



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Rod R. Blagojevich

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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60601

July 11, 2005

The Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Room 3E800
Washington D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

According to the recent BRAC recommendations issued by the Department of Defense, the fighter mission of 183rd Fighter Wing at Abraham Lincoln Capitol Airport in Springfield, Illinois would be realigned to another state. If this recommendation is upheld by the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, the 183rd Fighter Wing will no longer have a flying mission.

The Department of Defense did not coordinate this recommendation with either my office or the Illinois Adjutant General. This lack of consultation compromises the integrity of the process used to develop the BRAC recommendations and completely disregards my role as Commander-in-Chief of the Illinois National Guard. Further, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. §18238 and 32 U.S.C. §104(c), my consent is necessary for the actions contemplated by the Department of Defense with regard to the 183rd Fighter Wing.

Chairman Principi recently wrote you expressing his concern about the impact realigning Air National Guard facilities would have on homeland and national security. The Springfield Air National Guard Base is a highly strategic location for homeland security missions for both Illinois and the entire Midwest. Illinois is also home to 11 nuclear power plants that provide 50 percent of our power generation. Further, Illinois has 28 locks and dams on the Illinois, Mississippi and Ohio rivers. If these recommendations are adopted, these vital assets and many others will be at greater risk without the F-16s in Springfield. On top of all that, this move will cost the taxpayers \$10 million. These are the wrong recommendations, at the wrong time and for the wrong reasons.

DCN 4329

By this letter I wish to formally notify you that I do not consent to the proposed realignment of the 183rd Fighter Wing. Accordingly, pursuant to the above reference statutory citations, the actions proposed by your Department cannot proceed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rod Blagojevich". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "R" and "B".

Rod Blagojevich
Governor of Illinois