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DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE
AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION

----- :
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS :
REGIONAL HEARING :
----- :

The following transcript of
proceedings had in the above-named matter at the
Chicago O'Hare Hilton Hotel, O'Hare International
Airport, on the 31st day of May, 1995, 9:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

- CHAIRMAN ALAN DIXON
- COMMISSIONER WENDI L. STEELE
- COMMISSIONER JOSUE (JOE) ROBLES, JR.
- COMMISSIONER S. LEE KLING
- COMMISSIONER AL CORNELLA

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1 CHAIRMAN DIXON: Good morning, Ladies and
2 Gentlemen. Welcome to this meeting of the
3 Regional Hearing of the Defense Base Closure and
4 Realignment Commission.

5 My name is Alan Dixon. I'm the
6 Chairman of the Commission charged with the task
7 of evaluating the recommendations of the Secretary
8 of Defense regarding the closure and realignment
9 of military installations in the United States.

10 Also, here with us today are my
11 colleagues, Commissioner Wendi Steele, Al Cornella
12 and General J. B. Davis, and we expect momentarily
13 to have General Joe Robles with us as well.

14 The Commission is also authorized
15 by law to add bases to the Secretary's list for
16 review and possible realignment or closure, and on
17 May 10th, as all of you know, we voted to add 35
18 bases to the list. Today we will hear from some
19 of those newly-affected communities.

20 First, let me thank all the
21 military and civilian personnel who have assisted
22 us so capably during our visits and to the many
23 bases represented at this hearing.

24 We spent several days looking at

1 the installations that we added on the list on May
2 10th for review and asking questions that will
3 help us make our decisions. The cooperation we
4 received has been exemplary, and we thank you very
5 much.

6 The main purpose of the base visits
7 we have conducted is to allow us to see the
8 installation firsthand and to address with
9 military personnel the all important question of
10 the military value of the bases.

11 In addition to the base visits, the
12 Commission is conducting a total of five regional
13 hearings regarding added installations of which
14 today is the second hearing.

15 The main purpose of the regional
16 hearings is to give members of the communities
17 affected by these closure recommendations a chance
18 to express their views. We consider this
19 interaction with the communities to be one of the
20 most important and valuable parts of our review of
21 the closure and realignment list.

22 Let me assure you that all of our
23 commissioners and staff are well aware of the huge
24 differences of base closures on local

1 communities. We are committed to openness in this
2 process and we are committed to fairness. All the
3 material we gather, all the information we get
4 from the Department of Defense, all of our
5 correspondence, is open to the public.

6 We are faced with an unpleasant and
7 a very painful task, which we intend to carry out
8 as sensitively as we can. Again, the kind of
9 assistance we have received here is greatly
10 appreciated.

11 Now let me tell you how we will
12 proceed here today is the same format as at our 11
13 previous regional hearings.

14 The Commission has assigned a block
15 of time to each state affected by the base closure
16 list. The overall amount of time was determined
17 by the number of installations on the list and the
18 amount of job loss. The time limits will be
19 enforced strictly.

20 We notified the appropriate elected
21 officials of this procedure and we left it up to
22 them, working with the local communities, to
23 determine how to fill the block of time.

24 Today we will hear testimony from

1 the states of Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota and
2 Ohio for 25 minutes each. When those
3 presentations are completed at 11:10 am, there
4 will begin a 40-minute period of public comment
5 for those four states. The rules for this part of
6 the hearing have been clearly outlined and all
7 persons wishing to speak should have signed up by
8 now.

9 So now if you are going to speak in
10 the public hearing aspects of this matter --
11 Mr. Shufryer (phonetic), are you the person to
12 sign up with?

13 MR. SHUFRYER: (Nodding head.)

14 CHAIRMAN DIXON: And that is the gentleman you
15 will see.

16 After the public comments, about
17 noon we will hear a 60-minute presentation from
18 North Dakota followed by a 16-minute period from
19 North Dakota public comments. The hearing should
20 conclude at about 1:20 p.m.

21 Let me also say that the Base
22 Closure Law has been amended since 1993 to require
23 that anyone giving testimony before the Commission
24 do so under oath, and so I will be swearing in

1 witnesses, and that will include individuals who
2 speak in the public comment portion of the
3 hearing.

4 With that, I believe we are ready
5 to begin, and I wonder whether my friends, the
6 distinguished Lieutenant Governor of Illinois, Bob
7 Kustra, and distinguished Congressman and Chairman
8 of the House Judiciary Committee, Henry Hyde,
9 would stand and raise their right hands, please.

10 (Witnesses sworn.)

11 Ladies and Gentlemen, I am
12 delighted at this time to recognize an old and
13 dear friend. We served in the Illinois House many
14 years ago, too long ago to remind each other
15 about, Henry.

16 And I am delighted to recognize at
17 this time for 10 minutes the distinguished
18 Congressman from Illinois and the distinguished
19 Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee,
20 Congressman Henry J. Hyde.

21 PRESENTATION

22 BY

23 CONGRESSMAN HYDE:

24 Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

1 Is this on? I guess. Yes.

2 Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman
3 and Lady and Gentlemen of the Commission. I want
4 to salute you for doing the job Congress is
5 unwilling to do. It's a necessary job and it's a
6 miserable job to close down bases, but it has to
7 be done, and I salute you for being willing to
8 take this onerous task on doing the good job that
9 you are.

10 I want to thank you and Bob Kustra
11 and Dave Mosena for this opportunity to express my
12 views representing thousands of Air Force
13 Reservists and members of the National Guard and
14 their families in support of continuing the
15 mission of the O'Hare International Airport Air
16 Reserve Station.

17 We have in this case a classic
18 conflict between two very different viewpoints:
19 one view asserts that it's appropriate public
20 policy to buy and trade important military assets
21 as you would any other parcel of real estate given
22 exclusively by economic considerations.

23 The other view, my own view, is
24 driven by what I believe is best for this nation's

1 defense, what is best for the reserves, and what
2 is best for America's taxpayers.

3 The ongoing reductions in our
4 full-time military units require us to be prudent
5 about dismembering successful reserve units like
6 the two at O'Hare.

7 The 928 and 126 didn't appear
8 overnight; they evolved. These units have served
9 an important role in virtually every major foreign
10 policy initiative of this government in the last
11 50 years, most recently in Operation Desert Storm
12 and the humanitarian efforts in Somalia, Bosnia,
13 Turkey, Iraq and Haiti. These accomplishments are
14 an example of effectiveness, the dedication and
15 team work of these units.

16 In its 47 years of operation, for
17 instance, the 928 airlift wing has not sustained a
18 single loss of aircraft. These units are also
19 combat-ready confirmed time and time again by the
20 Department of Defense's evaluations, inspections,
21 and tests.

22 Importantly, the personnel
23 comprising these two units reflect the diversity
24 of the Chicagoland area with its melting pot of

1 different cultures. This diversity truly enriches
2 these units and its people. Operating this base,
3 the 928 provides this nation and its military a
4 key war and peacetime marshaling area for
5 personnel and equipment. In addition, the Air
6 Reserve units support the work of numerous
7 government agencies.

8 The Department state this facility
9 has accommodated visiting heads of state. The
10 airlift wing transports illegal aliens for the
11 Immigration and Naturalization Service. They
12 transport prisoners for the U.S. Marshal, housing
13 Army, Navy and Marine Corp Reservists who use the
14 facility for drills.

15 In a 1993 report to this
16 Commission, the Air Force made it clear that it
17 has little enthusiasm for tampering with O'Hare's
18 success, quote, "There are no savings for moving,
19 only costs.

20 The recruiting base of the Chicago
21 metropolitan area is outstanding. The military
22 value of an Air Reserve component based at
23 Rockford fully built up with all the necessary
24 facilities still does not exceed that of O'Hare.

1 For the retention of the mostly
2 part-time personnel, Rockford is not as good due
3 to the distance from the homes of currently
4 assigned personnel. Some personnel losses and
5 retraining must be anticipated affecting unit
6 readiness and adding to the cost." Close quote.

7 It's my understanding that at the
8 six reserve bases now on the list for closure or
9 relocation, the Commission is seeking to close
10 two. With more than 8 million people in the
11 Chicagoland area, the O'Hare units have an
12 outstanding recruiting and retention base
13 unparalleled by the other sites under
14 consideration for closure or relocation.

15 Even with the uncertainties of the
16 future and the 1993 B.R.A.C. recommendations, the
17 units are manned above 100 percent. Other factors
18 deserving of consideration are, first, much of
19 Chicago's testimony to this Commission will focus
20 on the potential economic benefits of closing or
21 relocating these bases.

22 The rhetoric about economic growth
23 makes me wonder, as it should you, why more than
24 1400 acres of city-owned airport property located

1 just across the runways from the military
2 reservation sit idle while we deliberate about the
3 future of an air base that the Air Force declined
4 to add to its recommended list of base closures.

5 Incidentally, a portion of that
6 1400 acres was included among land given to the
7 city by the Department of Defense in 1946 to
8 construct this airport.

9 Secondly, I'm concerned about the
10 cavalier way in which Chicago has treated its
11 previous land agreements with the Air Force. It
12 was after only just six years ago that Mayor Daley
13 signed the Land Swap Agreement with the Air Force,
14 a landmark agreement in which the city and this
15 Mayor promised to support a permanent military
16 presence at O'Hare.

17 Based on this agreement, the Air
18 Force has completed more than \$20 million in
19 improvements to the base with more planned. It
20 may be that the city's change of heart was the
21 result of its unwillingness in 1992 to compromise
22 on construction of a new third airport for the
23 region, the only long-term answer for heavy flight
24 delays at O'Hare.

1 Third, if you permit this base to
2 close, the Commission will undermine the work of
3 the Illinois International Guard unit, which is a
4 tenant on this federally-owned base.

5 Closing this base will commit the
6 City of Chicago, Rockford, or any other suitor
7 with enough money to build a replacement base for
8 the one remaining unit. Where's the savings in
9 that?

10 Permit me to suggest that the
11 Commission listen closely what the Air Force is
12 saying. No other site in Illinois or this nation
13 is as suitable as O'Hare for these units. Please
14 keep the military flying at O'Hare. Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN DIXON: Congressman Hyde, we are
16 indebted to you for that fine testimony and we
17 congratulate you and thank you for your great
18 contribution to our state. We are delighted to
19 have you here.

20 CONGRESSMAN HYDE: Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN DIXON: We are delighted to have the
22 Director of Aviation for the City of Chicago,
23 Mr. David Mosena.

24 Commissioner Mosena, would you mind

1 standing and raising your right hands.

2 (Witness sworn).

3 Thank you, sir.

4 Mr. Mosen, you have 10 minutes.

5 We are delighted to have you.

6 PRESENTATION

7 BY

8 DIRECTOR MOSENA:

9 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good
10 morning. On behalf of Mayor Richard M. Daley, I'd
11 like to welcome you to Chicago and thank you for
12 holding this hearing here in Chicago.

13 We recognize the important and
14 difficult decisions that you face, as Congressman
15 Hyde explained in his very talented words, and we
16 applaud you for making these tough decisions
17 insuring that we maintain the nation's military
18 strength and readiness in a climate of severe
19 budget constraints and downsizing, and the
20 military is, indeed, an enormous challenge.

21 Public officials who recognize the
22 need for base closure, nonetheless, cry out not
23 mine; however, because of its unique position and
24 plans for reuse, in 1993 the City of Chicago

1 sought realignment of the O'Hare base.

2 We are pleased that the Commission
3 recognize the merits of both the city's and the
4 Air Force's proposal and, consistent with B.R.A.C.
5 criteria, conditionally approved the closure of
6 O'Hare's military facility.

7 You have heard our case in prior
8 hearings. We have made the case that the 356
9 military acres that lie in the heart of the
10 world's busiest airport could be put to better use
11 for the benefit of the entire metropolitan region.

12 We demonstrated that the economic
13 impact of commercial aviation-related development
14 far and exceeds the current impact of a
15 reserve-and-guard facility.

16 During the past two years, the city
17 has diligently pursued meeting the conditions of
18 B.R.A.C. '93. We issued a solicitation of
19 interest from Illinois communities to host
20 military units. We received and reviewed
21 proposals from communities throughout the State of
22 Illinois. We conducted site visits of three
23 potential host sites with city and Air Force
24 consultants and engineers.

1 We have evaluated a proposal as an
2 adjusted projected plan and cost estimate based
3 upon updated Air Force base program criteria, and
4 we are currently working on alternative financing
5 plans, which we expect to be completed by July of
6 1995.

7 The decision to close the U.S. Air
8 Force Reserve facility is purely a military
9 decision. Let me underline purely a military
10 decision.

11 The City of Chicago has no
12 expertise to offer or input into that decision;
13 however, if you should choose to close the O'Hare
14 facility as a result of your addition, the U.S.
15 Reserve Airlift Wing to the list of closure
16 alternatives, both the military and the city will
17 benefit.

18 Unlike many communities that face
19 the uncertainty of life after base closure,
20 Chicago is confident and ready to undertake the
21 airport-related economic development of the O'Hare
22 site.

23 Results of market development of
24 this site significantly exceed the current

1 economic benefits of the existing military
2 activities.

3 Each year we delay full
4 incorporation of the military site, commercial
5 aviation enterprise of O'Hare Airport. Thousands
6 of jobs and millions of dollars of economic impact
7 are lost to other states and communities. Let me
8 give you just one example.

9 Let me tell you about the United
10 Airlines maintenance facility, which is currently
11 being developed at Indianapolis Airport, despite
12 the fact that O'Hare is United Airlines' home
13 base.

14 In 1991 when United selected the
15 Indianapolis site as its maintenance and
16 remanufacturing facility, Chicago could not
17 compete for selection primarily because O'Hare did
18 not have sufficient suitable developable space for
19 the United Airlines facilities.

20 As a result, the region lost out on
21 at least 6300 high paying, full-time paying jobs
22 and additional hundreds of construction and
23 temporary jobs.

24 In fact, it was the decision like

1 United's choice of Indianapolis for its
2 maintenance facility which contributed in part to
3 Chicago's decision to pursue the 356 acres of
4 prime airport property for greater use and benefit
5 to the entire region, neither the City of Chicago
6 or the region should lose out on such an
7 opportunity again in the future.

8 In closing, we would have no
9 objection to a military decision to close this
10 base, and we stand ready to redevelop the site to
11 its highest and best use for the benefit of the
12 city and the region as a whole.

13 Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

14 CHAIRMAN DIXON: Thank you. Director Mosen, a,
15 thank you for your valuable contribution to the
16 Commission.

17 We are pleased, of course, to have
18 the distinguished lieutenant governor of this
19 great state, Robert Kustra, here, and, Governor
20 Kustra, the podium is yours.

21 PRESENTATION

22 BY

23 GOVERNOR KUSTRA:

24 Thank you. Chairman Dixon, and

1 Members of the Commission, welcome back to
2 Illinois and thank you, once again, for the
3 opportunity to appear before you.

4 I speak to you today as the
5 Chairman of Operations Salute the State of
6 Illinois' initiative to assist you in your
7 deliberations and to ensure the objective and
8 equitable treatment of military facilities in our
9 state.

10 The last time we had a chance to
11 meet like this, just a few months ago, I mentioned
12 that the State of Illinois has certainly paid its
13 price, certainly played a role in the reduction of
14 military bases across the state of Illinois.
15 Shanut, Fort Sheridan, Glenview are just three
16 relatively recent examples of the role that
17 Illinois has played in reducing military bases
18 across this country.

19 We feel now that we are leaner and
20 meaner and what we do here in Illinois now is of
21 great value for future military need.

22 We all agree on the need to realign
23 the nation's defense structure for the post-Cold
24 War era, but it's important that as the Commission

1 looks to make the military more efficient we do
2 not come into our muscle and demonstrate that we
3 have -- we would in the process lose so much of
4 what we have gained.

5 I urge you today to keep the Air
6 Force, the Air Reserve, and International Guard at
7 O'Hare so that they can continue to perform the
8 outstanding and vital roles they play in our
9 national defense.

10 By considering the closure of the
11 Air Reserve unit at O'Hare, you have cast into
12 doubt the future of both the guard and the reserve
13 units and I think by doing so you risk sacrificing
14 two of the most successful, most ready, and most
15 valuable air wings in America.

16 Throughout the Cold War and in
17 virtually every major American military operation
18 of the post-Cold War era, the airlift and air
19 refueling wings have served with distinction.
20 Desert Storm in 1991 helped stem the -- stem the
21 tide of drugs in Panama in '93, brought
22 humanitarian relief in Somalia in '93, defended
23 democracy in Haiti in '94, helped enforce a no-fly
24 zone in Bosnia this very year.

1 What is the key to this? Why is it
2 that these air wings have been so successful and
3 so effective? Why do I believe they have the
4 strongest case in this round of base realignment
5 and closure proposals? One reason has been their
6 tremendous success in recruiting the best
7 personnel, a topic my congressman just referred to
8 a few moments ago.

9 I'd just like to point out one of
10 the fondest memories I have of my time as
11 lieutenant governor was welcoming back the troops
12 after the Persian Gulf and Desert Storm.

13 When they returned, the Governor
14 and I and Vice President and President we all had
15 an opportunity right here at O'Hare to talk to
16 these young men and women who had just returned
17 from battle, and in learning more about their
18 roles in these units, I learned firsthand how
19 absolutely vital the O'Hare side of this field is
20 to the recruitment that goes on on the military
21 side, because so many of these young men and women
22 actually came from the airlines on the other side
23 of the field.

24 There is a natural marriage between

1 the units here and the airlines, and so when it
2 comes to recruiting the best and the brightest
3 personnel, especially when it applies to the Air
4 Force and the flying men and women required for
5 these tasks, we have this great advantage right
6 here at O'Hare right here with these airlines.

7 For those reasons, and many others,
8 I believe that these units are among the nation's
9 best opportunities for recruiting talent and
10 keeping field positions. In this era of an all
11 volunteer fighting force, Illinois offers an ideal
12 strategic setting for attracting this talent and
13 this experience.

14 Simply put, these two units have
15 now met our military needs and are uniquely posed
16 to meet our future military needs as well.

17 The national interest time and
18 again rested on their shoulders. You have the
19 opportunity to keep those broad shoulders strong
20 for us and for all Americans.

21 I do thank you, once again, for
22 returning to Illinois and for allowing us to share
23 our views and for taking on this difficult task
24 that has been assigned to you.

1 because it specifically deals with the numbers.

2 It's the understanding of this
3 Commission that it cost the City of Chicago about
4 300 million to relocate and construct facilities
5 for the Air Force Reserve and the International
6 Guard units.

7 Does the City of Chicago identify
8 the funds to pay for that relocation of the
9 units?

10 DIRECTOR MOSENA: Sir, we -- as I mentioned
11 in my previous testimony, we are in the process of
12 doing that at this moment, and our deadline is
13 July of this year, as per the '93 B.R.A.C.
14 Commission. So we are still diligently at work
15 identifying those sources.

16 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: As sort of a follow-up,
17 Commissioner, have you located reservist sites? I
18 know you visited a number of them.

19 DIRECTOR MOSENA: We have reduced our eight
20 communities down to a short list of three. That
21 short list of three has been made public. That
22 includes Scott Air Force Base, Quad Cities and
23 Rockford as the three most likely hosts of
24 candidates.

1 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: One more follow-up, if I
2 might. If, in fact, this Commission, in a
3 hypothetical situation, would elect to close the
4 Air Reserve units, have you figured out what it
5 cost the City of Chicago or just to relocate the
6 International Guard?

7 DIRECTOR MOSENA: We have not. We do not
8 have a definitive answer to that, as alluded to in
9 my statement. It was an economic benefit to both
10 the military and to the city's financing cost, but
11 we do not have the definitive answer on that
12 cost. We are working on that virtually as we
13 speak.

