

**BASE VISIT REPORT  
YEAGER AIRPORT AGS, WV  
June 24, 2005**

**LEAD COMMISSIONER:** Chairman Principi

**COMMISSION STAFF:** Charles Battaglia, Dave Van Saun

**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:**

Realign Yeager Airport Air Guard Station (AGS), West Virginia, by realigning eight C-130H aircraft to Pope/Fort Bragg to form a 16 aircraft active duty/Reserve associate unit, and by relocating flying-related expeditionary combat support (ECS) to Eastern West Virginia Regional Airport/Shepherd Field AGS (aerial port and fire fighters).

**SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JUSTIFICATION:**

Downsizing Pope Air Force Base takes advantage of mission-specific consolidation opportunities to reduce operational costs, maintenance costs and the manpower footprint. Active duty C-130s and A-10s will move to Little Rock (17-airlift) and Moody (11-SOF/CS) respectively, to consolidate force structure at those two bases and enable Army recommendations at Pope. At Little Rock, older aircraft are retired or converted to back-up inventory and J-model C-130s are aligned under the Air National Guard. Little Rock grows to become the single major active duty C-130 unit, streamlining maintenance and operation of this aging weapon system. At Pope, the synergistic, multi-service relationship will continue between Army airborne and Air Force airlift forces with the creation of an active duty/Reserve associate unit. The C-130 unit remains as an Army tenant on an expanded Ft. Bragg.

Yeager AGS cannot support more than eight C-130s. Careful analysis of mission capability indicates that it is more appropriate to robust the proposed airlift mission at Fort Bragg to an optimal 16 aircraft C-130 squadron, which provides greater military value and offers unique opportunities for Jointness.

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

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Title of Item: Base Trip Report  
 Installation or Community: Yeager Airport AGS, WV  
 Source: Commission Generated  
 Certified Material?  yes  no  
 Analyst / Provider: Ashley Buzzello Date Received: 7/5/05

**KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED:**

- \* The base has a Civil Support Team (CST). This team is on call to be transported anywhere in the region to include the nation's capital. The Yeager based C-130s do this mission. Located in the state capital, the 130<sup>th</sup> also performs other state and federal emergency response missions.
- \* The unit performed a detailed analysis of the DOD recommendation and provided the BRAC staff with a binder containing their findings.
- \* The unit has much recent experience in the theater of operations overseas.
- \* The unit has outstanding unit strength statistics in excess of 100%. Why they asked, were additional aircraft being sent to states that had a hard time filling the current slots available?
- \* They anticipated significant impacts to Recruiting and Retention knowing there would be losses of experienced personnel because they would not follow the aircraft.
- \* Another concern was the overall process of combining dissimilar models of the C-130, (H-2 and H-3)

**INSTALLATION CONCERNS RAISED**

- \* Ramp space – The DOD recommendation states that the ramp is limited to (8) C-130s. The Wing Commander reports that the unit can park (12) C-130s now. (There were eleven there on the day of our visit.) According to their figures, with a \$3M ramp expansion they can park 16. The little-used secondary runway can be used for parking during surge operations.
- \* The base is co-located with the Army National Guard allowing for Joint operations.
- \* The base received no credit for hanger because it was built for fighters. Because of modifications (wall slots) it has contained the C-130 for over 25 years.
- \* Even with the current scoring, the base scored higher than other units gaining aircraft.
- \* The current lease expires in 2052.
- \* Significant MILCON has been constructed since 1993.

**COMMUNITY CONCERNS RAISED:**

Community issues will be raised at the Regional Hearing on June 28, 2005.

**REQUESTS FOR STAFF AS A RESULT OF VISIT:** None

BRAC Briefing Guest List – Charleston, WV

24 June 2005

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN The Honorable Anthony J. Principi

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Mr. Wes Holden

Ms. Lou Ann Johnson

Wendy Morigi

Jason Forrester

Honorable Nick Rahall

Honorable Allan B. Mollohan

Honorable Shelley Moore Capito

Robert Hammond

SECDAF SAVLL Major Santiago Vacca

Major General Allen E. Tackett West Virginia National Guard Adjutant  
General

BG James B. Crawford, III, Asst Adj. for Air /Commander  
Col. Edward Muth, Training Officer

BG (Ret) Virgil Wayne Lloyd, Chief of Staff /Commander  
Col. Melvin L. Burch, WV-ARNG FMO

Col David T. Buckalew, State ESSO  
Col. James A. Hoyer, OIC RAID-CST

Lt. Col Michael O. Cadle, State Public Affairs

Col. Timothy L. Frye, Wing Commander

Col. Jerome M. Gouhin , Vice Wing Commander

Col. Loda A Moore , OG Commander

Col. William T. Mitchell , MXG Commander

Lt. Col. Paige P. Hunter, MSG Commander

Lt. Col. Sidney B. Jackson, MGD Commander

Lt. Col. Johnny Ryan Air Ops Officer

Lt. Col. Randy D. Buckner, MXS Commander

Major Mike Murphy, SFS Commander / Alt Briefer

Major David G. Rabel , Wing Executive Officer

Major Kevin S. Ray, Intel Officer / Briefer

CCMsgt Stephen M. McCollam, Wing Command Chief

SSgt Eugene Crist Audio Visual Tech

Col. (Ret) William D. Peters former Wing Commander

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SECDAF SAVLL Major Santiago Vacca

Major General Allen E. Tackett  
General

West Virginia National Guard Adjutant

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