% of the operational people would follow the aircraft.
- * With respect to national military strategy, they question the logic of taking aircraft from high strength states and placing them in states with lower personnel strength.
- * Little Rock AFB (where the bulk of the C130s are going nationwide) has these issues:
 - ** Only one runway
 - ** 34% of its maintenance people are the lowest skill level (compared with 17% at Mansfield)
 - ** Severe weather such as tornados
 - ** Ripe target potential
- * COBRA gives little weight to costs of personnel moves and retraining costs.
- * Little consideration given to impact of mixing dissimilar models of C-130s
- * 90% of the "Community Attributes" not applicable to the ANG
- * Open to new missions such as Predator

INSTALLATION CONCERNS RAISED

- * Ramp space – Report not correct. They can accommodate more than (8) C-130s on current ramp.
- * The base was given no credit for hanger because of the width of the door. It contains the C-130 just fine because of the wing slots in the hanger wall.
- * Because of the rural setting and lack of encroachment the pilots can practice with Night Vision Goggles (NVGs) on the runway and do all necessary flight proficiency training.
- * There is little other competing air traffic at Mansfield. No commercial carriers there – just a Fixed Base Operator (FBO)
- * The base has plenty of room to expand (currently 60 acres but has access to 161 acres)
- * Current lease expires in 2090.
- * If the base gets realigned, the FAA tower would close and the adjacent industrial park would loose its fire protection

COMMUNITY CONCERNS RAISED: (Did not meet with community)

REQUESTS FOR STAFF AS A RESULT OF VISIT:

- * Research Air Force BRAC Red Team comments
- * Determine BRAC wide impacts related to Retraining Costs
- * If aircraft have to leave, does the Aerial Port Squadron have to leave also?

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Civil Engineering Squadron

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