14 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: When do you expect to
15 find that answer? By the end of July?

16 DIRECTOR MOSENA: By July.

17 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Unfortunately,
18 Mr. Chairman, that's a little late for us.

19 CHAIRMAN DIXON: Might I suggest to the
20 distinguished director of aviation for the city
21 that should there be further inquiries about this
22 we would probably be contacting your agency prior
23 to July 1, since statutorily, as my colleague,
24 Congressman Hyde, knows, we are required to give

1 this report to the President of the United States
2 not later than midnight on that date.

3 DIRECTOR MOSENA: Fine, Mr. Chairman.

4 CHAIRMAN DIXON: Pardon?

5 DIRECTOR MOSENA: We are working with the
6 deadline.

7 CHAIRMAN DIXON: July 1st is the deadline.

8 DIRECTOR MOSENA: We are working with the
9 July 1st deadline of the B.R.A.C. '93. We will do
10 everything we can to cooperate with the Commission
11 earlier.

12 CHAIRMAN DIXON: We thank you all. Are there
13 any further questions from the Commissioners?
14 Commissioner Steel, Commissioner Cornella?

15 (No verbal response.)

16 We are indebted to you all. We
17 thank you very much.

18 CONGRESSMAN HYDE: Thank you.

19 DIRECTOR MOSENA: Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN DIXON: Ladies and Gentlemen, we are
21 moving along rather rapidly. May I respectfully
22 inquire are the folks from Wisconsin all here?
23 Does it inconvenience you in any way to go ahead?
24 Because if it does, we, of course, would take a

1 slight break. The schedule shows you beginning at
2 9:40 and it's only 9:25. I do want to accommodate
3 you. Are you all here? Would it be comfortable
4 for you to go ahead now? Do you have any problem
5 with that?

6 We will take into account that it
7 might be difficult. Are you all ready?

8 LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR McCALLUM: We are.

9 CHAIRMAN DIXON: You are?

10 May I inquire, Congressman
11 Barrett, are you going to kind of be in charge of
12 your delegation here?

13 CONGRESSMAN BARRETT: Yes, I am.

14 CHAIRMAN DIXON: Then may I make this inquiry
15 on behalf of the Commission. Twenty-five minutes
16 has been assigned to Wisconsin. My agenda shows
17 that you will simply be your own judge of how you
18 divide that time among the six members of the
19 delegation representing Wisconsin. Am I correct
20 in that?

21 CONGRESSMAN BARRETT: That's correct.

22 CHAIRMAN DIXON: Thank you. And you heard me
23 say before, Congressman, that in your wisdom those
24 of you in the Congress changed the law to require

1 that we put everybody under oath. So would you
2 all stand and raise your right hands, please. Let
3 me see if I can find the oath around here. Thank
4 you.

5 (Witnesses sworn.)

6 Thank you very much.

7 My record shows Congressman
8 Tom Barrett, 5th Congressional District;
9 Lieutenant Colonel Crabtree, Group Vice Commander,
10 440 Airlift Wing Operation; Major Max H. Della
11 Pia, Tactics Officer and C-130 Pilot, 95th Airlift
12 Squadron; Peter Beitzel, Vice President, Business
13 Development, Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of
14 Commerce; Major General Robert McIntosh, Chief of
15 Air Force Reserve; Lieutenant Governor Scott
16 McCallum of Wisconsin.

17 I hope I did that fairly well, and,
18 if I didn't pronounce any of the names correctly
19 and anybody's a candidate for office, kindly
20 correct me so the record will be correct.

21 Congressman Barrett, we are
22 delighted to have you, sir.

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PRESENTATION

BY

CONGRESSMAN BARRETT:

Thank you very much, Commissioner.
I'm pleased and honored to be here on behalf of
the Wisconsin Congressional Delegation in support
of the 440th Airlift Wing.

I am joined today by Lieutenant
Colonel Eric Crabtree; Major Max Della Pia of 440;
Peter Beitzel of Business Development for the
Metropolitan Milwaukee Chamber of Commerce;
Lieutenant Governor Scott McCallum; Major General
Robert McIntosh, Commander of the United States
Air Force Reserve; Major General Jerry Slack, the
Adjutant General of Wisconsin; Milwaukee County
Executive, F. Thomas Ament; Lieutenant Colonel
Kevin Wentworth; Barry Bateman, General Mitchell
International Airport; and Ray Perry, Chairman of
the 440 Community Council.

I ask that the letters from United
States Senator Herb Kohl, Senator Russell
Feingold, Congressman Jerry Fosco, and a letter
from the congressional delegation be inserted in
the record.

1 CHAIRMAN DIXON: Those will be reproduced in
2 the record in full. Thank you.

3 CONGRESSMAN BARRETT: Thank you,
4 Mr. Chairman. I would like to highlight a few
5 points from Representative Kustra's statement.

6 Wisconsin offers the perfect
7 ingredient to recruit and recruit top grade and
8 Air Reserve units. We have a highly-educated
9 recruiting age population in Wisconsin.

10 Our local workforce, of which we
11 are very proud, provides skilled reservists
12 contributing to the overall readiness. Our active
13 and involved community council provides financial
14 and family support for reservists, and Wisconsin
15 is very proud and honored to have this key role in
16 maintaining our nation's defense.

17 As you know, Secretary of Defense
18 Les Aspen had planned to lead this delegation
19 today. Secretary Aspen understood the value of
20 the 440 as an integral part of our nation's
21 defense.

22 CHAIRMAN DIXON: May I interrupt by saying he
23 was an old and dear friend, a great American. We
24 are all sadden by his untimely death.

1 CONGRESSMAN BARRETT: I'm certain that you
2 are.

3 Almost 51 years ago the 440 was an
4 active participant in the D-Day invasion of
5 Normandy dropping paratroopers behind enemy
6 lines. The 440 answered the nation's call during
7 the Korean conflict, the Cuban Missile Crisis, the
8 Persian Gulf, war in Bosnia and Haiti.

9 Recently, I had the opportunity to
10 meet with Colonel Crabtree and other 440 aircrew
11 members shortly after they returned from a mission
12 in Bosnia. That experience for me reinforced my
13 assessment of the 440 as a vital component of
14 today's military.

15 Today the 440 is ready to be the
16 first to return to Bosnia as the lead airlift wing
17 in the event of an evacuation of United Nation's
18 peacekeepers.

19 The 440 has a strong and proud
20 tradition with an unwavering commitment to our
21 nation. We, in Wisconsin, are proud to continue
22 our support for the 440 as it faces the national
23 security in emergency response challenges for the
24 21st Century.

1 I would now like to introduce
2 Lieutenant Colonel Crabtree.

3 PRESENTATION

4 BY

5 LIEUTENANT COLONEL CRABTREE:

6 Chairman Dixon, Commissioners, I'm
7 happy to be here to present this important
8 information regarding the 440 Airlift Wing and the
9 great men and women of our unit and what they
10 contribute to the national defense of this
11 country.

12 I personally began my flying career
13 in 1975 in flying C-130FS for the last 15 years.
14 As you mentioned, I'm currently the operations
15 group vice commander of the 440, and in the next
16 few minutes I will discuss the great
17 accomplishments of the 440 in rodeo competition,
18 recruiting, mission readiness and drill world
19 missions.

20 In 1993, the 440 airlift wing team
21 showed the world what intermobility excellence is
22 all about. The 440 competed for six days from 61
23 other teams from the United States and 10 foreign
24 countries representing the Air Force, active duty

1 Air Guard and Air Force Reserve units, what's been
2 called the Olympics of the airlift, "the air
3 mobility rodeo."

4 The 440 airlift wing achieved what
5 no other airlift wing had ever done in the history
6 of that competition. It swept (phonetic) four
7 trophies for the best C-130 air crew, the best
8 C-130 air drop crew, the best C-130 wing, the best
9 aircraft wing and won the overall competition,
10 making the honors as the best air mobility wing,
11 making us unquestionably the best in the business
12 for what we do, and, of course, none of these
13 awards would have been possible to win without the
14 extraordinary qualified and motivated maintenance
15 personnel of the 440.

16 In 1996, our next opportunity to
17 compete again, I know we'll defend all of our
18 talents because we created the best of the best.

19 When it comes to recruiting, we are
20 in a unique and enviable position. We are unique
21 that we have unit members living in every single
22 federal congressional district throughout
23 Wisconsin. This clearly demonstrates the far
24 reaching impact of the 440 upon our state, as well

1 as the wide geographic diversity of our recruits.

2 On this slide the top numbers
3 represent the federal congressional districts and
4 the bottom numbers the number of personnel in that
5 district assigned to our unit.

6 We are unique also in that more
7 than 70 percent of the recruiting age of Wisconsin
8 residents are high school graduates. We are
9 unique in that Wisconsin recruits have a placement
10 of 96 percent on the armed services vocational
11 aptitude battery tests. We are unique in the 440
12 has consistently manned levels far exceeding the
13 Air Force Reserve average.

14 In fact, during the last 9 out of
15 10 years we manned over a hundred percent. This
16 is advantageous as it helps ensure the 440
17 maintains the highest combat readiness, a standard
18 we regularly seek and achieve.

19 By all measurements, the 440
20 airlift recruiting far outdistances all other
21 Reserve Air Force C-130 units, and we provided
22 statistics for the Commission to back up this
23 statement. All these exceptional people give us
24 the capability to demonstrate an unparalleled

1 degree of mission readiness.

2 In all my experience as a pilot,
3 I'm convinced that General Mitchell in Milwaukee
4 provides the least restricted and unapproached air
5 space one could hope for in a major airport in the
6 United States.

7 The airfield facilities at General
8 Mitchell are capable of supporting operations by
9 any Air Force aircraft in any type of weather
10 conditions, as demonstrated extensively during
11 Desert Storm when we deployed our aircraft and
12 crews and acted as a hub for transportation of
13 thousands of regional personnel for millions of
14 pounds of cargo.

15 It's not uncommon that other
16 metropolitan Air Force experience extensive air
17 traffic delays during peak hours and bad weather
18 conditions.

19 Over the years I can recall many
20 frustrated hours waiting in line to take off at
21 other reservists locations in larger airports.
22 Those hours are hours wasted on the ground rather
23 than in the air accomplishing the training for
24 which we were scheduled. In many instances,

1 valuable aviation training was lost during
2 shortcuts in the air to make a scheduled drop
3 time.

4 Milwaukee and the State of
5 Wisconsin are superb places to operate our C-130
6 aircraft.

7 Pete Beitzel, seated to my right
8 will speak more extensively about the quality and
9 value of flight training available and its
10 contribution to real world missions later.

11 The 440 C-130 aircraft is
12 compatible with any other C-130 aircraft that's in
13 the Air Force inventory. During Desert Storm the
14 C-130 aircraft lacked some of the systems that
15 active duty aircraft were equipped with
16 potentially limiting their equipment in combat
17 missions.

18 As soon as they returned, priority
19 was given to fix these shortfalls, and recently
20 our eight assigned C-130s received nine major
21 systems upgrade, the new station keeping equipment
22 systems, for instance, which permits us to fly in
23 any formation during bad weather. Now it's
24 possible for us to fly side by side in active duty

1 on large aircraft missions.

2 The unrestricted training
3 environment, in cooperation with local traffic
4 control facilities at Mitchell Field, allows us to
5 compete with the training crew members on this
6 system in half the scheduled time.

7 In at least one respect reserve
8 aircraft exceeded active duty aircraft in
9 capability as all other reserve aircraft are
10 modified with air defense and missile systems.
11 This makes them safer and more survivable in a
12 high threat environment in Central America or
13 Sarajevo.

14 With all this excellent and
15 well-maintained equipment, we, the 440, stand
16 ready to expand and take an even larger role in
17 the total defense picture. We can accept four
18 more C-130 aircraft on our ramps as it exist
19 today.

20 We have an additional 32 acres of
21 space available to expand and fuel capacity to
22 support even more training and contingency
23 missions.

24 The 440 aircraft wing stands ready

1 with its superb people and excellent location,
2 modern combat equipment to deliver any time,
3 anywhere, on time and on target. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN DIXON: Thank you. We have a short
5 video clip. We'd like to show some of our
6 operations.

7 (Whereupon, a video was
8 shown.)

9 PRESENTATION

10 BY

11 MAJOR DELLA PIA:

12 Mr. Commissioner, Mr. Chairman, I'm
13 proud to be here to represent the 440. My name is
14 Major Max Della Pia, and I'm currently an
15 instructor pilot with over 4300 hours of C-130
16 time.

17 And my purpose here today is to
18 describe to you what made those accomplishments
19 possible and how the unique opportunities for
20 training available at Milwaukee make us a prime
21 contributor to the nation's defense.

22 As long as assault landings include
23 tactical airlift and tactical air land, we must be
24 ready to perform and be trained in those missions.

1 Wisconsin currently provides eight
2 drop zones. One is accessible from two
3 directions. Another is circular allowing us a
4 tremendous amount of flexibility and variety in
5 training.

6 We also have two zones, tactical
7 shortfields, so to speak. One is at Ft. McCoy.
8 It's a dirt strip, and another is at Mosinee,
9 Central Wisconsin, and we also have one right
10 across the lake at Muskegon Airport, which
11 provides another opportunity to practice assault
12 landings.

13 Volk Field is an International
14 guard base that is also in close proximity to
15 Milwaukee. It draws flight units from across the
16 country and provides us additional opportunities
17 for unique training.

18 For example, sentry end (phonetic)
19 allow us to perform airlift operations with
20 Canadian forces from Edmonton and Trent to be
21 intercepted by aggressor aircraft, fighters
22 aircraft, to practice our basic maneuvers and our
23 tactics in proximity to Madison in route to Ft.
24 McCoy and Volk Field, allows us an opportunity to

1 perform fighter escort right in our backyard, so
2 to speak.

3 Wisconsin, as mentioned before, is
4 an uncongested flying environment that allows us
5 to notify the tower of our control takeoff,
6 seldom, seldom delayed more than a minute or two
7 at the most, never more than four or five minutes
8 at the outset, and that allows us to make better
9 use of our training time and not have to pad our
10 ground operations for these contingencies.

11 The very terrain around the Ft.
12 McCoy area also allows us the ability to practice
13 our training. Basic techniques make us more
14 survivable in contingency operations.

15 In summary, Wisconsin provides a
16 variety of unique training opportunities that
17 relate directly to the quality of our crews, their
18 ability to accomplish difficult missions and to
19 allow us to be confident whatever our mission.
20 Thank you.

21 PRESENTATION

22 BY

23 MR. BEITZEL:

24 Commissioners, Chairman Dixon, you

1 have heard and seen here why the 440 is such an
2 outstanding unit and why it is important to the
3 Department of Defense and the nation.

4 Milwaukee has unrestricted
5 airspace, unencroached land and airspace, an all
6 Air Force aircraft integral airport without
7 aircraft traffic, congestion or delays. This
8 enhances the military value of the 440. Few, if
9 any, other major air reserve stations can claim a
10 similar set of conditions in their airfield.

11 Milwaukee's Mitchell Airport is a
12 major hub for Federal Express, United Parcel
13 Service. This is in conjunction with the
14 commercial airlines operating out of Milwaukee
15 provide a superb pool of experienced, technical
16 and maintenance personnel from the 440 can draw
17 upon.

18 Milwaukee has reduced air landing
19 fees in the air force by some \$58,000 a year in a
20 cooperative agreement sharing with the fire
21 fighting protection. This increases the
22 cost-effectiveness of the air wing.

23 Even though Mitchell is a joint
24 civilian/military airport, the 440 does not use

1 the property. It owns it. As a result, the 440
2 has one of the lowest costs of operations of any
3 other air reserve station.

4 There is also economic impact on
5 Milwaukee should the base close. There will be
6 an -- in almost the case of almost every other
7 base here in Milwaukee, we expect a loss of
8 approximately 83.7 million. The 440 has
9 approximately 23 million payroll that contributes
10 to the local economy. This equates to a potential
11 economic impact of approximately 75.4 million
12 annually. There is an additional 8.3 million in
13 anticipated contract losses.

14 There also exist a number of
15 nonqualifiable losses which occur should the Air
16 Force close. General Mitchell Air Station is a
17 regional station for all federal communications
18 activities, the air station, the regional naval
19 disaster and medical assistance system responsible
20 for medical evacuations and treatment and
21 logistical support.

22 The 440 has served as a
23 cryptographic center for Wisconsin, Illinois, and
24 parts of Michigan.

1 In conclusion, Milwaukee's Mitchell
2 Airport's 440 air reserve wing is a strong
3 combination of people and talent and unmatched
4 conditions. The air station in Milwaukee should
5 not close but even increase in air reserve
6 operations. Thank you.

7 CONGRESSMAN BARRETT: Mr. Chairman, we are
8 pleased to have Governor Thompson in attendance
9 today. We are happy to have Governor McCallum
10 here.

11 CHAIRMAN DIXON: Governor McCallum, we are
12 delighted.

13 PRESENTATION

14 BY

15 GOVERNOR McCALLUM:

16 Thank you. Chairman Dixon, you and
17 the other Commissioners have heard and seen the
18 440 airlift wing, Wisconsin's own, is the best of
19 the best. It's trained and ready. It's prepared
20 to perform any mission, anywhere, any time.

21 The State of Wisconsin has and will
22 continue to support the 440 airlift wing, the Air
23 Force Reserve and the nation. Its mission
24 recruiting base has unsurpassed every

1 congressional district in the state represented in
2 the 440.

3 Our Ft. McCoy International Guard
4 field provide both joint training opportunities
5 and minimum resource expenditure for the 440 to
6 maintain its top-rated proficiency.

7 Milwaukee's General Mitchell
8 Airport provide all weather, unrestricted and
9 unencroached airspace, whether that be for
10 training missions or for real world contingency
11 missions. Milwaukee is an air, rail port and
12 highway transportation hub.

13 Our 440 airlift wing is truly the
14 best of the best for all of the above, and to that
15 end, the Wisconsin state assembly has unanimously
16 passed a resolution -- and, as you know, unanimous
17 is quite a feat -- unanimously passed a resolution
18 sponsored by State Assembly Woman Potter, which
19 states in part, quote, "Resolved by the assembly,
20 the Senate concurring, that the members of the
21 Wisconsin legislature oppose the closure of the
22 General Mitchell Air Reserve Station and
23 respectfully request that all members of the
24 Wisconsin delegation to the U.S. Congress support

1 efforts to maintain General Mitchell Air Reserve
2 Station and that they do whatever is necessary to
3 remove the General Mitchell Air Reserve Station
4 from consideration for closure by the Defense Base
5 Realignment and Closure Commission."

6 I'd like to have this entered in
7 the official record of these proceedings.

8 CHAIRMAN DIXON: Admitted into the record. We
9 thank you, Governor.

10 LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR McCALLUM: Chairman
11 Dixon, Commissioners, Air Force has stated that it
12 does not want to close the General Mitchell Air
13 Reserve Station.

14 The Department of Defense did not
15 recommend the 440 stand out, and the State of
16 Wisconsin remains fully committed to keeping the
17 operation of the 440 airlift wing in Milwaukee,
18 and we believe the B.R.A.C. Commission should too.

19 Just as the paratroopers of D-Day,
20 our soldiers in Desert Storm, forces in Bosnia
21 needed the 440, someone, somewhere tomorrow will
22 need Wisconsin's 440. Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN DIXON: Thank you, Governor
24 McCallum.

1 broad recruiting base in key population centers,
2 such as Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

3 Our high level of volunteer
4 activity since then has reinforced peacetime
5 reliance among having Air Force Reserve bases
6 where our experienced and dedicated citizens,
7 airmen and airwomen, live and work.

8 As we address recruiting challenges
9 into the next century, it is even more critical
10 that the Air Force Reserve maintain a presence in
11 Milwaukee.

