

NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN



NGAM

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



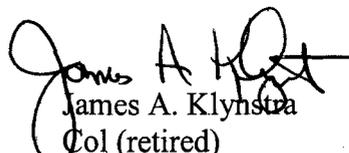
Dear Chairman Principi

On behalf of the 11,000 members of the Michigan National Guard, we want to express our sincere thanks for your efforts to review the recent BRAC proposal. Our Association opposes the BRAC because we believe it is not good for the Michigan National Guard and not good for America.

Specifically, we are opposed to the transfer of the 110th Fighter Wing caused by the proposed closing of the Kellogg Air National Guard Base in Battle Creek and also the potential loss of the F-16 unit at Selfridge ANB Base. Our first concern is for the almost certain loss of highly skilled, experienced aircrews, maintenance and flying support personnel. The second is the failure to consider the overwhelmingly superior safety and combat records of these flying units. In a time when recruiting goals are not being met across the country and combat readiness is at a high premium, we should not be causing trained members to leave the National Guard and combat readiness to decline. We do not feel that the loss of flying experience and training dollar investments have been adequately considered in this BRAC proposal.

I will not go into any further detail, because you are already aware of the BRAC proposals and the bases/units involved. Again, thank you for your service and the important role you play in defense of this great nation.

Sincerely,


James A. Klynstra
Col (retired)
Executive Director