



May 23, 2005

Commissioner, BRAC
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Commissioner:

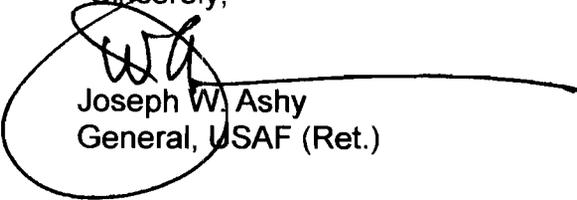
I'm a retired USAF general, and I had the honor of serving in both Air Combat Command (numerous leadership positions including Vice Commander) and Air Education and Training Command (Commander). I'm a fighter pilot and understand employment of airplanes and air base management.

I can imagine the volume of these kinds of inputs you have gotten and will continue to receive regarding your assigned task. But that goes with your "territory" which I support. However, an input:

I believe it is ill advised to close Cannon AFB versus Columbus AFB when one considers the airspace and range-space measures of merit. I'm very familiar with both installations, and you obviously considered both in their "mission stovepipes". You can move types of airplanes around easily, but you cannot utilize encroached airspace and you sure can't get new range space in today's complicated environment.

My view is that you ought to take a re-look at this out of the mission category environment. Then, the measures of merit will lead you to the correct thing to do. The way it is now, you don't have it right in my view. Thanks for your consideration in your tough and challenging assignment.

Sincerely,


Joseph W. Ashy
General, USAF (Ret.)

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5/25/05

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