12 Our operations there are affordable
13 and the track record of the unit is flawless,
14 excellence in supporting the Air Force, high marks
15 on inspections and competition and continuous
16 combat-readiness.

17 If the 440 is closed, we'll lose
18 numerous highly-skilled, experienced people. Once
19 those people leave the Air Force Reserve, our sunk
20 costs of training and professional development are
21 lost to the Air Force.

22 The Air Force continues to depend
23 on the Air Force Reserve to provide skilled
24 reserve forces on a daily basis. The Air Force

1 recalled and mobilized approximately 23,000 Air
2 Force Reserve warriors in the Gulf War. Thousands
3 of others served voluntarily. Since then
4 thousands of Air Force Reserve personnel have
5 participated in numerous contingencies around the
6 world each year.

7 The important Air Force Reserve
8 involvement in Air Force missions continues
9 today. In addition, Air Force Reserve bases
10 provide Air Force uniform presence in key
11 grassroot communities across America. As a
12 result, millions of citizens stay aware that the
13 U.S. military mission is a national priority.

14 In your difficult task, I strongly
15 urge the Base Closure and Realignment Commission
16 to not exceed the Air Force recommendation of no
17 more than one C-130 base. I also urge the
18 Commission to fully compare the viability of each
19 considered base.

20 As I said in my opening remarks,
21 all of our bases are cost-effective, well-manned,
22 combat-ready and are productive.

23 General Mitchell, Milwaukee,
24 Wisconsin, is serving one of our best locations

1 and its closure would be very unfortunate.

2 CHAIRMAN DIXON: Thank you, General McIntosh.

3 CONGRESSMAN BARRETT: Mr. Chairman, thank you
4 very much. That concludes our testimony. If you
5 have any questions.

6 CHAIRMAN DIXON: We are indebted to you,
7 Congressman Barrett, for an excellent presentation
8 by your entire group.

9 We are delighted to have
10 Commissioner Robles join us now. Any of the
11 commissioners have any questions of the State of
12 Wisconsin?

13 General Davis?

14 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: I have one comment and
15 one question that I think was made very clear by
16 General McIntosh.

17 First of all, I am an Air Force guy
18 and I'd like to congratulate the 440. That is not
19 an easy accomplishment. I have been to the rodeo
20 and that's a superb effort.

21 Secondly, General McIntosh, you did
22 say it is the Air Force reservist and United
23 States Air Force recommend only one C-130
24 closure?

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MAJOR GENERAL McINTOSH: That's correct, sir.

COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN DIXON: Thank you very much.

Commissioner Steele?

COMMISSIONER STEELE: I just want to thank all of you and your governor for the hospitality yesterday and your really effective presentation. Your hospitality took me to a new high. You gave me cough drops. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN DIXON: Thank you very much, Commissioner Steele.

Any further questions?

(No verbal response.)

Well, we are indebted to the State of Wisconsin for this fine presentation.

Governor McCallum, Congressman Barrett, all of you, thank you very much for coming.

CONGRESSMAN BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Commissioners.

CHAIRMAN DIXON: Now, Ladies and Gentlemen, these excellent presentations have been well within the time limitations.

May I inquire whether the folks

1 from Minnesota are here?

2 A VOICE: Yes.

3 CHAIRMAN DIXON: Mr. Shufryer, would you
4 please inquire and see whether they have their
5 full complement here. Are they prepared to go
6 forward at this time or is it inconvenient?

7 MR. SHUFRYER: They're ready.

8 CHAIRMAN DIXON: Then we are delighted to
9 have you come on up here.

10 Ms. Cherryhomes, may I inquire
11 respectfully are you leading the delegation?

12 MS. CHERRYHOMES: Yes.

13 CHAIRMAN DIXON: My records show that
14 Minnesota will divide its time 15 minutes for you,
15 Madam President, five minutes for Mr. Schulstad,
16 council member from Minneapolis City Council, and
17 five minutes again for Major McIntosh. Is he
18 getting a lot of time today.

19 General Davis?

20 GENERAL DAVIS: General McIntosh.

21 CHAIRMAN DIXON: What did I say? I'm so
22 sorry for demoting you, General McIntosh.

23 MAJOR GENERAL McINTOSH: I didn't expect to
24 make major as a matter of fact.

1 CHAIRMAN DIXON: Thank you very much.

2 Would you all be kind -- you have
3 been sworn before, General McIntosh --
4 Ms. Cherryhomes and Mr. Schulstad, raise your
5 right hands.

6 (Witnesses sworn.)

7 Thank you very much.

8 We are delighted to have with us
9 President Jackie Cherryhomes of the Minneapolis
10 City Council. Madam President?

11 PRESENTATION

12 BY

13 MS. CHERRYHOMES:

14 Thank you very much, Commissioner
15 and Members of the Commission. In Minneapolis we
16 were displeased to hear a formal decision to
17 recommend closure of the 934 airlift wing would
18 take place in late June; nevertheless, we
19 appreciate your willingness to hold this regional
20 hearing so we can present our reasons for urging
21 you to reconsider that recommendation.

22 The 934 has been a part of our
23 community for almost 50 years with a \$31 million
24 budget, an economic impact of over 70 million in

1 the Minneapolis area, and we are not going to let
2 it go easily if we can help it.

3 Before I begin my formal remarks, I
4 need to tell you a little about myself. This is a
5 very strange event for me to be at. I am a child
6 of the 60s. I was raised as a Quaker and I cut my
7 political teeth on being an anti-Vietnam
8 activist.

9 You would have told me 20 or 25
10 years ago that I would be speaking in favor of not
11 closing a military base, I would have told you you
12 were probably insane, but, as I have grown and as
13 I matured, I learned that the world is a much more
14 complicated place than it was when I was 17 or 18
15 years -- or 19 or 20 years old.

16 I learned the great benefit that
17 the military does bring to our society and the
18 great need for it in our society, and, as
19 president of Minneapolis' City Council, I'm here
20 to tell you that the 934 is very important to the
21 economic well-being of the City of Minneapolis,
22 the region and the State of Minneapolis.

23 Let me tell you a little about
24 Minneapolis. We have a population of

1 approximately 368,000 people. Minneapolis is the
2 larger city between Chicago and the West Coast.
3 There are approximately 2.3 million people living
4 in our metro area, and our population grew by 15.3
5 percent during the 1980s making us one of the
6 fastest growing areas in the United States.

7 With ten colleges and universities
8 within our borders, we can provide recruiting
9 grounds for which we believe is unparalleled by any
10 other city of our size. We are less accessible
11 from any point in the world by way of our
12 excellent international airport.

13 Any time there was a quality of
14 life survey done by just about anybody,
15 Minneapolis consistently rates at or near the
16 top. We are the cultural hub of the midwest with
17 over 130 art galleries, 20 classical music groups,
18 15 museums, 9 dance companies and more theatres
19 per capita than any other U.S. city, except New
20 York.

21 When we hosted the National League
22 of Cities Conference, delegates from all over the
23 country complimented us repeatedly for what a
24 safe, clean, friendly and well-run city we have.

1 Our crime rate is about 20 percent
2 below the national average, and we have the
3 top-rated educational system, the highest
4 percentage of secondary school graduates in the
5 country.

6 Last year Minneapolis' mayor and
7 city council sat down and developed what we call
8 our direction for framework for the city. We
9 identified our goals for our city, and one of the
10 highest goals that we had and one of the things
11 that we really needed to focus on was to ensure
12 diverse economy that creates needed job
13 opportunities within the city. The 934
14 contributes to that diverse successful economy
15 that we are building with over 70 million to our
16 local economy.

17 The 934 provides over 500 people
18 with full-time jobs in our community, about 150 of
19 those live within the City of Minneapolis. It
20 also provides 1,200 reservists with part-time jobs
21 and a base that makes a substantial contribution
22 to our economy.

23 You believe in a good strong work
24 ethic and so do we. In Minneapolis our

1 productivity and -- Minnesota is a good 13 percent
2 above the national average. We can provide you
3 with, and we do provide you with, committed, hard
4 working, responsible, loyal workers who give the
5 government their money's worth. You can't find
6 this in just any city.

7 To put a more human side on what
8 the 934 does for us, I want to talk about three
9 individuals who will be potentially affected by
10 the closing of the base there. These people will
11 lose much needed income and will be virtually
12 impossible to transfer to another unit because the
13 next base is in Milwaukee about 400 miles from
14 Minneapolis.

15 One of the people who serve at the
16 934 is Master Sergeant Jim Walton. He's also a
17 bus driver for our local bus company. He's been
18 supplementing his income in the reserves by the
19 934 for the last 14 years. He has kids in grad
20 school, and he says that the extra \$400 he makes a
21 month at the base helps his family make ends
22 meet.

23 He bought a home in the City of
24 Minneapolis where he's close to the base and was

1 planning to continue doing reserve work there for
2 another 16 years.

3 He says it doesn't seem fair to
4 close the 934 because some states have a lot of
5 bases and Minnesota has just one, plus he says the
6 934 does more with less than any of the other
7 bases. It currently has the lowest operating
8 budget of Fiscal Year 1995.

9 Another person who will be affected
10 by the closing, Master Sergeant Tim Turner, who's
11 worked for 14 years to involve the Minneapolis
12 community with the 934.

13 Master Sergeant Turner has helped
14 arrange trips for high school students, civic
15 organizations and community leaders. Each year
16 his office puts a group of Minneapolis civic
17 leaders on the plane and take them on an overnight
18 stay to a military base. The Air Force has helped
19 the community become involved in over 500
20 full-time and 1200 part-time positions of the 934.

21 Mr. Turner says listen to your
22 community before you make a decision to close the
23 base. Don't make that decision simply for a
24 number of crunch reasons.

1 We also have 12 disabled
2 Minneapolis residents who receive their only
3 income each week from the 934. These residents
4 work for a company called "Tasks Unlimited
5 Janitorial Service." Their jobs cleaning the base
6 keep them off disability and welfare income.

7 Since most of these workers don't
8 have drivers' licenses, they rely on public
9 transportation and the bus system for their jobs,
10 there's no guarantee. Their jobs could be
11 replaced says director of revocational services
12 for Tasks Unlimited.

13 We believe these jobs are good jobs
14 for these people. They like the work. People are
15 nice, and it helps mainstream their employees.
16 Closing the base would reduce the revenue to Tasks
17 Unlimited by over \$233,000 and would certainly
18 impact these 12 employees.

19 In conclusion, we, in Minneapolis,
20 cannot -- simply cannot let the 934 go. We cannot
21 afford it. The region cannot afford it, and maybe
22 you can't afford it either, because we believe you
23 will be losing committed, hard working,
24 responsible and loyal workers. We give the

1 government more than its money worth, which is
2 something you may not be able to get elsewhere.

3 So on behalf of Mayor Sharon Sayles
4 Belton, the Minneapolis City Council, the
5 employees of the 934 and the Minneapolis
6 businesses who serve them, I ask you to
7 reconsider. I ask you to remain a part of our
8 community. We value your contributions, and
9 Minneapolis stands ready to assist you in any way
10 we can to keep you there. Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN DIXON: Well, thank you very much
12 for that fine statement, President Cherryhomes.

13 And we are delighted to have
14 Mr. Dennis Schulstad, correct?

15 MR. SCHULSTAD: That's correct.

16 CHAIRMAN DIXON: We are delighted to have
17 you, sir.

18 PRESENTATION

19 BY

20 MR. SCHULSTAD:

21 Thank you very much. It does my
22 heart good to hear Council President Jackie
23 Cherryhomes make a statement like that, because
24 Minneapolis is not really known for its defense

1 support. In fact, Minneapolis' city council, of
2 which I am a member, voted 12 to one to not enter
3 the Gulf conflict and sent that resolution on to
4 the President.

5 As usual, I was the one because I'm
6 the unusual person on the city council in that I
7 am also a member of the Air Force Reserve. I'm
8 not a member of the 934. I'm assigned to Langley
9 Air Force Base in Virginia where I'm headquartered
10 at Combat Command.

11 What it shows when somebody like
12 Council President Jackie Cherryhomes is supporting
13 this base it shows the depth of feeling in our
14 community for the 934. This is a very, very
15 important part of our area.

16 I'd like to discuss for just a
17 couple of minutes a little more about the
18 Minneapolis, St. Paul metropolitan area.

19 As Jackie reported to you, it's
20 about 2-1/2 million people in size, but it's
21 really rather quite remarkable. In that
22 relatively small metropolitan area when we look at
23 nationwide, we're the headquarters and the home
24 for 33 Fortune 500 companies, including several

1 defense companies, like Honeywell, Control Data,
2 3M, and, of course, Northwest Airlines played such
3 a major role in the draft program. I will talk
4 later about why that is so significant to
5 retaining the 934.

6 We are the fourteenth largest media
7 market in the United States, and that is very
8 important in trying to build support for our
9 national defense in an area that really doesn't
10 have much defense exposure.

11 We are an area that -- that has
12 fields of teams, major league teams and baseball,
13 football, basketball. We are the only city in the
14 United States that has hosted in one year, and, in
15 fact, in six months, a World Series, an NCAA, a
16 Super Bowl.

17 And, in fact, today I feel like
18 when we went to ask the Super Bowl to be played in
19 our area, it was a testimony much like this. For
20 a while I was the commander of the Air Force
21 Academy, and to think from a community like this
22 we would not do very well in competing to get
23 people into the academy because we really don't
24 have much military exposure in our community.

1 What has happened is based upon our
2 population the State of Minnesota should have 27
3 or 28 people selected each year. Our lowest year
4 in the last ten we had 43 people. We have been as
5 high as 65. We have led the nation in having
6 people selected to the Air Force Academy. That's
7 not an accident. It's a result of the very high
8 quality of education in Minnesota.

9 Council President Cherryhomes
10 mentioned that we have a high graduation rate,
11 indeed, the highest graduation rate in the United
12 States, and the people graduated from those
13 schools also have an incredibly high work ethic,
14 and that's one of the reasons all of these Fortune
15 500 companies chose to be headquartered in a state
16 that taxes them at a very high rate, and we are
17 noted for very cold weather, and, yet, they still
18 choose to be there because of that high quality
19 work force, and that's what the Air Force is
20 benefiting from also.

21 For all of this, we have no active
22 duty bases in the State of Minnesota, no Army, no
23 Navy, no Air Force. We used to have an Air Force
24 base in Duluth, and that was closed some years

1 ago.

2 All we have are a couple of
3 International Guard units and the 934 from the Air
4 Force Reserve, and, as a result, the 934 is called
5 on to provide administrative support and other
6 support for all of the 12,000 retirees in our
7 community for the -- for all of the other military
8 people, like me, for example, who do my duty
9 elsewhere, but I have to get my administrative
10 support right out of the 934.

11 We also have a very modern
12 veteran's hospital, which is a regional leader,
13 and the veterans and their families going into
14 that hospital get support from the 934. There are
15 21 joint-used facilities that are shared with
16 other customers from the Army, Navy and Air Force
17 and Marine Corp. right out at the 934.

18 So as the reserve expands its role
19 in national defense with the reduction in active
20 duty bases, when an active duty base closes, the
21 people can move. They can move to another
22 location.

23 When the reserves close, then you
24 lose the people. They are not able to move to

1 another location as readily as the -- as the
2 active duty people would, and so the 934 is
3 exceptional -- and the fact that it excels is no
4 accident at all to us.

5 The reason is because the people in
6 Minneapolis who work at Honeywell, who work at
7 Northwest Airlines, who work at 3M are exactly the
8 type of people we need running the Air Force
9 Reserve at this time, and if we were to lose the
10 934, the Air Force would be losing those people
11 and, make no mistake about that, they are not able
12 to travel to the other states, and we don't have
13 any other active bases. We don't have any other
14 alternatives for them to go to. So the 934 has
15 been at the cutting edge of environmental issues.

16 I represented the area right next
17 to the reserve base over the past 20 years. The
18 people in my community are very pleased to have
19 the 934 there. They have participated with
20 distinction in Panama, Bosnia, Sarajevo, Cuba,
21 Desert Storm/Desert Shield. It's a unit that the
22 people of Minnesota are very proud of, and we hope
23 to keep them right in Minneapolis.

24 At this time I'd like to ask

1 General McIntosh to share his feelings about the
2 934 being located in the Minneapolis, St. Paul
3 metropolitan area.

4 CHAIRMAN DIXON: Thank you, Mr. Schulstad.

5 We are delighted to have General
6 McIntosh.

7 PRESENTATION

8 BY

9 MAJOR GENERAL McINTOSH:

10 Chairman Dixon, I have to comment
11 here that I probably have the best job in the Air
12 Force, as you can tell, because I have so many
13 good organizations that remain viable in combat
14 readiness; 934 is certainly one of those. All of
15 our C-130 bases are.

16 I would ask your indulgence. You
17 will hear a lot of repetition what you heard in
18 previous testimony. You will notice from Dennis'
19 testimony that he did not throw up a lot of
20 statistics concerning the base. That was covered
21 in the local visit. I'll say that its combat
22 readiness, its facilities, its Air Force and its
23 cost-effectiveness are the same as all the rest of
24 our C-130 bases.

1 As I said before, in our C-130
2 analysis we sought an opportunity for savings
3 through consolidation, yet, we know the importance
4 of maintaining a delicate balance between
5 infrastructure, reduction and demographic
6 diversity.

7 Experience during Desert Storm and
8 Shield validated the importance of maintaining a
9 broad recruiting base in key populated centers,
10 such as Minneapolis.

11 Our high level of volunteer
12 activity since then has reinforced peacetime
13 reliance of having Air Force Reserve bases where
14 our experienced and dedicated citizens, airmen and
15 airwomen, live and work.

16 As we address recruiting challenges
17 in the next century, it is even more critical that
18 the Air Force Reserve maintain a presence in
19 Minneapolis.

20 Our operations there are affordable
21 and the track record of the unit is flawless,
22 excellent support of the Air Force on a daily
23 basis, high combat-readiness, good inspection
24 results.

1 The 934 airlift wing -- if the 934
2 airlift wing is closed, we'll lose numerous
3 highly-skilled, experienced people. Once those
4 people leave the Air Force Reserve, our sunk costs
5 of training and professional development are lost
6 to the Air Force.

7 As I said before, the Air Force
8 continues on a daily basis to depend on the Air
9 Force reserve to provide skilled reservists and
10 reserve forces around the world. That important
11 Air Force Reserve involvement is augmenting the
12 Air Force continuously.

13 In addition, Air Force Reserve
14 bases provide Air Force uniform presence in key
15 grassroot communities across America. As a
16 result, many of the citizens stay aware of the
17 military mission and they stay aware the military
18 mission must be a national priority.

19 I urge the Commission to fully
20 compare the viability of each considered base, as
21 I said before. As I said in my opening remarks,
22 all of our bases are cost-effective, well-manned,
23 combat-ready and productive.

24 Minneapolis, Minnesota, is

1 certainly one of the best locations and its
2 closure would be very unfortunate. Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN DIXON: Well, thank you very much,
4 General McIntosh, for that fine presentation. We
5 thank you for your very fine presentation,
6 President Cherryhomes, and as well as
7 Mr. Schulstad.

8 Are any of my colleagues interested
9 in asking any questions of the Minnesota
10 delegation? Commissioner Cornella, who also comes
11 from a cold climate, may I say.

12 COMMISSIONER CORNELLA: Well, we are
13 neighbors up in Minnesota, but I would like to
14 make a comment, and certainly in a respectful
15 manner, I would ask that you not take any
16 disrespect to, Ms. Cherryhomes.

17 About the time that you were
18 evidently demonstrating against the Vietnam War, I
19 was an 18-year-old kid that was in Vietnam and
20 feeling very much abandoned in someways by the
21 country. Picketers of the stars and strips at the
22 time in Arizona State were standing underneath the
23 Vietnam flag on campus making a speech.

