

**BASE VISIT REPORT
SPRINGFIELD-BECKLEY AGS, OH
June 14, 2005**

COMMISSION STAFF: Dave Van Saun, Brad McRee

LIST OF ATTENDEES: (see attached)

BASE'S PRESENT MISSION: F-16 Formal Training Unit (FTU). This unit takes pilots who have completed Undergraduate Pilot Training (UPT) and trains them how to fly the F-16. Yet this unit can also employ personnel and aircraft for any combat F-16 mission within 90 days of a tasking. (Air defense can be performed immediately.)

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATION:

Realign Springfield-Beckley Municipal Airport Air Guard Station, Ohio. Distribute the 178th Fighter Wing's F-16 aircraft to the 132d Fighter Wing, Des Moines International Airport Air Guard Station, Iowa (nine aircraft); the 140th Wing (ANG), Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado (three aircraft) and 149th Fighter Wing (ANG), Lackland Air Force Base, Texas (six aircraft), but retain The wing's expeditionary combat support (ECS) elements, the 251st Combat Communications Group (ANG) and 269th Combat Communications Squadron (ANG) in place, and relocate the wing's firefighter positions to Rickenbacker Air National Guard Station, Ohio.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JUSTIFICATION:

The decision to realign Springfield-Beckley's F-16s and not replace force structure at Springfield-Beckley is based on considerations of military value and all other available information. Buckley (64) and Lackland (47) have higher military value than Springfield-Beckley (128), and Buckley has a role in the Homeland Defense mission. This recommendation optimizes the squadron size at Lackland, the only ANG F-16 Flying Training Unit. While not currently tasked with a Homeland Defense role, Des Moines (137) is located within the specified response timing criteria of a Homeland Security site of interest. The 132d Fighter Wing, Des Moines International Airport Air Guard Station will assume a role in the air sovereignty mission.

MAIN FACILITIES REVIEWED: (Entire base – windshield tour)

Library Routing Slip 2005 BRAC Commission Materials
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KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED:

- * With respect to the DOD analysis, unit leaders were not certain as to how they fit into the comparisons because they are a training unit.
- * They stated their performance is better than that of two other units who do what they do – Lackland (ANG), and Luke (AD). They graduate a pilot in 16 days less than Luke. Many AD pilots are trained at Springfield.
- * Unit personnel performed a detailed analysis of the actual evaluation on them based on the information currently available.
- * They have a significant number of contractors, state employees, and students who were not accounted for in the calculations
- * They got no credit for the flight simulators they possess.
- * In their opinion, the DoD grossly underestimated training costs post-BRAC.
- * Unit personnel have depth of experience with some time recently deployed.
- * The unit has outstanding actual strength statistics. (109% manned)
- * They knew that in 10 years they would change missions. Yet the COBRA model is set for 17 years.
- * The unit is only 15 miles from Wright-Patterson AFB. Excellent candidate for community basing?

INSTALLATION CONCERNS RAISED:

- * The unit has a very large ramp which can park 54 fighter aircraft.
- * There is a significant number of new buildings and improvements to the base. A new control tower and fire station are nearing completion.
- * The Range is very close by.
- * There is little other competing air traffic.
- * The current lease expires in 2048.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS RAISED: (Did not meet with community)

REQUESTS FOR STAFF AS A RESULT OF VISIT:

S-B

DCN: 3710



BRAC Analyst Visit

Attendees

Maj Gen Harry Feucht – Assistant Adjutant General Air
Brig Gen Homer Smith – Chief of Staff for Ohio
Mark Wayda – State HQ Legislative Affairs
Lt Col Michael Green – State HQ DO (NASIC)
Ilene Austria – Congressman Hobson's Representative
Michael Dustman – Senator Voinovich's Representative
Scott Corbin – Senator Dewine's Representative
Joe Renaud – Governor Taft's Representative
Col Richard L. Lohnes – Commander
Col Harry M. Roberts – Vice Commander
Col Craig E. Wallace – Operations Group Commander
Col Stephen J. Walker – Maintenance Group Commander
Lt Col William C. Wolfarth – Mission Support Group Commander
Lt Col Jeff Lay – Wing Plans
Capt Laura Powers – Wing Executive Officer