

BASE VISIT REPORT

NASHVILLE AIR NATIONAL GUARD STATION, TN

June 28, 2005

COMMISSIONER: Jim Bilbray

COMMISSION STAFF: Brad McRee

LIST OF ATTENDEES: (see attached)

BASE'S PRESENT MISSION: Intra-theater Airlift

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATION:

Realign Nashville International Airport (IAP) Air Guard Station (AGS). This recommendation distributes the C-130H aircraft of the 118th Airlift Wing (ANG) to the 182d Airlift Wing (ANG), Greater Peoria Airport AGS, Illinois (four aircraft) and the 123d Airlift Wing (ANG), Louisville IAP AGS, Kentucky (four aircraft). Flying related ECS (aerial port and fire fighters) moves to Memphis IAP AGS. The Aeromedical Squadron from Nashville moves to Carswell ARS. Other ECS remains in place at Nashville.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JUSTIFICATION:

Nashville (104) had a low military value ranking and was near other ANG bases keeping or gaining aircraft. Military judgment was the predominant factor in this recommendation--this realignment creates two right-sized squadrons, Peoria (127) and Louisville (79) from three undersized squadrons and retains experienced ANG personnel.

MAIN FACILITIES REVIEWED: Entire base.

KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED:

- * This unit the third oldest ANG flying unit in the country.
- * Operated (16) C-130s for 17 years.
- * Recent experience: Alert duty after 911. Lead unit for Operation Iraqi Freedom group of (46) C-130s.
- * Pilots have 3,800 hours average experience.
- * Unit works frequently with Army at Ft Campbell.
- * Units with lower MCIs gaining aircraft.
- * Concern about AF optimal squadron size.
- * Experienced personnel will be lost if the recommendation becomes law. In a survey performed in June 2005, 58% of unit personnel would resign or retire.
- * Concern that they will lose the aeromedical unit, the only medical unit assigned to TN.
- * Concern that COBRA does not account for costs of losing traditional guardsmen.
- * HLS issues not properly considered.
- * Five units with lower military value are gaining aircraft.

INSTALLATION CONCERNS RAISED

- * Lease expires 2045.
- * Joint use agreement costs \$36,000 per year.
- * More land available. (6.7 acres at no cost)
- * Key location for FEMA response. Civil Support Team (CST) close by in Smyrna.
- * New hanger is 90% complete. It won an Air Force award for design excellence and replaces six other buildings. This facility houses 74 maintenance functions.
- * Data call for BRAC was 30 Sep 03 snapshot. No credit for hanger.
- * Pavement strength not properly considered. They will forward data.
- * No hydrant system but they have access to 9 million gallons at airport.
- * 50% of their facilities have been renovated in the past two years.
- * They have had \$55M in MILCON in the past 6 years.
- * ANG facilities are "right-sized" for the mission.
- * Ramp threshold is at minimum 137,000 SF to get points. Theirs is 128,000 SF.
- * Nashville IAP has 4 runways. Little Rock AFB (where many C-130s will based) has only one.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS RAISED:

Community supports the unit. Also, the C-130's and the 118th are needed for future national and state airlift missions.

REQUESTS FOR STAFF AS A RESULT OF VISIT:

- * Check concern that COBRA does not account for costs of losing traditional guardsmen.

29 June 2005

Mr. McCree,

The following individuals were in attendance at the BRAC Site Visit with the 118th Airlift Wing:

Maj Gen Gus Hargett, The Adjutant General of Tennessee
Brig Gen Russ Cotney, Assist Adjutant General of Tennessee for Air
Brig Gen (Ret'd) J.R. Roberts, Former 118th Airlift Wing Commander
Col (Ret'd) Don Deering, National Guard Association of Tennessee
Col Rich Harris, 118 Airlift Wing Commander
Col Randy Jones, 118 Operations Group Commander
Col Mike Hatcher, 118 Support Group Commander
Col Rita Works, ESSO, HQ TNANG
Lt Col Shawn Anderson, 118 Operations Support Flight Commander
Maj John Church, 118 Maintenance Commander
Maj Craig Bradford, 118 Civil Engineering Squadron (BCE)
Dave Cooley, Deputy Governor of Tennessee
Phil Russell, Senator Bill Frist' Office
Tom Craig, Senator Bill Frist' Office
Patrick Jaynes, Senator Lamar Alexander's Office
Richard Tracey, Congressman Jim Cooper's Office
Steve Allbrooks, Congresswoman Marsha Blackburn's Office
Shawn Gilliland, Congressman Bart Gordon's Office
Tom Jurkovich, Mayor Bill Purcell's Office