24 So I want to say to you, not being

1 a recent convert to the belief in national defense
2 of our country, that I would hope in the future
3 that the Minneapolis City Council, seeing as how
4 they have been converted, would show great support
5 in regard to national defense and the foreign
6 policies of our country. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN DIXON: Commissioner Cornella's
8 remarks are in the record.

9 Any other commissioners have a
10 question?

11 (No verbal response.)

12 We are indebted to all of you for
13 that fine presentation on behalf of the State of
14 Minnesota. Thank you very much.

15 Now may I respectfully inquire are
16 the folks from Ohio here in their full
17 complement? Would Mr. Shufryer see whether the
18 distinguished congressman from the 17th District,
19 Congressman James Traficant, Jr., is here, Dr. Gil
20 Peterson, Mr. Reid Dulberger, Lieutenant Colonel
21 RePucci, and General McIntosh we know is here.
22 General McIntosh is here again. We are all
23 delighted to have you here.

24 We recognize Congressman James A.

1 Traficant, Jr., from the 17th Congressional
2 District of Ohio, to go forward from the State of
3 Ohio. We are pleased to have you, sir.

4 Pardon me. I apologize for this,
5 Congressman, but, as you know, the congress
6 changed the law with respect to this, and now I'm
7 obligated to ask you all to stand and raise your
8 right hands, anyone that's going to testify for
9 your delegation that has not previously been
10 sworn.

11 (Witnesses sworn.)

12 Thank you very kindly. We are
13 delighted to have Congressman Traficant from the
14 17th District. Congressman Traficant?

15 CONGRESSMAN TRAFICANT: Thank you, Chairman.
16 We will yield to Lieutenant Colonel James Repucci,
17 who will make the opening remarks. I will be last
18 and General McIntosh will sere right in the midst
19 of us.

20 CHAIRMAN DIXON: Thank you, Congressman
21 Traficant.

22 Lieutenant Colonel Repucci?

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PRESENTATION

BY

LIEUTENANT COLONEL REPUCCI:

Good morning, Mr. Chairman,
distinguished Members of the Commission. Thank
you for the opportunity to be here today to
present to you information about the reserve
station.

CHAIRMAN DIXON: May I interrupt you,
please. Colonel, would you mind bringing the mike
a little closer, your microphone in front of you,
sir. I'm worried that the reporter might miss
some of your remarks. Can you get it even closer.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL REPUCCI: Yes.

CHAIRMAN DIXON: Thank you, sir. I'm sorry
to interrupt. We will not deduct it from your
time.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL REPUCCI: Thank you again
for the opportunity to be here and to present to
you information about the Youngstown-Arizona
station that you have not already heard.

We believe that this information
about the superb wing it serves will be extremely
helpful to the Commission in making those

1 difficult and critical decisions that will have
2 significant and lasting impact upon our national
3 defense.

4 Having myself served on the active
5 duty in the Air Force and the National Guard and
6 Air Force Reserve for a period of about 25 years,
7 and during that period of time having had the
8 opportunity to visit or serve at many of our fine
9 military installations, I can appreciate the
10 difficult task that you face.

11 Yesterday at the Youngstown Reserve
12 station the 910 airlift wing commander, his staff,
13 along with our local civilian leaders presented a
14 series of comprehensive briefings to General
15 Davis. We believe the information in those
16 presentations clearly demonstrates the exceptional
17 military value provided by Youngstown.

18 From the numerous attributes
19 presented to General Davis and his staff
20 yesterday, attributes that we believe have made
21 and continue to make Youngstown an outstanding
22 facility today, facility of tomorrow, I submit to
23 you the following key points regarding the
24 availability and condition of land facilities and

1 airspace in Youngstown: I would point out the
2 land in Youngstown, Arizona is fully-owned or
3 leased at no cost by DOD. Available adjacent
4 acreage gives us the potential to double in size.

5 Also, I would point out that our
6 facilities are in outstanding condition; 86
7 percent of the buildings in Youngstown have been
8 constructed or upgraded within the last ten years,
9 nearly 90 percent in condition Code 1 and less
10 than one percent condition are in Code 3.

11 So far as access to airspace is
12 concerned, our air crews have virtually
13 unrestricted access to the local traffic pattern
14 and approximately 73,000 square miles of low
15 altitude training area.

16 The accessibility of the airport
17 traffic pattern is reflected in the fact that our
18 airfield is currently operating at 40 percent
19 capacity. In fact, our pattern in Youngstown is a
20 training magnet for nearby military flying units.

21 Turning now to the ability to
22 accommodate contingency, immobility and future
23 total force requirements, we believe the
24 facilities in place in Youngstown can meet any

1 present contingency or mobilization needs.

2 What perhaps speaks most dramatic
3 is our ability to accommodate total force
4 requirements now and in the future expansion that
5 is currently occurring now in Youngstown. We have
6 expansion of facilities, expansion of aircraft,
7 expansion of personnel, expansion of mission.

8 Our facilities have or are
9 expanding to include airspray mission facilities,
10 only one of its kind, and the Department of
11 Defense contributes to our defense to provide
12 spray operations throughout the world.

13 In addition to that, we have an
14 add-on to our combat response training complex, a
15 mission storage facility and aircraft maintenance
16 hanger and a shortfield runway, another unique
17 facility at Youngstown. This is the only
18 shortfield located at a reserve base.

19 As you are aware, the number of
20 tactical airlift squadrons at Youngstown increased
21 to two making the 910 the largest C-130 wing with
22 16 assigned aircraft squadrons.

23 In conjunction with that, our
24 authorized personnel has increased to nearly 1500

1 and wartime mission include the aerospray;
2 however, I point out to the Commission that our
3 future is not limited to the tremendous expansion
4 that is happening now at Youngstown.

5 The availability of over 300 acres
6 of adjacent land allows us great flexibility in
7 meeting force requirements today, tomorrow, and we
8 believe well into the next century.

9 This potential is made not only
10 more real but more affordable by the plan
11 presently being promoted by our regional port
12 authority, the Ohio Department of Transportation.
13 This plan proposes significant expansion of all of
14 our airport facilities.

15 I'd like to turn now to current and
16 future mission requirements and the impact on
17 operational readiness. To accommodate future
18 expanding mission requirements, we believe
19 Youngstown is ideally situated to ensure a high
20 level of recruitment retention through the radius
21 of 75 miles of six major population centers with
22 excellent road access to Youngstown. Also, within
23 that 75-mile radius, we have a population of
24 nearly 7 million.

1 We have a superb record for
2 retention at Youngstown, historic retention rate
3 average between 95 and a hundred percent, which is
4 well above and far exceed other quotas and
5 criteria.

6 In addition to recruitment and
7 retention, the exceptional quality of training we
8 can provide at Youngstown we believe greatly
9 enhances operation readiness. We believe our
10 location, facilities offer outstanding
11 opportunities for aircrews to train in tactical
12 ability in airspray (sic) missions.

13 It has been mentioned about
14 aircrews' easy and virtually unlimited access to
15 the local traffic pattern in low altitude training
16 areas.

17 In addition to Youngstown, there
18 are other quality training sites and areas close
19 by, such as three survey drop zones within 60
20 miles from us, 21,000 acre spray training area
21 within 20 miles of us, dispersement application
22 training area over Lake Erie and by the end of
23 this year a shortfield landing strip.

24 Regarding cost and manpower

1 implications, I would state that because the
2 Commission's data survey is directed to facilities
3 rather than missions, little has been said about
4 our spray mission.

5 To say that aerospray (sic) is
6 unique with the Department of Defense is not
7 enough. Spray mission is also very technical and
8 extremely hazardous. A great deal of skill and
9 knowledge and experience is required to operate
10 the spray mission safely and effectively.

11 The average spray experience among
12 unqualified members at Youngstown is 8.3 years,
13 senior member has approximately 13 years of
14 mission experience, senior technician has 16 years
15 spray experience, as does our senior
16 enthymologist.

17 The mission was relocated from
18 Rickenback to Youngstown in January of 1992.
19 Attrition rate among spray aircrew was 25 percent,
20 among spray maintenance personnel was 66 percent.

21 I would suggest to the Commission
22 that relocating the aerospray mission again will
23 further jeopardize that essential spray base
24 experience and we believe negatively impact

1 operational readiness, in addition to
2 specially-trained aerospray personnel, unique
3 maintenance recovery facilities required to ensure
4 compliance and strict environmental regulations
5 under which we must operate.

6 Our \$52 million spray maintenance
7 facility is especially designed to house nearly \$8
8 million of spray equipment. Facilities
9 specifically designed to release contaminants in
10 the air and groundwater and specifically designed
11 to allow development and test new equipment
12 modifications does just that.

13 This facility ensures
14 environmentally safe and effective pre- and
15 post-mission operations. This is a one-of-a-kind
16 facility we believe will have to be replaced in
17 any relocation site to avoid serious degradation
18 of operation readiness of the spray mission.

19 I would point out that other
20 factors, such as the extent and timing of
21 potential cost and savings, may make Youngstown
22 the least attractive candidate for closure.

23 Data available to the Commission
24 shows that Youngstown has low annual operating

1 budgets and we believe next to the lowest
2 projected annual savings after closing.

3 If the cost of relocating 16 rather
4 than 8 aircraft, replicating the aerospace
5 maintenance facility, relocating spray personnel,
6 constructing a new shortfield runway factors in,
7 the cost of closing Youngstown may be the highest.

8 In the alternative, comparing
9 Youngstown with other 8 PAA units, associated
10 personnel, our MILCON avoidance figure is among
11 the lowest.

12 Mr. Chairman and distinguished
13 Members of the Commission, in reviewing this
14 information, which we presented here today, and,
15 again, was presented yesterday to General Davis,
16 please consider that currently at Youngstown Air
17 Reserve Station we have outstanding facilities,
18 low operating costs, a very large expansion
19 capacity, easy access to local airspace and nearby
20 training areas.

21 We also have a unique air spray
22 mission support facility, the only shortfield
23 runway at a reserve base and a large population
24 base to met current and future expansion needs.

1 All this supports the largest C-130
2 wing in the Air Force. These outstanding elements
3 of military value, combined with our most
4 important asset, superb and talented and dedicated
5 group of men and women of our steel valley, and
6 outstanding support that we get from our
7 congressional and local leaders in support of our
8 air base, make Youngstown Air Station the most
9 viable candidate for continued operations in
10 support of our national defense objectives.

11 We sincerely hope that the
12 information that we have presented yesterday and
13 presenting today regarding the outstanding value
14 of Youngstown will assist you in making the
15 difficult choices that face you.

16 The synopsis of this information
17 addressing all aspects of the base closure
18 selection criteria is found in our 1995 B.R.A.C.
19 review book for Youngstown along with a video,
20 which we would like to present to you.

21 Thank you, sir, for your time and
22 consideration.

23 CHAIRMAN DIXON: Thank you for that fine
24 presentation, Colonel Repucci.

1 And we are delighted to hear again
2 from General McIntosh.

3 PRESENTATION

4 BY

5 MAJOR GENERAL McINTOSH:

6 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said
7 before, Youngstown is typical in terms of
8 statistics on readiness, airspace and facilities.

9 I would like to note though due to
10 aggressive facilities upgrade, project and
11 planning over the last eight years, Youngstown has
12 become facility-wide certainly one of our show
13 places and one of our best in the Air Force
14 Reserve when it comes to facilities, and I also
15 endorse the comments made earlier about the
16 uniqueness of its spray mission has made that a
17 safe mission and uniqueness of the experience
18 level of aircrews to perform the spray mission.

19 Experience during Desert Shield and
20 Desert Storm valid the importance of maintaining a
21 broad recruiting base in the key population
22 centers, such as Youngstown, Ohio. High level of
23 voluntary activities has reinforced peaktime
24 relevance and making Air Force Reserve bases --

1 for placing reserve -- Air Force Reserve bases
2 where our experienced and dedicated citizens,
3 airmen and airwomen, live and work.

4 As we address training challenges
5 into the next century, it's even more critical
6 that the Air Force Reserve maintain a presence in
7 Youngstown, Ohio.

8 Our operations there are
9 affordable, track record of the unit is absolutely
10 flawless, excellent support of the Air Force on a
11 daily basis, high marks on inspections and
12 continuous combat-readiness.

13 The 910 -- if the 910 airlift wing
14 is closed, we will lose numerous highly-skilled
15 experienced people. Once those people leave the
16 Air Force, our sunk costs of training and
17 professional development are lost.

18 The Air Force continues to depend
19 on the Air Force Reserve to provide skilled
20 reserve forces on a daily basis.

21 In addition, Air Force Reserve
22 bases provide Air Force uniform presence in key
23 grassroot communities across America. As a
24 result, millions of citizens stay aware that the

1 U. S. military mission is a national priority.

2 I urge the Commission to fully
3 compare the viability of each considered base, as
4 I said before, and in my opening remarks, all of
5 our bases are cost-effective, well-manned,
6 combat-ready and are productive.

7 Youngstown, Ohio, is serving one of
8 our best locations and its closure would be very
9 unfortunate. Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN DIXON: Thank you, General McIntosh,
11 for that fine contribution, and we are delighted
12 to have the distinguished congressman from the
13 17th District of Ohio, James A. Traficant, Jr.

14 Jim, we are delighted.

15 PRESENTATION

16 BY

17 CONGRESSMAN TRAFICANT:

18 Thank you, Chairman, and good to
19 see General Davis here today. We enjoyed his
20 visit. I want to thank him for taking the time,
21 even though I'm sure he has seen enough, to visit
22 with every one of our military personnel and
23 reservists that was scheduled on this site visit,
24 taking the time to visit with them. I want to

1 thank you for that. A lot of times visitors come
2 in and they sort of see what they have to see and
3 leave. I want to thank you.

4 Chairman, I would ask -- I have a
5 written report I asked to have it be sent here
6 that it be incorporated in its entirety into the
7 minutes and record of this meeting.

8 CHAIRMAN DIXON: And it will be reproduced in
9 full.

10 CONGRESSMAN TRAFICANT: And I would then
11 prefer to speak directly to you on several issues
12 that I think are very important.

13 City of Youngstown, as you know,
14 the third largest steel producing region in the
15 country, lost its steel mills. The City of
16 Youngstown controls the airport. The airport was
17 never connected to the freeway. There was a lot
18 of mismanagement.

19 One of the concerns been brought
20 forth in the last ten years is the fiscal and
21 financial viability of that airport.

22 I want to advise this panel that
23 over the last several years we have regionalized
24 our airport. Now both Mahoney and Trumbull

1 County, the two major counties in which this
2 airport sits, is now financially solvent. There
3 is now created a port authority, the West Reserve
4 Port Authority, whose management program has been
5 fantastic and has been brought forward by other
6 testimony here.

7 We are an unusual airport. The
8 near proximity to Pittsburg and Cleveland where
9 all the air traffic is and all the passengers are
10 takes everybody and has, in fact, decimated the
11 passenger service at Youngstown.

12 So here we have a tremendous
13 infrastructure basically sitting unused and
14 underutilized that now is under proper management,
15 and with small fees and other tradeoffs there is
16 total utilization and access by one of the finest
17 reserve systems in our country, the 910.

18 Green fields are all around it. We
19 are already working on a master plan to review
20 land acquisition. We have been able to work out
21 an arrangement with the State of Ohio who's joined
22 in partnership with our new port authority to
23 designate that airport as a future international
24 air cargo jet port, and I'm currently working on

1 legislation and funding that would expand the
2 runways up to 15,000 feet and currently working
3 with several freight forwarders to bring them in
4 to begin that process.

5 The point I want to make, first of
6 all, is the airport in the host community is
7 absolutely strong. It is solvent. It is a good
8 cost-effective base.

9 Second of all, I want to talk about
10 commitment. I don't know how many of you know
11 this, but, Senator, in the last administration
12 they had a consolidation of defense -- defense
13 finance accounting services and they said we'll
14 give you the jobs, you give us the incentives.

15 The Mahoney Valley was the only
16 community in America to pass and approve a tax to
17 support the building of a facility to house 7,000
18 workers on a hundred acres donated to the
19 Pentagon, complete furnishings, the roof, parking
20 lot scheduled to be upgraded every ten years, all
21 utilities paid and their phone bill paid, the only
22 community who dedicated \$600 million over 30 years
23 to the Pentagon for that tradeoff and make a
24 commitment to improve all of the roads and access

1 and egress into that property.

2 So the point I'm making is you have
3 a community here, tremendous work force,
4 tremendous infrastructure, no one was using it.

5 In 1984 we had eight old C-130Bs
6 flying boxcars and I knew some day we would be
7 here before you or some panel like you with old
8 buildings.

9 In the last 10 years 91 percent of
10 all buildings are new. This is the model base in
11 the country, and I think if you would confer with
12 General McIntosh in private he may admit to that
13 because 91 percent of those buildings are new or
14 completely renovated. The aerial spray building
15 is the only one of its kind in the world and it
16 houses one of the most efficient units in all of
17 America.

18 I'm not going to get into the
19 military side, but our commitment is there. The
20 airport and the strength of the air force, the
21 financial solvency and the commitment of the
22 community to support the airport is without
23 question and it is growing in leaps and bounds,
24 growing very favorably. Naturally there is an

1 excess of a \$30 million economic impact in the
2 base, the fifth largest employer in Trumbull
3 County.

4 I think there was another issue, as
5 a former colleague, the environment in the
6 Pentagon. There is not one environmental problem
7 of any significance on that base.

8 In fact, the Pentagon at the
9 highest level is so impressed with our base and so
10 impressed with the DFAS (phonetic) proposal that
11 they have scheduled our base for major expansion.

12 There have been some talk that
13 there has been congressional add-ons here, and
14 there have. I don't apologize for them. There's
15 been some talk that that \$18 million scheduled in
16 add-ons could be a savings.

17 I want to advise this panel that
18 over 11 1/2 million of those add-ons are already
19 in process and those projects have already broken
20 ground. They're 40 to 85 percent complete, and I
21 think that in itself is a very significant factor
22 here.

23 We are scheduled for a regional
24 air -- for a service center to maintain C-130H

1 aircraft. Those C-130Bs have been replaced by six
2 C-130Hs.

3 We have what we believe one of the
4 finest commanders in the country. We are proud of
5 Colonel Repucci. He served in other places and
6 anybody that served under him and knows his record
7 will attest to that.

8 We'd like to do something a little
9 different today. You may not be able to
10 officially do this. We are going to ask you not
11 only to close but to endorse that expansion,
12 because here you have Americana. When the wars
13 hit, our people dug in at the mills. They helped
14 to win those wars, and now the hard times have
15 come, one-horse towns, steel mills are gone. Our
16 government many times overlooks that part of
17 Americana that has made us free.

18 You may not be able to collectively
19 endorse expansion, but for those of you who know
20 of that model base, I'm asking on your own
21 individual basis to be an activist for us, and we
22 have a tremendous base.

23 I think anybody who sees it -- I
24 wish you all could have seen it, but I believe the

1 man that did see it, according to all the people
2 that we have, they felt that we have the right man
3 there to look, and nobody was looking for that.
4 It was not offensive to anybody else. We are
5 proud of that. We are very proud of that visit.

6 I'd be glad to answer any questions
7 that you have, and we appreciate the fact that you
8 have invited us here to testify.

9 CHAIRMAN DIXON: Well, we thank you,
10 Congressman Traficant, for that very excellent
11 presentation, and Colonel Repucci and General
12 McIntosh, we thank you as well.

