

Congress of the United States Commission
Washington, DC 20515

AUG 15 2005

August 11, 2005

Received

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman – Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We are writing to urge the Commission to review the Air National Guard Tanker recommendations forwarded by the Department of Defense, which would reduce the number of tankers assigned to the Squadron at the Utah Air National Guard (ANG) co-located at the Salt Lake International Airport, from 10 aircraft to 8.

By comparison, most other Air National Guard squadrons retaining their tanker missions are being increased from 10 aircraft to 12, which is the number determined to be the most efficient and optimal by the U.S. Air Force.

We believe that the DoD recommendation to downsize the Utah ANG tanker mission from 10 aircraft to 8 was based on erroneous information within the DoD COBRA models provided to the Commission, wherein it is stated that Utah does not have adequate ramp space or facilities for 12 aircraft. This is simply not supported by fact. There is more than enough ramp space and room for 12 aircraft at the Utah ANG.

We respectfully request that this vital factual error regarding the Utah ANG mission and capabilities be corrected and considered by the Commission in issuing its final BRAC recommendations.

Respectfully,



Orrin G. Hatch
United States Senator



Robert F. Bennett
United States Senator



Rob Bishop
Member of Congress