



The Company You Keep®

BRAC Commission
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Received

BRAC Commission
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Tenney H. Wheatley, Jr., MBA
Agent

July 14, 2005

Dear Sir:

I am a decorated Vietnam Veteran. Upon completion of my commitment to the Active Duty Air Force as a pilot, my family and I moved from California to Delaware to enjoy the quality of east coast life, to pursue a civilian non-flying career and to become a Citizen-soldier with The Delaware Air National Guard where I could continue to contribute my flying skills. I flew C-97's, C-130A's and went to Desert Storm in C-130 H's. What we were flying were the Airplanes the Air Force said they "didn't need or want" - yet the Delaware Air Guard had to be activated in order to get the equipment that the Air Force said they needed to do the job.

Now the Air Force is asking the BRAC Commission to make the Delaware Air National Guard the "fall guy" under the guise of saving us money - somewhere in the future. The Air Guard portion of the Air Force Budget is about 6%, and the projected savings will be an infinitesimal amount of that percentage. We must ask how much military capability are we giving up, and how much more risk are we assuming to save a relatively insignificant amount of money? When the Air Guard is gone, will the governor still have the resources needed to support state emergencies?

Once the Airplanes are gone - they are GONE - the State Militia has been "gutted" and we Delawareans are the losers. I do not want to see my children or grandchildren deprived of the opportunity to serve as patriotic citizen-soldiers in their local community. It is tough enough to meet the recruitment needs of our military services without doing away with the citizen-soldier. (If it ain't broke - don't fix it.) If we do not stop the process now - can a "draft" be far behind?

Respectfully,

Lt. Col. (Retired) Tenney H. Wheatley, Jr.
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