13 Do any of my colleagues have any
14 questions of the distinguished panel from Ohio?

15 Commissioner Steele?

16 COMMISSIONER STEELE: I just have a question,
17 Congressman or General. Do you currently have 16
18 aircraft there?

19 CONGRESSMAN TRAFICANT: There are currently,
20 I believe, 16 are designated, four are being
21 utilized in other sites for training purposes.
22 They're scheduled to be there. A parking apron
23 for those additional craft is being finalized and
24 completed at this point, and I believe over a

1 period of the next year these C-130s on loan for
2 training purposes elsewhere will be shortly being
3 returned to the home base.

4 COMMISSIONER STEELE: Is there any other
5 MILCON necessary to have room for the 16
6 aircraft?

7 CONGRESSMAN TRAFICANT: At this particular
8 point we are looking for some improvements for
9 additional parking space because of the fact that
10 this area is so amenable for training with the
11 vast Ravinia (phonetic) arsenal within 20 miles,
12 which much of the training can take place, and
13 also Lake Erie, and, as you know, much of the
14 abatement now in pollution technology deals with
15 these water spills, and the law that was passed, I
16 believe, in 1990, the Oil Pollution Control Act,
17 does specify that there may be a marriage between
18 the coast guard and, in fact, now existing the Air
19 Force Reserve.

20 So there is so much space there and
21 so much ability to train that other people would
22 figure in years to come they'll be utilizing that
23 for additional training opportunity.

24 COMMISSIONER STEELE: What would be the dollar

1 value of the projects that need to still be in
2 place, only because I read in our clips and we
3 know -- nothing personal to the press -- but news
4 articles are not the most accurate source of, I
5 guess, TV. The number 30, \$36 million additional
6 monies that are needed; is that accurate?

7 CONGRESSMAN TRAFICANT: The monies are not
8 needed. That base does not need those, but the
9 air force and the Pentagon has decided, because of
10 the model statute of that base, to make it one of
11 the most comprehensive, state-of-the-art
12 facilities in the world, I'm sure of that.

13 So I would project we are talking
14 about \$10 million at this point, plus probably an
15 additional 6 million, that has not been committed,
16 but that 10 million is not scheduled and it is not
17 necessarily that dire need, although the
18 electrical substation is planned. It's in the
19 budget. It's in the works and another apron is in
20 the works.

21 I think we are talking in the
22 neighborhood about 10 to \$14 million, because
23 already about 11 to 12 million of those dollars
24 already committed and construction is underway,

1 unless the general wants to amplify on that.

2 GENERAL McINTOSH: Once the current apron
3 that's already under design and starting toward
4 construction is completed, then we will be able to
5 successfully employ 16 airplanes and do their
6 mission. There certainly are required projects
7 down the road that would enhance our capability
8 and we are looking at it.

9 COMMISSIONER STEELE: Last one, briefly for
10 clarification also, at one of the two C-130 site
11 visits yesterday that I believe next year you are
12 only suppose to have 80 aircraft instead of 16.
13 Is that because you are getting eight new
14 aircraft?

15 GENERAL McTOSH: The -- excuse me. The air
16 force plan is for 16 airplanes. We have got some
17 program action that needs to take place that we
18 can't discuss today, but our plan is 16 airplanes.

19 COMMISSIONER STEELE: Okay. You are the boss
20 of one of the colleagues. Thank you for
21 clarifying that for me.

22 CONGRESSMAN TRAFICANT: I'd like to amplify
23 just briefly. It is designated as 16 planes full
24 wing, and the regional service center facility I

1 believe is also part of that, but the maintenance
2 would be taking place there and other aircraft
3 included in that regional limit.

4 COMMISSIONER STEELE: I have no further
5 questions.

6 CHAIRMAN DIXON: My colleague's satisfied.
7 Thank you very much. We are indebted to the State
8 of Ohio for a fine presentation.

9 Ladies and Gentlemen, we are going
10 to have a public comment period. Let me say this,
11 while the folks from Ohio are leaving the podium,
12 we have five names for the public comment period
13 on behalf of Chicago O'Hare: Alfred McAndrew,
14 Major General Ted W. Sorensen, Brigadier General
15 Gibby Vartan, Arizof Gatewski, and Victoria
16 Benson.

17 We have -- for General Mitchell
18 from Wisconsin we have Major General Jerry Slack,
19 F. Thomas Ament, Raymond J. Perry, Kevin Wentworth
20 and Barry Bateman, and for Youngstown we have Reid
21 Dulberger and Gil Peterson. Now if there are any
22 others, please give your name to Jim Shufryer,
23 wherever he is out there.

24 Jim, are you around where they can

1 see you? There was Jim. Get out here where you
2 can see Jim.

3 Now I have no names for Minnesota.
4 I have no names for Minnesota. We are going to
5 start in a minute. If there are any further names
6 of people who desire two minutes in the public
7 comment period, Mr. Shufryer is here in front. We
8 are going to wait a minute or so for you to come
9 see Mr. Shufryer, then we are going to go to the
10 public comment period.

11 I would ask -- we are going to
12 begin with -- we are going to begin with the folks
13 testifying on behalf of Chicago O'Hare. So I
14 would ask the five names that I have just
15 announced that are going to testify on behalf of
16 Chicago O'Hare to come to the front of the room
17 here where the microphone is. Those five folks
18 maybe, Mr. Shufryer, you can find room for them
19 all to sit next the mike. Is there room for
20 them?

21 (A brief pause.)

22 Ladies and Gentlemen, we are now
23 ready to begin a period set aside for public
24 comment. Our intention is to try to ensure that

1 all opinions on the recommendations of the
2 secretary are the additions of the Commission
3 affecting Illinois, Wisconsin, Minneapolis and
4 Ohio are heard.

5 We have assigned a certain amount
6 of time for this period. We ask persons wishing
7 to speak to sign before the hearing began, and
8 they have done so by now. We have also asked them
9 to limit their comments to two minutes. We will
10 ring a bell and at the end of that time please
11 stop after your two minutes are up. Written
12 testimony of any length is welcome by the
13 Commission and any time in the process, so if you
14 want to say more than your two minutes, give it to
15 Mr. Shufryer. I give you my assurance it will be
16 reproduced in the record in full.

17 If all those signed up to speak
18 would raise your right hands, I will administer
19 the oath at this time. Now I wonder if I could
20 have all five on behalf of Chicago O'Hare, all
21 five on behalf of General Mitchell and all five on
22 behalf of Youngstown -- the two on behalf of
23 Youngstown-Warren, and that would be 12, could
24 have the 12 folks stand and raise their right

1 hands.

2 Will you look around,
3 Mr. Shufryer? Do we have everybody out there?
4 Should have five for Illinois, should have five
5 for Wisconsin, should have two for Ohio. Do you
6 see that many? I'm sorry?

7 A VOICE: One more coming.

8 CHAIRMAN DIXON: Folks, let's be patient.
9 Somebody else is coming. Oke doke. He's in the
10 back hall. Now do we have everybody? Please
11 raise your right hands.

12 (Witnesses sworn.)

13 Thank up very much.

14 Now the Illinois folks, on behalf
15 of Chicago O'Hare, are you all prepared to go?
16 Are you all prepared to go, Illinois?

17 Alfred J. McAndrew.

18 PRESENTATION

19 BY

20 MR. McANDREW:

21 Thank you for inviting me to
22 speak. Two minutes is a short time, but there's a
23 solution to the Chicago O'Hare problem. It can be
24 done within one week.

1 All you have to do is move these
2 units to Glenview. Now you got a conflict of
3 interest, I think, because I think the Chairman of
4 the committee advised the Glenview City Hall
5 people on how to close a base; is that true,
6 Chairman?

7 CHAIRMAN DIXON: That is true, but the Chair
8 has recused itself and will not be voting.

9 MR. McANDREW: That's good. The question here
10 is it will cost millions to move them downstate.
11 It will cost millions to clean up Glenview Naval
12 Air Station.

13 All you have to do -- here's the
14 chance for the committee to save hundreds of
15 millions, move these two units right to Glenview.
16 You change -- here's the key to it. You change
17 the mission of the 126 air refueling wing to a 130
18 unit within the international guard. There are
19 numerous 130 units and there are numerous tanker
20 units. You won't have to replace one wing. You
21 won't have to spend hundreds of millions of
22 dollars moving these units out or disrupt
23 anybody. It's a very viable solution and it could
24 be done in record time, and the Chairman says he

1 advised the Glenview so he's fully aware of the
2 facilities there.

3 They have hangers that can hold a
4 dozen C-130s. They're brand new hangers. They
5 have facilities for the decasers (phonetic) and
6 new decasers for DCAMO (phonetic).

7 They have new facilities. They
8 could put all these people that are in civilian
9 jobs at O'Hare right in Glenview today. The base
10 has not been touched. It's going to cost a lot to
11 clean it up. It's going to cost a lot to take it
12 down.

13 I live in Glenview near a runway
14 and good village fathers who advised they had a
15 bond issue for \$16 million and they passed that at
16 7:30 in the morning. They didn't want anybody
17 there.

18 So there's a wonderful opportunity
19 for you people to stand up and be counted, for the
20 taxpayers and for the citizens and for the
21 militia.

22 Now is the time. You never had a
23 better time. You can walk out and you can drive
24 out and see Glenview. Many of you may not know

1 where Glenview is. It is about a half hour from
2 here. It's northeast. It's one of our suburbs,
3 and we would be glad to have you. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN DIXON: Thank you, Mr. McAndrew.

5 I might simply say for the record
6 that when I was before the Senate Armed Services
7 Committee for confirmation last October, I made
8 known the fact that I had represented Glenview and
9 been paid for my services as an attorney in my
10 private life. That was also made known to the
11 Federal Bureau of Investigation during the time
12 that they interviewed me for this position. So it
13 is a matter of record. And, for that reason and
14 for other reasons, because of my 42 years of
15 public service to this state, I have said
16 publically on a number of occasions that I recuse
17 myself from any votes affecting any base in
18 Illinois.

19 Thank you, Mr. McAndrew.

20 Mr. Ted -- Major General Ted W.
21 Sorensen.

22 MAJOR GENERAL SORENSEN: Mr. Chairman,
23 we have a time problem here. Gibby Vartan just
24 walked in. He needs to be sworn in.

1 CHAIRMAN DIXON: We'll do that when he comes
2 up, General.

3 MAJOR GENERAL SORENSEN: I will relinquish my
4 two minutes to him.

5 CHAIRMAN DIXON: That's not necessary. You
6 use your two minutes. Please feel free to.

7 MAJOR GENERAL SORENSEN: Well --

8 CHAIRMAN DIXON: Don't worry. He'll get his
9 two minutes.

10 MAJOR GENERAL SORENSEN: He needs four.

11 CHAIRMAN DIXON: Well, if the general wants
12 four, if you generals want to gang up on us and
13 give him four, it's okay with me. How's that.

14 MAJOR GENERAL SORENSEN: As you said in the
15 senate house on watching TV, I'll be happy to
16 relinquish my time.

17 CHAIRMAN DIXON: You are going to yield your
18 time, and Brigadier General Gibby Vartan we are
19 going to give him four minutes.

20 MAJOR GENERAL SORENSEN: Yes, sir. That's a
21 deal.

22 CHAIRMAN DIXON: General Vartan, four minutes.

23 BRIGADIER GENERAL VARTAN: Thank you,
24 Mr. Chairman.

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CHAIRMAN DIXON: Have you been sworn?

BRIGADIER GENERAL VARTAN: I would like to be sworn.

(Witness sworn.)

CHAIRMAN DIXON: Okay, General, four minutes.

PRESENTATION

BY

BRIGADIER GENERAL VARTAN:

I would begin with a short apology to Commissioner Steele and Commissioner Cornella, who heard this statement yesterday, but I'll be brief.

In view of changing national strategy and changing active duty structure that there is without doubt an increased reliance on the reserves. In fact, on an everyday basis air guard and air reserve airlift and air refueling units are among the most detailed (phonetic) task units in the Air Force.

Our goal and strategy for force protection with diminished forces absolutely relies on that and any closure realignment of this type of base is untimely.

1 O'Hare Air Station is an excellent
2 example of two detailed value. It's a barebones
3 state-of-the-art training facility, much of it
4 very recent construction.

5 When I say "barebones," I mean no
6 gym, no commissary, no golf course, only a small
7 club, no hospital, no pool, no day care centers.

8 What you do have is 3500
9 combat-ready reserves and 700 civilians that
10 provide full-time support for work in the DOD
11 facilities.

12 The military units have been fully
13 involved and current worldwide deployments on an
14 increasingly frequent basis.

15 Today as there are making even more
16 demands, the employers support guard and reserve
17 relationships are excellent and this should not be
18 overlooked.

19 I recall in particular the Persian
20 Gulf crisis in 1990, whereas, employers support
21 guard reserve to this unit -- to this base. I
22 received not one employer complaint.

23 The Chicagoland business community
24 supports the military. The demographic area is a

1 high quality area for recruiting for both active
2 and reserve forces.

3 As reserve components generally do,
4 the racial mix of the urban area reflect unit
5 makeup with a high percentage of minorities,
6 people who have made a commitment to the reserves
7 and would be hurt by even a transfer within the
8 state, not to mention the closure.

9 Flying a major mission, there's a
10 high quality pool of airline pilots here, since
11 Chicago is a major airline domicile and the
12 largest air hub in the country.

13 Let me also point out we would lose
14 training base for close to 300 highly-qualified
15 medical specialists. I will also mention that
16 SIOPs are just three-tenths of one percent of
17 airport operations at O'Hare.

18 Mayor Daley said at a recent Armed
19 Forces Day luncheon, the value of personal pride
20 and discipline, the example of social integration
21 located by the military are valuable resources of
22 diminishing availability as we downsize our
23 forces.

24 I submit that in an urban area the

1 size of Chicago we must not lose this valuable
2 byproduct of military presence.

3 With the closure of Glenview, this
4 base has taken on additional training of naval
5 reserves and the base as a focus for armed force
6 awareness in this metropolitan area.

7 But enough on the pluses. I'd like
8 to move to our concerns of other issues
9 surrounding the Arizona station. We hear about
10 issues that are political in nature, not
11 defense-related, and we are most concerned about
12 this.

13 Number one, move it or close it for
14 airport development, as reported, supposedly a
15 real estate project to generate more revenue for
16 Chicago.

17 Crain's Magazine Business Report
18 stated "such a development would be unlikely to
19 succeed because of the high cost of development,
20 environmental issues that would not let it compete
21 on a square foot rental basis in an already overly
22 developed area with unrented Class A space."

23 And I might also mention the
24 memorandum of understanding of the last land

1 transfer with the city five years ago said there
2 would be no more encroachments on air force
3 property by the city.

4 Number two, move it or close it for
5 airport expansion. Suburban groups surrounding
6 O'Hare. Keep in mind O'Hare is a city island
7 outside the City of Chicago limits and its motives
8 are not necessarily those of its natives.

9 These collar suburban groups are
10 opposed to expansion for reasons of noise, traffic
11 congestion and the strain on the environmental
12 system, and there is still the issue of a third
13 airport being developed.

14 Number three, moving it to another
15 location in Illinois. The city will co-pay with
16 the receiving site. Todate, already several
17 extensions, no viable or firm plans offered.

18 Four, if the process of this
19 Commission is politicized, we, the people, will
20 have no alternative but to ask Congress to
21 disapprove the list.

22 Bottom line, the city doesn't need
23 it. The federal government has already closed
24 three major sites in Illinois: Fort Sheridan,

1 Rantoul AFB, Glenview NAS. Illinois is a major
2 tax contributor.

3 Fourth, I believe from the top and
4 fourth from the bottom in federal fund returns.

5 For all the reasons stated, don't
6 move it, don't close it, don't realign it. We
7 need these guardsmen and reservists, and they've
8 proven, as has our community, they deserve to be
9 here.

10 CHAIRMAN DIXON: General Vartan, thank you
11 very much.

12 Arizof Gatewski?

13 PRESENTATION

14 BY

15 MR. GATEWSKI:

16 Good afternoon, members of the
17 panel.

18 CHAIRMAN DIXON: Good afternoon.

19 MR. GATEWSKI: Taxpayer, homeowner, parent,
20 employee of the City of Chicago and member of 28
21 APTS (phonetic) out of O'Hare, I, as a citizen,
22 feel -- and not as a member, not being bias, but,
23 as a citizen, feel that the closing of O'Hare is
24 very detrimental in these tough times, Oklahoma

1 City, for example.

2 O'Hare serves purposes that we need
3 here, so we do so. It will not be happening here
4 in Chicago. We are dedicated. We go beyond the
5 extremes.

6 Taking that aside, taking all costs
7 aside, the human element, there's friends here.
8 As Gibby says, the people that are serving here
9 with the reserve unit are dedicated.

10 If we move here, there would be no
11 opportunity. There's not much in the streets for
12 the kids out here. This is a golden opportunity.
13 Chicago serves Los Angeles, New York. Chicago
14 serves as a jewel in terms of working government
15 and business, which we are trying to do.

16 Reinventing government, why this is
17 it. They want to put casinos here, let's expand
18 it. We have room to expand to make this a whole
19 space to bring in conferences, to bring in money
20 for economic development. The money's already
21 here. It's proven. It's guaranteed, not some
22 off-the-wall thing to bring in more. The
23 community -- the area can't handle it. I mean,
24 it's what we have here. Let's build on it. Let's

1 expand. Let's utilize taxpayer money.

2 Myself, as a taxpayer, I would feel
3 very -- is this going to lower my tax base? I
4 know it won't. Taxes go up because it's needed to
5 function, government and everything.

6 Let's use both of this in terms of
7 building on it. We can expand. I mean, I can go
8 on and on, but the thing is the human element.
9 Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN DIXON: Thank you, Mr. Gatewski.

11 Victoria Benson?

12 PRESENTATION

13 BY

14 MS. BENSON:

15 Mr. Chairman, Members of the
16 Commission, I represent the Rockford Airport today
17 and we have been part of this ongoing, very long
18 going, plan for about the past five years.

19 The greater Rockford Airport is
20 aware that the purpose of today's hearings are to
21 discuss whether or not to retain the Air Force
22 Reserve 928 Tactical Airlift Unit and the
23 International Guard 126 aerial refueling wing at
24 O'Hare.

1 Rockford Airport's presence today
2 is to reconfirm our ability for retention,
3 recruitment and readiness of these units if this
4 Commission chooses to close them or relocate them
5 to another airport within the state.

6 Rockford meets the mission of the
7 three Rs: readiness, retention, and recruitment.
8 Rockford is the only site that meets the military
9 condition in which units would not suffer major
10 loss of personnel. Rockford will achieve
11 readiness sooner. Based upon the information
12 provided, Rockford will achieve C-1 status within
13 18 months versus 37 months readiness of its
14 competition. Rockford will obtain the most
15 existing personnel.

16 Based on an actual response of base
17 personnel, 74 percent responded very favorably to
18 Rockford. Rockford is within O'Hare's recruitment
19 base. Rockford lies within 55 miles of O'Hare's
20 existing base. This means greater retention, less
21 recruitment, and achieving readiness sooner, which
22 adds up to significant savings.

23 In conclusion, it should be
24 recognized that the Rockford Airport

1 infrastructure is more than fully adequate to
2 completely support the relocated military unit's
3 mission and personnel and remains committed to
4 assist in every way the Air Force Reserve Station
5 realignment at the greater Rockford Airport.

6 Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN DIXON: Thank you,
8 Ms. Benson.

9 Now, Ms. Benson, if you or anybody
10 else in your group has anything further you want
11 to place in the record, Mr. Shufryer is right
12 there. Thank you very much.

13 That ends the Illinois public
14 comment period.

15 We will now have a public comment
16 period for General Mitchell from the folks in
17 Wisconsin, and the names are Major General Jerry
18 Slack, F. Thomas Ament, Raymond J. Perry, Kevin M.
19 Wentworth, Barry Bateman. Would they all come up
20 to the microphone, please. Thank you very
21 kindly.

