



**BRAC Commission**

5250 Neil Road • Suite 302 • Reno, NV 89502  
775-827-0184 • Fax 775-827-0190

**AUG 8 2005**

Received

July 28, 2005

The Honorable Anthony Principi, Chairman  
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

**RE: 152<sup>nd</sup> Airlift Wing of the Nevada Air National Guard**

Dear Chairman Principi:

On behalf of the Nevada Hospital Association, we are writing to you today to address our concern over the base realignment and closure recommendation to realign the C-130s assigned to the 152<sup>nd</sup> Airlift Wing of the Nevada Air National Guard. As an organization existing solely to support the health care system serving Nevada's communities it is imperative that we inform you of the serious impact this will place on the lives of the citizens of this State.

Every state, including Nevada, has a unique environment and concerns based on the threats, social culture, geographic and demographic nature of their region. In Nevada the C-130s, which have been recommended for realignment, are a critical part of our ability to respond in a timely manner to any emergency whether it be city, county, state or federal. The Nevada Air National Guard C-130s are a critical asset within our State Emergency Response Plan. The transport of the Strategic National Stockpile, disaster medical facilities, and the movement of medical personnel depend directly upon the proximity and ready availability of these aircraft.

As you know, Nevada is the fastest growing state in the nation and southern Nevada has been identified as one of the most significant regions in the country impacted by terrorist threats. McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas is the sixth busiest airport in North America and serves over 51.5 million passengers yearly. The importance of the C-130s in providing homeland defense capabilities ensures the safety and economic stability to the tourist industry in Nevada.

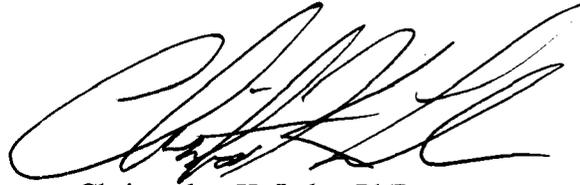
The Nevada National Guard is a community-based force that ensures the citizens of Nevada continued support against the global war on terror. The number one priority of our national security strategy is to secure and defend our homeland. It is no more imperative to the Nation than it is to our State. We at the Nevada Hospital Association feel that the relocation of the C-

130s will jeopardize that important goal. We request your reconsideration of the C-130 relocation presently before the Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

Sincerely,



Bill M. Welch  
President/CEO



Christopher K. Lake, PhD  
Director of Hospital Preparedness

cc: Colleen Turner, Senior BRAC Analyst  
Kenny C. Guinn, Governor of Nevada  
BG Cindy Kirkland, Nevada Adjutant General, Nevada National Guard  
Major General Giles Vanderhoof, Nevada Homeland Security Director



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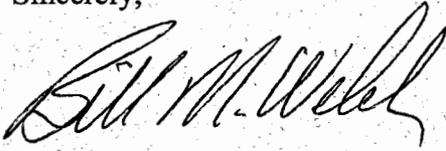
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