22 And Major General Jerry Slack.
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PRESENTATION

BY

MAJOR GENERAL SLACK:

Chairman Dixon and Members of the Commission, in case you missed this intro, I want you to now shift your attention and thinking about Wisconsin, not Illinois.

I was born in Peoria, but I've lived all my life in Wisconsin. As adjutant general, I commanded the Army International Guard in Wisconsin, and the International Guard we have co-located tanker units at Mitchell Field and fighter wings in Madison. I think it's a natural mix to have the C-130 unit there. There is a lot of sharing that goes on.

We had a disaster of one of our tankers blew up on the runway. Six people were killed. We got immeasurable, innumerable volunteers from the 440 to come over and help us with that.

There are two issues I'd like to talk about quickly. They were all touched on earlier this morning. One is economy of mission.

I think you need to look very hard

1 at how much it cost them per flying hour the
2 amount of training that they get because of the
3 proximity of the fine ranges in Wisconsin.
4 There's an ACLI, which is an instrumentation up in
5 Central Wisconsin. They are on their ranges in
6 the first 30 or 40 minutes. They have drop ranges
7 there and they have numerous other aircraft --
8 fighter aircraft that they can intermix with in
9 their training.

10 The second is economy of scale. I
11 feel that it's harder to measure, but there is an
12 economy of scale with the tanker unit co-located
13 in the sharing of people, ideas, parts and many
14 things.

15 Thank you very much. That's the
16 end of my comment.

17 CHAIRMAN DIXON: Thank you, General Slack.

18 Mr. F. Thomas Ament.

19 PRESENTATION

20 BY

21 MR. AMENT:

22 Chairman Dixon, Members of the
23 Commission, my name is Tom Ament, Milwaukee County
24 Executive.

1 Over the years I had a number of
2 opportunities to work with and observe the 440.
3 First, I served in the Air Force Reserve as a
4 member of the 440 many years ago back in the Cuban
5 Missile Crisis. It was a honor of serving at that
6 time. It was an excellent unit at that time and
7 it's still is an excellent unit from the
8 standpoint of military preparedness, military
9 excellence and cost-efficiency.

10 Secondly, I have had the
11 opportunity to work with the 440 first as a member
12 of the county board, now as the elected county
13 executive, as the next door neighbor of the 440.

14 The 440 provides an economic impact
15 in Milwaukee of over \$30 million annually in
16 payroll supplying construction. Additionally they
17 provide fire fighting capabilities for the airport
18 at Mitchell Field. They also serve as one of the
19 great recruiting tools for the Air Force, since
20 the 440 is the only air force facility in
21 Wisconsin.

22 I'm sure that having observed the
23 record of military excellence, you will conclude
24 that too should remain. Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN DIXON: Thank you Mr. Ament.

2 Mr. Raymond Perry.

3 PRESENTATION

4 BY

5 MR. PERRY:

6 Good morning.

7 CHAIRMAN DIXON: Good morning.

8 MR. PERRY: My name is Raymond Perry. I am
9 president and CEO of Walton (phonetic) Savings
10 Bank, and I'm chairman of the 440 community
11 council. Community council mission or missions is
12 to support the 440 and their personnel wherever
13 possible. We have over a hundred members from a
14 wide variety of occupations in South Eastern
15 Wisconsin as our members.

16 The support comes in many ways: We
17 support functions that are outside of the normal
18 Air Force budgeting. We build relationships with
19 the surrounding communities for the base. We
20 provide emotional support for the members of the
21 440 and their families.

22 A recent example, during Desert
23 Shield/Desert Storm, the community council formed
24 support function groups for the 440 members and

1 their families. We brought in all of our
2 professionals. We set up, for example, banking,
3 law sections, accounting, taxing services, and we
4 then had undertaker services, fortunately it
5 wasn't needed.

6 The community council also set
7 aside a substantial portion of money to support
8 the family support section for things over and
9 above what they're budgeted for.

10 The 440 time and again has been
11 rated tops in competition and evaluation. We
12 believe the 440 fulfills this mission but with
13 distinction, and 1200 plus members have earned the
14 right to continue the proud heritage of past
15 years.

16 We respectfully request that you
17 dismiss the further consideration of closing the
18 Milwaukee Air Force Reserve Station and
19 dismantling or removing the 440, and I thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN DIXON: Thank you, Mr. Perry.

21 Mr. Kevin Wentworth.

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PRESENTATION

BY

MR. WENTWORTH:

Chairman Dixon, Members of the Commission, I am Lieutenant Kevin Wentworth. I am captain for United Airlines. I fly out of O'Hare, and I'm also the squad commander of the 95th Air Squadron in Milwaukee.

When I moved here in '87, I had the choice to join either the O'Hare or the Milwaukee.

I chose the Milwaukee largely because it's far more efficient to fly out of there.

At O'Hare, it often takes 10 to 15 minutes to get to the runway and at Milwaukee it never takes more than five. We never have any spacing restrictions, like spot restrictions when coming into Milwaukee, whereas, O'Hare often has that.

We don't have very many heavy aircraft at Milwaukee, whereas, at O'Hare a lot of times you have five mile spacing because of heavy aircraft. In addition to that, I think that an important factor we can do formation takeoffs and recoveries at Milwaukee and they don't do that at

1 O'Hare either.

2 In conclusion, it's just much more
3 efficient for the C-130 operations to operate out
4 of Milwaukee than it is to operate out of O'Hare.

5 CHAIRMAN DIXON: Thank you, Mr. Wentworth.

6 Mr. Barry Bateman.

7 PRESENTATION

8 BY

9 MR. BATEMAN:

10 Good morning, Chairman Dixon,
11 Commissioners. My name is Barry Bateman. I'm the
12 airport director for Milwaukee County. The
13 Milwaukee County is the owner and operator of
14 Mitchell Airport. I want to present to you the
15 airport owner's perspective of the 440.

16 Our relationship with the 440 is
17 superior and professional. Mitchell has the
18 runway link and instrument over landing system to
19 handle any military aircraft and, as the previous
20 speaker alluded to, we have the ideal situation at
21 Milwaukee where we have a major area and a major
22 airport but the military operations blend in
23 perfectly with the commercial operations with the
24 airport.

1 Our airport master plan we program
2 land for the future development of the 440 should
3 it be needed, and unlike our esteemed colleague,
4 director of aviation from Chicago, we consider
5 them a very viable asset to the community and
6 desire that they remain their long time tenant and
7 user of the airport. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN DIXON: Thank you, Mr. Bateman.

9 That concludes the presentation
10 public comment period on behalf of General
11 Mitchell, and we appreciate that fine commentary.

12 We now ask the two gentlemen on
13 behalf of Youngstown-Warren, Reid Dulberger and
14 Gil Peterson, to come forward, please. Mr. Reid
15 Dulberger and Gil Peterson.

16 Mr. Dulberger?

17 PRESENTATION

18 BY

19 MR. DULBERGER:

20 Thank you. I appreciate the
21 opportunity to be with you this morning.

22 CHAIRMAN DIXON: Just a moment, sir.

23 (a brief pause.)

24 Mr. Dulberger, you may proceed.

1 MR. DULBERGER: Thank you. My name is Reid
2 Dulberger, I am senior vice president of the
3 Youngstown-Warren Regional Chamber of Commerce,
4 and I appreciate the opportunity to be here this
5 morning.

6 I'd like to expand on a couple of
7 points made during the formal presentation for the
8 910 Tactical Airlift Wing, two points in
9 particular. Most importantly, I'd like to stress
10 for you that the 910 has the complete and full
11 support of the community.

12 You have, or will receive, letters
13 from our federal, state and local government
14 leaders. You have, or will receive, letters from
15 business, labor and citizenry. You have, or will
16 receive, letters from Mahoney and Trumbull County
17 commissioners who, through the regional port
18 authority, own and operate that regional airport.

19 Members of the 910 Tactical Airlift
20 Wing are not just an integral part of the
21 community, they're that certainly and more. They
22 are our neighbors, they are our friends, they are,
23 if you will pardon the expression, us. This base
24 has our full support.

1 We have provided for you in the
2 briefing book that you have in Section 5 an
3 outline of the financial impact that base has on
4 the community, which is approximately \$30 million
5 per year, conservatively estimated. That's
6 certainly a large part of the support for the
7 base, but it's more than that. It's our pride in
8 the military, civilian and humanitarian
9 accomplishments, and if we do nothing else today,
10 we must leave you with the knowledge and
11 understanding how fully we support this base.

12 The other point I'd like to bring
13 up concerns the airport itself. Several points
14 have been made already but bear repeating. One is
15 that the airport is currently between 40 and 45
16 percent capacity. It has projected its master
17 plan to achieve approximately 66 percent capacity
18 by the year 2000, obviously leaving much room for
19 aviation expansion by the military. Mahoney and
20 Trumbull County Commission, who now support this
21 airport, recently --

22 CHAIRMAN DIXON: Thank you, Dulberger.

23 Mr. Gil Peterson.

24 If you have anything further,

1 Mr. Dulberger, put it in the record with
2 Mr. Shufryer.

3 Mr. Gil Peterson.

4 PRESENTATION

5 BY

6 MR. PETERSON:

7 Members of the Committee, four
8 years ago our Congressman, Jim Traficant, formed a
9 committee that lead to the formation of a Western
10 Reserve Port Authority and a transfer of ownership
11 of the airport from the City of Youngstown to the
12 port authority. Financial support is now provided
13 by Mahoney and Trumbull Counties which has assured
14 the administrative and financial future for the
15 airport.

16 In a related matter, a year after
17 the establishment of the port authority, again,
18 under the leadership of our congressman, the two
19 counties together submitted a proposal for a DFAS
20 center and each passed a half percent sales tax
21 that would have built a \$450 million center at no
22 cost to the federal government.

23 The DFAS process was scrapped with
24 a change in administration, but the example serves

1 to illustrate the level of commitment and
2 cooperation that exists at the local level.

3 6.9 million people live within a
4 75-mile radius of the base providing ample
5 population for future enlistment. The base sits
6 in the middle of a regional freeway system that
7 provides excellent ground transportation access to
8 the base. Both the cost of living and the cost of
9 construction in the Youngstown metropolitan area
10 are below the national average.

11 The number of civilian and military
12 annual operations at the Youngstown Regional
13 Airport in 1994 was 79,302, the lowest of six
14 candidate bases which ranged from 109,000 to
15 883,000 for the same year.

16 You will note in this satellite
17 photo the abundance of green that surrounds the
18 airport which provides ample room for future
19 ground expansion without air space interference.

20 In summary, our committee offers
21 strong local support, the advantage of a large
22 metropolitan area in terms of suppliers and
23 contractors and a very inexpensive location to do
24 business, ample room for expansion and uncongested

1 access and air space. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN DIXON: Thank you, very much, sir.

3 Now that concludes the public
4 comment period for this morning. We are going to
5 take a 15-minute break. At 11:30 we will here
6 from the State of North Dakota and for a period of
7 60 minutes and then have a public comment period
8 for the folks from North Dakota. We stand in
9 recess until 11:30 in this room.

10 (Whereupon, a 15-minute
11 break was taken.)

12 Ladies and Gentlemen, the room will
13 please come to order. We are prepared to conclude
14 today's hearing with the great State of North
15 Dakota. I believe that their delegation will be
16 led by distinguished senior senator, Senator Kent
17 Conrad; is that correct, Senator?

18 SENATOR CONRAD: That's correct.

19 CHAIRMAN DIXON: And may I first say,
20 Senator, that the statute, as you know, was
21 changed recently to require that all witnesses be
22 placed under oath. So would everyone in your
23 delegation, who is going to testify, please stand
24 and raise your right hands.

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(Witnesses sworn.)

Thank you, Gentlemen.

Now, as I understand it, Senator, the State of North Dakota has 60 minutes, and the agenda that has been placed before me divides that time among the various witnesses according to the decision made on some prior occasion by the State of North Dakota; is that correct?

SENATOR CONRAD: That is correct.

CHAIRMAN DIXON: We are delighted, Senator, to hear from you, the distinguished senior senator from the State of North Dakota, Senator Kent Conrad, for six minutes.

PRESENTATION

BY

SENATOR CONRAD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission. We are delighted to be here to support the recommendation of the United States Air Force, United States Strategic Command and the Department of Defense to retain the Grand Forks Air Force Base.

Today you will hear in compelling terms why our national security interest requires

1 the retention of the corp's anchor base at Grand
2 Forks. We are very proud to have Lieutenant
3 General Edwin Tenoso, Vice Commander of the Air
4 Mobility Command, here to testify to Grand Forks'
5 importance.

6 Recent letters to the Commission
7 from the Air Force, STRAT COM and the Department
8 of Defense are clear in their message: Grand
9 Forks must be retained. Other tanker basing
10 options simply do not provide the military value
11 necessary to support our forces.

12 Air Force Chief of Staff, General
13 Ronald Fogleman, stated strongly in his letter to
14 you, quote, "I cannot overstate my support for
15 retention of a corp. air refueling wing at Grand
16 Forks Air Force Base. I believe it is essential
17 to our nation's ability to respond in a timely
18 manner to challenges across the entire spectrum of
19 conflict."

20 Similarly, Assistant Secretary of
21 Defense, John Gotbaum, wrote to the Commission,
22 and I quote, "We are gravely concerned that the
23 Commission might modify our recommendations by
24 closing the entire base and relocating its

1 aircraft assets."

2 He went on to say, "Although
3 complete closure of Grand Forks may appear
4 attractive from a savings perspective, it does not
5 take account of the preeminent military factors
6 considered by the Department in its realignment
7 recommendations."

8 As some of you have seen firsthand,
9 Grand Forks is now a standing base with terrific
10 community support; however, your decision on Grand
11 Forks must be based primarily on military value.

12 On that basis we believe you will
13 conclude, as the Air Force STRAT COM and the
14 Department of Defense have already concluded, that
15 Grand Forks is worth too much to give up.

16 One key to Grand Fork's military
17 value is its strategic location. Tankers from
18 Grand Forks can deploy east or west to support a
19 variety of contingencies. It can reach Europe or
20 Asia faster than aircraft from other bases because
21 of their proximity to the polar route. They can
22 quickly deploy and support our nuclear deterrent.
23 No other tanker base can provide the geographic
24 advantages that Grand Forks does.

1 Grand Forks support of our nuclear
2 forces is especially important. Tankers at Grand
3 Forks are part of the single-integrated
4 operational plan for our nuclear forces. Other
5 bases under consideration cannot properly support
6 the site.

7 Admiral Hank Chiles, Commander and
8 Chief of the U.S. Strategic Command, sent you a
9 letter yesterday underscoring this point. He said
10 of Grand Forks, and I quote, "Its north central
11 location is important in reinforcing our nation's
12 strategic deterrent posture."

13 He went on to say, "U.S. Strategic
14 Command views retention of a corp refueling wing
15 at Grand Forks Air Force Base as an important
16 element in support of our nation's strategic
17 deterrent capability.

18 Grand Forks also derives high
19 military value from its infrastructure, which was
20 designed to support a large number of tankers.
21 Grand Forks has the runway, ramp space,
22 infrastructure, refueling system and associated
23 facilities to support four more tanker squadrons."

24 These are some of the reasons the

1 Air Force chose Grand Forks as a corp tanker base
2 in 1993. Other bases you are considering do not
3 have this same critical infrastructure.

4 Grand Forks' mission as a corp
5 tanker base is at the heart of its military
6 value. Consolidating four or more tanker
7 squadrons at Grand Forks improves planning,
8 coordination and training. It also yields
9 improved unit performance because corp units train
10 and deploy together.

11 The result is better planned and
12 better executed missions for our armed forces.
13 That is real military value. Breaking up the corp
14 tanker wing into smaller units would abandon these
15 improvements.

16 Finally, any measure of military
17 value should also consider readiness. Retaining
18 Grand Forks means retaining the readiness of our
19 forces. Closing Grand Forks will reduce that
20 readiness.

21 The training and operational
22 advantages of corp base will be lost and
23 restructuring our tanker force will cause
24 continued upheaval for tanker personnel already

1 stretched to the limit by frequent relocations and
2 extremely high operations tempo (phonetic).

3 In the post-Cold War era, our
4 tankers have become even more important. Wherever
5 U.S. forces deploy around the world, they need
6 tankers to help them get there and to sustain
7 operations. To ignore the importance of tanker
8 and tanker basing requirements is to ignore our
9 national security interest.

10 Closing Grand Forks would damage
11 our ability to effectively respond to crises and
12 conflicts, to carry out national policy and to
13 fight and to win a war. Nobody is better
14 qualified to speak to these issues than General
15 Edwin Tenoso.

16 General Tenoso is the number two
17 commander of our mobility forces worldwide. He
18 brings to this job over 30 years of experience and
19 thousands of flying hours in large aircraft.

20 General Tenoso commanded all
21 theatre airlift operations during the Gulf War,
22 something that Senator Dixon was intimately
23 involved with in his service in the Armed Services
24 Committee of the United States Senate.

1 General Tenoso was director of
2 operations and logistics in the U.S.
3 Transportation command when the corp mobility
4 concept was developed. We are honored to have
5 General Tenoso with us today.

6 General Tenoso.

7 PRESENTATION

8 BY

9 LIEUTENANT GENERAL TENOSO:

10 Thank you, Senator. Chairman
11 Dixon, Members of the Commission, I am Ed Tenoso,
12 Vice Commander of the Air Mobility Command, and
13 today I'm here to first voice concerns that the
14 Air Force has over the addition of Grand Forks for
15 a possible closure but, more importantly, sir, is
16 to explain to you why we believe Grand Forks
17 should be retained.

18 I'd like to do that by reviewing
19 the world events that led up to us forming the Air
20 Mobility Command, why we looked at a corp wing,
21 and why finally Grand Forks fits that concept of a
22 corp wing ideally.

23 Sir, as you will recall, in the
24 past few years the security strategy of the United

1 States has gone through its own evolution. To
2 keep part of that -- to trigger that, of course,
3 was the end of the Cold War and while the end of
4 the Cold War reduced the likelihood of nuclear
5 conflict, as we have seen, it greatly increased
6 the likelihood of regional conflict based on
7 ethnic, religious differences, hunger,
8 humanitarian efforts, and the like.

9 At the same time, the armed forces
10 of the United States did their own dramatic draw
11 down, and not only did we reduce the force
12 structure in size, but we pulled back what used to
13 be an overseas deployed force back to what is now
14 a continental base force.

15 With that strategy and looking into
16 the future, all of the armed forces restructured
17 and reorganized their strategy, and the Air
18 Force's concept was called "global reach/global
19 power." And the idea behind that, of course, was
20 while we were a kind of a space force, we would
21 certainly be -- it would certainly be necessary
22 that we reacted throughout the world to influence
23 events that our nation needed.

24 Out of that concept, the Air

1 Mobility Command was formed. They took the
2 tankers from the old stratetic air command. They
3 took the airlift forces from the old mobility
4 airlift command and formed -- from the old
5 military airlift command and formed the new air
6 mobility command and, in fact, gave us the task of
7 providing mobility for our new strategy.

8 Now even under our new strategy,
9 however, we, as the armed forces, still must
10 maintain the capability of providing reaction
11 across the entire spectrum of conflict.

12 So, in fact, we still practice
13 today and are very involved in being ready for our
14 single-integrated operations plan for our SIOP,
15 which is our reaction in case of nuclear conflict,
16 but the primary tool that we now use for sizing
17 the force comes from the concept of two major
18 regional conflicts, or two MRCs.

19 And just to review that, as you
20 know, the concept would be if a conflict were to
21 start in one area of the world, we would have to
22 deploy this kind of space force to meet that
23 conflict.

24 Very shortly thereafter, however, a

1 conflict may break out in another area of the
2 world and we would have to deploy forces to at
3 least hold in that conflict until we've
4 successfully concluded the first conflict and then
5 take winning forces and successfully conclude the
6 second conflict.

7 It is in the transition from those
8 possible scenarios that the nation is at greatest
9 risk. And even today the key factor in limiting
10 risk is the efficiency of the mobility system, the
11 ability to deploy and in a transition into another
12 area.

13 But, as you know, in a day-to-day
14 operation, we are not involved in the SIOP or in a
15 conventional conflict, but we are involved in
16 throughout the world is what has come to be termed
17 "operations other than war."

18 So in any number of places
19 throughout the world, enforcing peace in Bosnia,
20 supporting the U.N. sanctions in Iraq, supporting
21 our nation down in Haiti, all over the world we
22 are called upon to support any number of
23 activities, and, again, it is the transition from
24 having our sources spread from throughout the

1 world to perhaps being recalled to deploy a kind
2 of space force to a major regional conflict. When
3 the area of greatest risk occurs, it's during the
4 transition.

5 So, in fact, the efficiency of the
6 mobility system is what defines current risk in
7 our strategy.

8 So the Air Mobility Command,
9 recognizing that this was going to be our
10 strategy, looked at how we could best use the
11 forces that had been given to us, and we saw that
12 in the tanker and airlift roles that the KC-135,
13 of course, is the predominant tanker, and it
14 would, of course, have to react through across the
15 spectrum.

16 So our 135 training for SIOP
17 mission is ready to deploy, but, more importantly,
18 it also trains for any conventional kind of
19 conflict where we would take the early deploying
20 fighters and the bombers and project them over
21 into a theatre.

22 The tankers would then have to stay
23 in the theatre and sustain the fighter generation
24 forces, but at the same time they would have to

1 generate and build an air bridge for all of the
2 airlift aircraft that are deploying our early
3 deployers into the theatre.

4 So we have taskings across the
5 board for our tanker aircraft. But what we found
6 given to us then were tanker aircraft that were
7 situated in a number of different bases across the
8 United States.

9 And it was immediately obvious to
10 us to efficiently execute the mobility operations
11 we would need to bring those assets together to
12 form what we then called "corp tanker wings," and,
13 in fact, we did that, and we have found that the
14 efficiency of the organization includes not only
15 economy of effort and single-mission focus, but
16 direct lines of authority. Certainly reduced
17 overhead and reduced facilities, reduce the number
18 of parts and spares, maintenance flexibility.

19 But, above all, we have found that
20 synergy of a multi-squadron unit gives us the
21 capability to simultaneously support the many
22 activities called on and, equally important,
23 transition from one activity to the next one.

24 Having determined then how critical

1 it was for the efficiency of the mobility
2 operation to execute in a corp tanker wing, we, of
3 course, then looked for the places where we could
4 bend (phonetic) them down most effectively.

5 We determined that there were three
6 places where we could do that: one of them was
7 Grand Forks, and we saw immediately that Grand
8 Forks for one had the location. It was a northern
9 base. It could immediately react to the SIOP
10 tasking, because, as you know, sir, in the SIOP
11 tasking most of the routes are to the north, but,
12 equally important, in our new strategy of two
13 MRCs, it was centrally located to assist in that
14 transition from east to west.

15 We obviously needed infrastructure
16 though. Big airplanes need a place to park, we
17 need a good runway to take off and land on, we
18 need hanger space where we can fix our planes.

19 We found that all at Grand Forks,
20 but, most importantly, for a tanker aircraft, you
21 need the supply and ready access of fuel.

22 You need a state-of-the-art
23 refueling hydrant so that you can rapidly
24 regenerate tanker missions and send them off in a

1 different direction. Grand Forks has that.

2 As a matter of fact, Grand Forks is
3 one of the best bases for infrastructure that we
4 have in the Air Mobility Command, but that's not
5 the end of it.

6 If you are going to train and if
7 you are going to fly, you need air space, you need
8 unencumbered air space. You need air space that
9 is not -- does not have encroachment on it. You
10 have the air space where you don't have
11 restrictions to really be able to train the way
12 you are going to fight, Grand Forks has that.

13 Finally, last, but not least, I
14 would talk to the community support. The
15 community support has always been excellent in
16 Grand Forks. The camaraderie between Grand Forks
17 the town and Grand Forks the base has always been
18 there. We call that -- senior commander call that
19 quality of life, and quality of life means a lot.

20 It means a good place to work, live
21 and play. It means that our people are happy with
22 the surroundings, that they are free from fear.
23 That means that when we send those people for long
24 periods of time they're comfortable that their

1 families are well taken care of, but it's not just
2 quality of life, because to all senior commanders
3 quality of life translates directly into
4 readiness.

5 We know from experience that people
6 that feel good about where they are, like where
7 they are, are a much ready force to execute their
8 wartime missions.

9 So, obviously we feel that the loss
10 of Grand Forks would degrade our capability as to
11 efficiently carry out our mobility mission, the
12 loss of efficiency, the loss of flexibility, we
13 certainly believe the near term quality of life.

14 If we were to take these people and
15 move them again, 65 percent of which in the past
16 two years have been moved just to form these corp
17 tanker bases and, not only that, then the
18 excellent community spirit we would loss from
19 Grand Forks, that all translates into readiness
20 and we believe it would have a definite impact on
21 our readiness.

22 Sir, in summary, I hope I have been
23 able to articulate in some small degree the
24 importance that we feel mobility is to our

1 security strategy.

2 And I hope that I have been able to
3 articulate the thought that went into forming corp
4 tanker wings and the efficiency that it brings to
5 the mobility operations.

6 And I hope you can appreciate the
7 thought that went into choosing Grand Forks
8 because of its location, its infrastructure, its
9 ability to fly unencumbered, and also its
10 community support, why we chose Grand Forks as one
11 of our corp tanker wings, and we obviously feel
12 very strongly that closure of Grand Forks would
13 have a serious impact on our readiness.

14 In closing, sir, I would say that
15 on behalf of General Fogleman, our Chief of Staff,
16 and General Rutherford, our Commander in Chief of
17 Transportation Command, that we understand that
18 the Air Force has excess capacity, and we need to
19 deal with that in order to pay our bills, and we
20 also understand the expediency of a clean kill.

21 However, we do feel very strongly
22 that the importance of the mobility operations,
23 what the corp tanker wing brings to the mobility
24 operations and the vital part that Grand Forks

1 plays in that whole operation far outways the
2 expediency, and the operational imperative should
3 prevail, and, sir, we ask for your favorable
4 consideration in that regard. Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN DIXON: I thank you, General Teneso,
6 for that valuable contribution on behalf of the
7 State of North Dakota.

8 LIEUTENANT GENERAL TENESO: Thank you, sir.

9 CHAIRMAN DIXON: We are delighted, of course,
10 to have the distinguished senator from North
11 Dakota, Byron Dorgan. We thank him for giving his
12 time today to the Commission

13 PRESENTATION

14 BY

15 SENATOR DORGAN:

16 Mr. Chairman, thank you very much.
17 I've passed out three letters that I want to refer
18 to in my presentation.

19 Mr. Chairman, as a corporate member
20 of the United States Senate, I have heard it said
21 that in the U.S. Senate it is a learned skill to,
22 during upon tortuous briefings, look intensely
23 interested even during the most tortured
24 presentations.

1 As I sat and thought about your job
2 this morning sitting through three hours of an
3 avalanche of technical information and energy for
4 virtually every community coming before you saying
5 this is the most important things in our lives, I
6 understand some of what you are going through.
7 Your decisions will be momentous for many parts of
8 this country, and we wish you well as you make
9 those decisions. You must, it seems to me, find
10 the intersection between the issue of cost savings
11 and military value.

12 When we, in Congress, created a
13 base closing commission process, we did so because
14 we wanted to save some money. At the same time we
15 did not want to, nor intend to, in any way,
16 compromise the military value and preparedness of
17 this country. In fact, that is a part of the
18 charter that that is preeminent.

19 Now when, God forbid, America is
20 called to defend freedom, we need the soldiers, we
21 need the equipment, we need the military bases
22 available immediately, fully-trained to meet those
23 needs and to prevail, and that's the issue today
24 with respect to the Grand Forks Air Force Base.

1 None of us come here asking you to
2 give special consideration to the Grand Forks Air
3 Force Base because it is in Grand Forks, North
4 Dakota. We care about North Dakota, we care about
5 Grand Forks and our region, but we come here today
6 to ask you to evaluate, as you go through this
7 process, the words of the chief of staff of the
8 Air Force, the Assistant Secretary of Defense, the
9 chief of STRAT COM, who have now weighed in and
10 said that the initial action by the Commission to
11 include Grand Forks for consideration of closing
12 is something they're very concerned about.

13 Let me, if I might, Mr. Chairman,
14 Commissioners, refer to the letter from Admiral
15 Henry Chiles, and I've put it before you, but he
16 says, "Dear Chairman Dixon: I'm writing to
17 express my concern over the Defense Base Closure
18 and Realignment Commission's decision to consider
19 the Grand Forks Air Force Base for closure.

20 The core refueling wing at Grand
21 Forks Air Force Base provides critical support to
22 strategic and contingency operations.

23 Grand Forks' infrastructure can
24 sustain a large tanker fleet and provides

1 important operational flexibility for our
2 strategic air refueling access in support of
3 global missions. Its north/south -- north/central
4 location rather is important in reinforcing our
5 nation's strategic deterrent posture.

6 Grand Forks is also located close
7 to most northern air refueling tracts which
8 provide quality training, airspace, free from
9 encroachment and interference with commercial air
10 traffic.

11 Moreover, the tanker force has
12 experienced unprecedented change since the end of
13 the Cold War with a substantial number of tanker
14 bases already closed. Over time such turmoil can
15 jeopardize the readiness of our forces.

16 The United States strategic command
17 views retention of core refueling wing at Grand
18 Forks Air Force Base an important element in
19 support of our nation's strategic deterrent
20 capability." That's from Admiral Chiles.

21 Next you have a letter from Josh
22 Gotbaum, Assistant Secretary of Defense. I'm
23 going to read a couple of sentences from that.

24 "Dear Chairman Dixon: We are

1 gravely concerned that the Commission might modify
2 our recommendation by closing the entire base and
3 relocating its aircraft assets."

4 Skipping down, he says, "Although
5 complete closure may appear attractive from a
6 strict savings perspective, it does not take
7 account of the preeminent military factors
8 considered by the department in its realignment
9 recommendation."

10 Finally, Mr. Chairman, let me read
11 to you the letter from General Fogleman, Chief of
12 Staff of the Air Force. I want to read a fair
13 part of this.

14 "I am writing to express my deep
15 concern over the DBCR Commission's decision to
16 consider Grand Forks Air Force Base for
17 realignment or closure actions beyond those
18 recommended by the Department of Defense," again,
19 General Fogleman, "Two years ago we rebased our
20 KC-135 fleet to form three core air refueling
21 wings at Grand Forks, Fairchild and McConnell Air
22 Force Bases.

23 We took this action to achieve the
24 organizational, operational and fiscal

1 efficiencies of a properly-sized organization with
2 a clearly-defined mission at each of these bases.

3 This reorganization was the right
4 way to go in the long run for our tanker force,
5 but we require that we relocate approximately 65
6 percent of the active duty KC-135 air crew and
7 support personnel to one of three core refueling
8 bases.

9 During this same time, air force
10 tanker and other mobility forces have supported
11 numerous contingency and humanitarian efforts in
12 such countries as Somalia, Haiti, Rwanda, and
13 Iraq. The cost to our people from this high
14 operation's tempo, when combined with the
15 reorganization of our forces, has been an increase
16 in turbulence in their lives.

17 We are just beginning to measure --
18 to capture a measure of stability for them and are
19 seeing the benefits in terms of greater
20 operational efficiencies and higher morale.

21 Again, General Fogleman, "In my
22 judgment, scattering Grand Forks' force structure
23 throughout a number of new small units and
24 locations delude our ability to efficiently

1 accomplish the air refueling missions which are
2 critical to support the national strategies of
3 strategic deterrents and crisis response and
4 creates additional turbulence in the lives of many
5 of our personnel."

6 I encourage you to read the final
7 couple of paragraphs, but General Fogleman closes,
8 as due virtually all of the folks in DOD when they
9 review this issue, by saying, "The Grand Forks
10 closing would reduce or eliminate many of the
11 benefits that we sought to achieve by creating
12 these three core tanker bases."

13 All of these folks frame this in
14 the context of military preparedness and military
15 value.

16 And we hope very much as you sort
17 through all of these difficult options that you
18 will call on the advice of General Fogleman, the
19 Chief of Staff of the Air Force; Mr. Gotbaum, the
20 Assistant Secretary of Defense; Admiral Chiles,
21 and others, who, I'm sure, will reiterate the
22 important military mission of the Grand Forks Air
23 Force Base. Thank you very much.

24 CHAIRMAN DIXON: Thank you very much, Senator

1 Dorgan, for the information of all in your panel.
2 You should be informed that these three letters
3 are in the record, have already been made
4 available to the Commissioners, and I assure you
5 they have seen them.

6 Congressman Earl Pomeroy, we are
7 delighted to have the distinguished congressman
8 from North Dakota with us.

9 PRESENTATION

10 BY

11 CONGRESSMAN POMEROY:

12 Thank you very much. Mr. Chairman,
13 Chairman Dixon, General Davis, General Robles,
14 Commissioner Cornella and Commissioner Steele, on
15 behalf of the people I represent, I want to thank
16 you for the time and talent you have contributed
17 to our country by serving on this important
18 Commission.

19 In light of the many difficult
20 decisions in front of you, I want to -- I think
21 it's useful to reflect upon the threshold
22 determination that you must make to support a
23 closure finding over and above those recommended
24 by the Secretary of Defense.

1 Changes to the Department of
2 Defense recommendations may be made where it is
3 found that the department deviated substantially
4 from the force structure base and base closure
5 criteria in making its recommendations.

6 The most important base closure
7 criteria is military value and, in our case,
8 military value is precisely the basis upon which
9 the Department of Defense decided to maintain a
10 core refueling wing at the Grand Forks Air Force
11 Base.

12 The testimony of our top military
13 commanders is clear, there is a critical military
14 value in the operational and logistical
15 efficiencies resulting from more tanker bases and,
16 secondly, only Grand Forks has the unique
17 combination of infrastructure, capacity and
18 geographic location to perform the core tanker
19 mission.

20 The Department of Defense has
21 established a basis for Grand Forks in, I think, a
22 very clear and convincing fashion. In order to
23 conclude otherwise, it seems to me that this
24 Commission would have to find that the DOD's

1 evaluation is fundamentally incorrect from the
2 military value perspective, a finding that simply
3 wouldn't make sense in light of solid rationale
4 advised by our nation's defense leaders.

5 You have already heard from General
6 Tenoso and received a letter from General
7 Fogleman, Admiral Chiles and Assistant Secretary
8 Gotbaum. I want to briefly restate their
9 compelling arguments in support of the core air
10 refueling mission at Grand Forks.

11 In May 1993, the Air Force
12 announced the co-creation of a core tanker base.
13 It was an entirely predictable response to the
14 closure of 12 bases in manning a worldwide
15 military presence with a force increasingly based
16 here at North Forks.

17 The claim was consolidate at
18 several core bases these units to deploy a
19 cohesive unit. The plan established also some
20 badly needed stability for our Air Force personnel
21 who have been shuffled almost continuously during
22 the realignment and closure process.

23 The Air Force is well equipped to
24 deal with air turbulence but personnel turbulence

1 resulting from constant uncertainty, continued
2 relocations hinders performance, hurts readiness
3 and, frankly, adversely impacts the quality of
4 life of our dedicated Air Force personnel. Since
5 the realignment, the experience to-date has proven
6 the plans efficiency.

7 The Grand Forks Air Force Base was
8 the busiest base in the air mobility command last
9 year. Grand Forks was chosen a core tanker base
10 because of its requisite infrastructure, capacity
11 and geographic location to support the mission.

12 You heard about our runway. We
13 serviced in '93 one of the best in the Air Force.
14 Grand Forks is a high grade system capable of
15 refueling 8 KC-135s simultaneously and, not
16 surprising, the base was rated one of the very
17 best in the Air Mobility Command in 1994.

18 Located at the center of North
19 America, Grand Forks is ideally situated to
20 support conventional nuclear and peacetime
21 activities.

22 Current military strategy requiring
23 support for two major regional conflicts, such as
24 the conflict in the Persian Gulf and North Korea,

1 is well met by the Grand Forks Air Force Base.

2 We not only bring to bear a
3 cohesive, integrated core tanker unit, but also
4 the geographic location allows us to locate
5 equally operations in Asia and European theatres.
6 In addition, our national security continues to
7 depend upon a reliable deterrent, including
8 bombers armed with nuclear weapons.

9 Grand Forks is ideally located for
10 bomber support of SIOP by maximizing the flying
11 time and also maximize the amount of fuel
12 available for bombers flying north of the pole.

13 We are in a unique position to
14 support the air leg of the SIOP, as was evidenced
15 by Admiral Chiles in his letter, which states, and
16 I quote, "United States Strategic Command views
17 retention of core refueling wings at North Forks a
18 in support of our nation's strategic deterrent
19 capability.

20 You have been charged scrutinizing
21 the recommendations of the Department of Defense
22 and review of alternatives is an appropriate part
23 of your review."

24 In the case of Grand Forks, the

1 alternatives serve to highlight the strength of
2 Grand Forks and the substantial drawbacks the air
3 force found with the alternatives.

4 First, no other Air Force base can
5 support the core air refueling mission without
6 substantial upfront military construction, even
7 with substantial investment.

8 The other option, one -- or more of
9 the following shortcomings: One, concentrating
10 tankers in close proximity to existing core
11 tankers; basis two, eliminating the relationship
12 of core tanker base to the SIOP mission; three,
13 violating one base, one boss organizational
14 objective of the Air Force, and, four, limiting
15 operations due to environmental restrictions.

16 In summary, the facts reveal the
17 Air Force and the Department of Defense stand a
18 core tanker base at Grand Forks based solely on
19 consideration of the military value.

20 Grand Forks is in a unique position
21 to perform this mission and no other clearer
22 alternative exists.

23 As Assistant Secretary Gotbaum
24 stated in his May 25th letter, although complete

1 closure may appear attractive from a strict
2 savings perspective, that does not take account of
3 the preeminent military factors considered by the
4 department in its realignment recommendation.

5 Interpreting the base closure
6 criteria, in light of substantiations provided
7 here, is clear. The Air Force and DOD did not
8 substantially deviate from the criteria, rather
9 they have taken precisely the steps we expected of
10 them, building a defense strategy for the 21st
11 Century by creating the efficient core tanker base
12 concept and utilizing the uniquely well-situated
13 facility of Grand Forks for this mission.

14 Grand Forks is a very proud host of
15 the Air Force and we hope to continue to perform
16 this role for a long time to come.

17 Following me in this presentation
18 I'd like to introduce our next presenter, the
19 Honorable Edward Schafer, Governor of North
20 Dakota, who will address the economic impact of
21 the Grand Forks Air Force Base to the State of
22 North Dakota as well as the quality of life we are
23 able to offer all who are stationed. Thank you
24 very much.

1 CHAIRMAN DIXON: We are delighted to have the
2 distinguished governor of North Dakota with us,
3 Governor Schafer.

4 PRESENTATION

5 BY

6 GOVERNOR SCHAFER:

7 Good afternoon, Chairman Dixon and
8 Members of the B.R.A.C. Committee. Thank you for
9 the opportunity -- excuse me -- to present our
10 views on the future of the North Dakota Air Force
11 Base in Grand Forks. We gather here today with
12 the knowledge that the challenges are going to
13 confront our state in the coming months.

14 You have heard about the military
15 necessity of the Grand Forks Air Force Base and
16 its importance to national security and
17 fortunately North Dakotans have great trust in our
18 nation's military leaders.

19 We are confident that they
20 understand and will remain true to the principle
21 that global responsibilities of the United States
22 Air Force demands balance, flexibility and
23 readiness, not only does the base play a key role
24 in that overall defense strategy, it plays a vital

1 role in North Dakota's economy.

2 Grand Forks weathered the recession
3 of the late 1980s and early 1990s on the rebound,
4 but closing the entire Grand Forks Air Force Base
5 would have an adverse impact, both financially and
6 psychologically, on the community, on the region
7 and, in fact, on the entire state.

8 The base comprises 13 percent of
9 the community's work force structure and over 20
10 percent of the economy of Grand Forks, and that
11 community is our third largest city in the state.

12 Civic leaders in Grand Forks have
13 rededicated themselves to the task of building a
14 strong and viable community to strengthen local
15 resources and small businesses that serve our
16 friends in the military and to providing excellent
17 education facilities to train our youngsters to
18 the needs of the future.

19 Instead of building a future,
20 however, if the base were to close, surrounding
21 communities would be closing as well. Beyond the
22 restaurants and gas stations and video stores and
23 car wash and laundromat, five churches will be
24 severely impacted, as well as the volunteer fire

1 department in the area that is made up of 95
2 percent of the military personnel.

3 Tragically two schools will be
4 forced to close their doors. The closest is an
5 8th grade facility and is 75 percent dependent on
6 children of base employees, also the school will
7 be threatened because of loss of students.

8 They have just completed a \$2
9 million bond issue there to pay for construction
10 at the new high school. Losses to that school are
11 estimated over \$350,000 and would have to be
12 carried by a smaller tax base there.

13 And I want you to know we take that
14 seriously in North Dakota where we have the number
15 one math scores, the highest reading comprehension
16 and the high rate of graduations of any state in
17 the union, and these schools are training our
18 future leaders.

19 Grand Forks Air Force Base is more
20 than a military installation. It is home to
21 thousands of our friends. The personnel who live
22 and work at the base are our next door neighbors.
23 They are our best friends and they are North
24 Dakota's family.

1 We don't think you will find a
2 better interaction or stronger ties between
3 community and Air Force base anywhere in the
4 system than in Grand Forks.

5 Today we displayed our affections
6 for the outstanding men and women who are
7 stationed at that base, men and women would draw
8 their strength and their performance capabilities
9 from the community in Grand Forks.

10 To their discipline, Air Force
11 personnel say, well, they will perform their
12 duties to the best of their abilities wherever
13 they are, but we all know how important home is,
14 to live in the number one crime free, the number
15 one education, the number one clean air state, as
16 well as the friendliest state, allows our service
17 women and men to perform their mission better, and
18 you have heard from General Tenoso saying how this
19 affects the necessity of the readiness of the
20 command.

21 In closing, I, again, on behalf of
22 all the people of North Dakota, extend a hand of
23 friendship and hospitality, the same hand that we
24 extend every day to the service women and men who

1 are stationed in our state.

2 We humbly ask you to give fair
3 consideration keeping the Grand Forks Air Force
4 Base an integral part of our community.

5 As governor, I can guarantee you
6 that missile base in North Dakota will best
7 deliver the global mission of the United States
8 Air Force. I wish you good comfort in your very
9 difficult deliberations.

10 And next I would like to introduce
11 Mayor Mike Polovitz to present another community
12 view.

13 CHAIRMAN DIXON: Thank you, Governor.

14 Before Mayor Polovitz' view, I want
15 to say, Governor, that I served with the great
16 legend from North Dakota, Quinton Burley, who
17 played football for Minnesota, but represented
18 North Dakota, and I just want to put you on
19 notice, sir, that both you and the State of
20 Minnesota have claimed today to have the highest
21 number of graduates from high school
22 percentage-wise.

23 So now you are all under oath, this
24 is in the record here. I don't know what we are

1 going to do about this. I say to the senator from
2 North Dakota it's a very serious matter.

3 SENATOR CONRAD: Minnesota's in trouble.

4 CHAIRMAN DIXON: I just feel it's an
5 obligation for us to look into this further, and
6 wherever Quinton is, I know he can shed light on
7 us. I know he's above us. Thank you, Governor.

8 GOVERNOR SCHAFFER: We'll be sure to give you
9 the information. I see Minnesota people have
10 left.

11 CHAIRMAN DIXON: They made their statement
12 and fled. I see that.

13 GOVERNOR SCHAFFER: We have the panel here and
14 maybe we could have a sound off or something.

15 CHAIRMAN DIXON: We'll take this up later.
16 Thank you very much.

17 Mayor Polovitz, we are delighted to
18 have you.

19 PRESENTATION

20 BY

21 MAYOR POLOVITZ:

22 Is this mike on?

23 CHAIRMAN DIXON: I think so. Get it kind of
24 close to you.

1 MAYOR POLOVITZ: Mr. Chairman and Commanders,
2 I'm going to take a different approach on this.
3 Back in Grand Forks we would sit around the table
4 and talk about this and try to make it less
5 informal, and so much has been said about Grand
6 Forks, I don't know whether I can add to it at
7 this point in time, but I would like to state that
8 the model of the City of Grand Forks and the
9 region is a place of excellence and the place
10 defined is an undefined region, and this undefined
11 region basically includes the air base.

12 We have some of the closest
13 connections with those people out there in the air
14 base. Interestingly enough, when the air base
15 people come into town to do some shopping, and
16 what not, the people -- or the people at the
17 check-out counter say, "Are you from the air
18 base?" And they say, "Yes." "Well, we don't need
19 any identification from you."

20 This is the kind of treatment our
21 community gives. We have a way of life that we
22 believe in so very, very strong.

23 And when I go to Washington, D.C.,
24 for the U.S. Mayor's Conference and listen to the

1 problems of other communities, I'm almost
2 embarrassed to ask a question, because when I hear
3 their problems and come back to Grand Forks, I say
4 I'm coming back to heaven.

5 And General Andrews made the
6 statement last Friday saying that of all the bases
7 that he's been in charge of he said Grand Forks
8 has been a real wonderful place. I believe he
9 used the word --

10 COMMISSIONER STEELE: Paradise is the word.

11 MAYOR POLOVITZ: -- paradise.

12 COMMISSIONER STEELE: He used the word
13 paradise 46 times, I believe.

14 MAYOR POLOVITZ: We believe we do have a way
15 that includes the air base in all the regions. I
16 believe the strategy that I had on my desk before
17 I left on dropout rates is about less than 4
18 percent in our school system.

19 We have an excellent school system
20 from day care center all the way up through
21 university, and you will hear more about the
22 university from Mr. Odegard.

23 We have a regional concept in there
24 which we believe helps in this community. We have

1 an excellent relationship with the base.

2 So many things have been said, I'm
3 just going to make it very, very short and say --
4 and conclude that you just can't beat that place
5 in Grand Forks as far as community relationship is
6 concern.

7 And my only comment in closing
8 would be to say I hope that your decision will
9 take in account of national security and military
10 value of that base that we have in Grand Forks
11 because we very strongly believe that we are doing
12 as much as we can to keep and believe in our
13 country at this stage of the game.

14 CHAIRMAN DIXON: Thank you very much,
15 Mr. Mayor. We are delighted to have Dean John
16 Odegard here.

17 PRESENTATION

18 BY

19 DEAN ODEGARD:

20 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Lady and
21 Gentlemen. This is a very intimidating experience
22 for somebody as lowly as a university dean,
23 especially following this distinguished panel;
24 however our president, Temple Baker, couldn't be

1 with us here today and he wanted me to express the
2 university's commitment to the Grand Forks Air
3 Force Base and the importance we place on keeping
4 that air force base as a part of the Grand Forks
5 community.

6 And I wish, for the record, to
7 assure you that one hundred percent of all the
8 graduates from the University of North Dakota
9 graduate.

10 (laughter.)

11 But when President Baker addressed
12 the Commission in March, he emphasized the
13 educational, cultural and entertainment
14 opportunities that are available to the Grand
15 Forks personnel through UND, but today I'd like to
16 address just some examples of how the Grand Forks
17 Air Force Base provides some specific benefits to
18 the University of North Dakota and how UND and my
19 colleagues, UND aerospace, in particular, provides
20 specific benefits to the Grand Forks Air Force
21 Base.

22 First, as you might imagine, UND
23 provides excellent educational opportunities for
24 base personnel; 1700 students participate in

1 programs on campus through the UND educational
2 center. Half of these are active duty personnel;
3 28 percent are independents; the remaining 23
4 percent are civilian-based employees.

5 Also, we have two -- over 250
6 students enrolled on campus -- on campus degree
7 programs. Many of those students are enrolled in
8 our unique space studies graduate program that's
9 offered not only on campus but directly to air
10 force personnel at Grand Forks Air Force Base.

11 This program has been reviewed by
12 the director of Air Force Base Command and found
13 to be of extraordinary value to the Air Force.

14 As the nation's only
15 interdisciplinary master's degree program in space
16 studies, it provides a thorough grounding in the
17 history of space, space policy, politics, remote
18 sensing and several military uses in spacing and,
19 in fact, over one hundred Air Force officers have
20 received master's degrees in this program in
21 preparation to be future leaders of space
22 command.

23 Because space is critical to the
24 mission of the Air Force, officers educated in our

1 program bring to their job a framework and breadth
2 of understanding that compliment their technical
3 military skills.

4 Second, my college, UND Aerospace,
5 has been fortunate to work closely with the Air
6 Force base for the last 25 years. We are the
7 largest aerospace aviation program in the
8 country. We operate over a hundred aircraft. We
9 fly over a hundred thousand hours of flight
10 training per year. We fly and conduct over
11 400,000 takeoffs and landings in the Grand Forks
12 Airport in that area per year.

13 Those kinds of operations could not
14 be conducted safely without the Grand Forks
15 approach control radar, which is operated, of
16 course, by the Air Force base.

17 At times during the year, several
18 months a year, Grand Forks is one of the 12
19 busiest general aviation airports in the United
20 States. Safety is an issue, and we simply could
21 not operate with that level of safety and security
22 without the Grand Forks Air Force Radar Control.

23 In addition, the Air Force supports
24 the flying mission providing valuable information

1 to our atmospheric scientists, particularly in
2 times of severe weather. Our college's
3 atmospheric science department with information
4 from the base meant weather detachment provide
5 severe weather information which is processed and
6 generated on our computer to a multi-state region
7 through North Dakota's Public Television.

8 Also UND aerospace operates the
9 nation's only four-year air traffic control degree
10 program. Students from around the United States
11 participate in this program training with air
12 traffic controllers from Russia and Mainland
13 China. We train four classes a year from Russia
14 and we train all the instructors from Mainland
15 China.

16 Air force personnel participate
17 with the university in the training of those
18 controllers, which make that program of
19 significant global importance because all of these
20 controllers will be controlling U.S. aircraft all
21 through Russia and the Peoples Republic of China.

22 Lastly, let me say something about
23 our aerospace physiology program. Monday in
24 Bismarck, North Dakota, Admiral William Owens, the

1 Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, who by the way
2 is a Bismarck, North Dakota, native -- I think
3 he'd be happy to point that out -- he spoke at
4 Memorial Day service on Monday in Bismarck and
5 visiting later with Admiral Owens, was asked about
6 the defense budget and whether we were spending
7 enough.

8 He said that the military doesn't
9 need more money than it's getting now. It needs,
10 he said, quote, "The freedom to manage our budget
11 in a way that a businessman would try to manage
12 it," unquote, and that's exactly the opportunity
13 that the UND aerospace physiology program offers
14 and affords North Dakota's air force base.

15 We operate the only two civilian
16 altitude chambers in the United States and we
17 train many, many corporate and U.S. pilots
18 throughout the country, as well as many military
19 pilots, at our chamber in Grand Forks.

20 We train not only our own students
21 but the pilots from Grand Forks Air Force Base.
22 Their pilots receive their recurrent physiology
23 training at UND instead of being sent to distant
24 air force bases who operate air force chambers and

1 do so at a considerable expense.

2 The Air Force saves time and
3 money. We gain an important participant in our
4 physiology program and the American taxpayer
5 wins. This program has been so successful we have
6 proposed its expansion to all U.S. military
7 installations. Our own research indicates that we
8 could save the Department of Defense approximately
9 \$20 million per year.

10 To conclude, UND aerospace strives
11 to be on the leading edge of technology flight
12 training programs, interactive distance satellite
13 searching, computer applications with artificial
14 intelligence and expert system weather forecasting
15 modeling, dissemination of that information, and
16 air traffic control training and simulation
17 technology.

18 All of these areas hold as much
19 promise for the Air Force as they do for us, but
20 if we lose our direct link to the Air Force, we
21 lose a valuable opportunity to share our advances
22 with the Air Force and for us to share in the
23 talents that the Air Force brings to our
24 university from educating future Air Force leaders

1 to research, weather simulations to providing for
2 air safety to creating space command
3 opportunities, many ties bind our base and our
4 university together, the opportunities to boldly
5 step forward --

6 CHAIRMAN DIXON: Dean, I'm going to have to
7 ask you to conclude. Thank you very kindly.

8 PRESENTATION

9 BY

10 MR. MARSHALL:

11 Greetings. If the decision was to
12 be made strictly on a monetary basis, I guess you
13 people wouldn't be here, we would get those
14 answers through computer, but, Mr. Chairman, thank
15 heaven the Congress had the -- had the wisdom to
16 turn around and say there is the rest of the story
17 that has to be heard, and you heard the rest of
18 the story from all of the -- everybody on this
19 panel today, but, most of all, you got a letter
20 from General Fogleman. It's his decision. What's
21 in the best interest of our national security is
22 to retain Grand Forks Air Force Base. Thank you
23 for allowing other input other than the financial
24 decision.

1 I have been sitting in Rochester
2 for the last six days with my wife, and I talked
3 to the head of neurosurgery, and he said, John,
4 there was a machine that we needed -- Mayo -- as
5 you know, Mayo is the premier medical facility in
6 the country, if not the world -- and the chairman
7 of the department sat there for 20 minutes
8 explaining to me about this machine that he needed
9 and that would make all the difference, but it was
10 the most costly machine that Mayo had ever
11 considered to buy, and I was getting nervous.

12 "Well, did you buy the damn thing
13 or not?" And he finally ended up saying, the
14 chairman of the department thought this is too
15 much money to spend. A lot of my colleagues
16 thought it was too much money to spend, but then
17 they prevailed. The chairman of the department
18 prevailed, what was in the best interest of the
19 patient, and they spent the money, and personally
20 I want to thank them.

21 It's the same type of agonizing
22 decision that you people have to make. We know
23 it's a tremendously tough position that every one
24 of you are in. It's not going to be a popular

1 decision for anybody, but we know you will make
2 the best decision for our country and all of us in
3 Grand Forks in the State of North Dakota. You
4 want that and that's what we want.

5 I want to thank our friends in the
6 military. I don't think we do that enough, but,
7 because of them and because of what they do for us
8 each and every day, 24 hours a day, they give us
9 freedom, and because we have freedom, that allows
10 us to be here today in an open forum like this to
11 discuss with you our concerns.

12 The bottom line is we know you will
13 make the right decision for Grand Forks and for
14 our country. God bless you. But most of all, God
15 bless America.

16 CHAIRMAN DIXON: And we thank you, sir, for
17 those excellent remarks. We are indebted to the
18 great State of North Dakota for an excellent
19 presentation. We thank you very much.

20 Are there any questions from my
21 colleagues? Commissioner Steele?

22 COMMISSIONER STEELE: Hello, again. Thank
23 you all for your hospitality and wonderful
24 greetings at the site visit that I had last

1 Friday. I really appreciate it, and, General
2 Teneso, that your efforts that today and today
3 show your support, and it was noticed.

4 I have got a question or two for
5 you, if I may. Hypothetically, and without
6 prejudice, if Grand Forks closed, would AMC still
7 want this, the squadron and 135 from Moustrom to
8 move to McDill (phonetic)?

9 CHAIRMAN DIXON: That question is directed to
10 General Teneso, I take it?

11 COMMISSIONER STEELE: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

12 We heard a bit of a tanker
13 saturation in the northwest. I know we discussed
14 this a little bit the other day. I wonder what
15 your impression of that would be.

16 LIEUTENANT GENERAL TENESO: Commissioner
17 Steele, my impression would be that we would
18 continue to support the air force decision to
19 close Moustrom. There is a fairly sizable
20 concentration in the northwest and we believe
21 Moustrom can be redistributed.

22 COMMISSIONER STEELE: Also, I understand, and
23 I say this at the beginning of the question, that
24 Grand Forks is north central, not northwest, so

1 this question is you don't have a core facility at
2 McDill. At that point you would have a single
3 squadron and a single squadron at Robin, so there
4 would be three cores, but there would also be a
5 couple of lone squadrons.

6 What is your need in the southeast
7 for refueling?

8 LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR TENESO: The situation it
9 is often referred to about the imbalance of the
10 tanker receiver really speaks to a training
11 opportunity of a number of aircraft that's
12 stationed in different locations. That, in fact,
13 is a consideration.

14 We believe utmost importance is
15 that critical time when training is over and when,
16 in fact, our nation would be in some kind of
17 conflict, and so, as I described in our speech,
18 the predominant, the prevailing importance is not
19 just training. That's a consideration.

20 But if our country were to go to
21 war and if, in fact, we are to be involved in a
22 war or where we were transitioning from one mode
23 to the other, that becomes the critical portion of
24 the mobility mission. That's when the nation and

1 its strategy will be at highest risk.

2 So it's not -- it's not -- it
3 doesn't come to a question of where can it best be
4 put for training, although that's an ancillary
5 consideration.

6 COMMISSIONER STEELE: Okay. And, lastly, the
7 fuel hydrant system it was definitely first class,
8 definitely much cleaner than my house would ever
9 hope to be. I was very impressed.

10 How much did it cost to bring
11 installation up to that level which you have at
12 Grand Forks?

13 LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR TENESO: Commissioner,
14 I'm sorry. I don't have those figures, but
15 basically Grand Forks was considered to be in very
16 good shape, but I will have to tell you that part
17 of that was an air force original decision to put
18 B-1s there. So we can't take credit for all of
19 that when we formed the core tanker wing.

20 Although the facilities that are
21 there now are the best in our command, certainly
22 some of the best, and contain those key
23 ingredients like the state-of-the-art refueling
24 system, plus, as you saw, as we toured around the

1 ramp space and the runway and the hangers, and so
2 but I can't tell you, but for all of our bases
3 we'll continue, of course, to put in those kinds
4 of monies which we will need to keep the base up.

5 I can't give you a sunk cost
6 against the core tanker wing because I don't think
7 it was done with that in mind. It was a lot of
8 things that built up to that.

9 COMMISSIONER STEELE: Thank you. Terrific.
10 Thank you very much.

11 CHAIRMAN DIXON: I thank you, Commissioner
12 Steele.

13 Do any of my colleagues remaining
14 have any questions?

15 (No verbal response.)

16 We are indebted to the great State
17 of North Dakota. This hearing is adjourned.

18 (Whereupon, the above matter
19 was adjourned.)

20

21

22

23

24

1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)
2 COUNTY OF COOK) SS:
3)

4 Patricia Wesley, being first duly sworn
5 on oath, says that she is a Certified Shorthand
6 Reporter, that she reported in shorthand the
7 proceedings given at the taking of said meeting,
8 and that the foregoing is a true and correct
9 transcript of her shorthand notes so taken as a
10 foresaid and contains all the proceedings given at
11 said meeting.

12
13
14 Patricia Wesley
15 Certified Shorthand Reporter
16 License No. 084-002170

17
18 Subscribed and sworn to
19 before me this 5th day
of June A.D., 19 .

20 William R. Sanko
21 Notary Public

