

062 82005
RECEIVED



KANAWHA COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

2000 Coonskin Drive • Charleston, West Virginia 25311 • Phone (304) 341-8000 • FAX (304) 344-2696

2005 Defense Base Closure & Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark St. Ste. 600
Arlington, Va 22202

Kanawha County Parks & Recreation Commission
2000 Coonskin Dr.
Charleston, WV 25311

Dear Commissioners,

The Kanawha County Parks & Recreation Commission would like to take this opportunity to let you know what the men and women of the 130th Airlift Wing mean to us and the thousands of patrons who visit Coonskin Park yearly. The 130th provides our Park with quality first responder services that we feel can not be matched anywhere. The Airmen of the 130th are always ready to respond to any situation that may arise within our Park or the surrounding areas in our community. The Airmen of the 130th have in the past responded to many incidents ranging from car accidents, pool accidents and as back up for our Police department in times of crisis.

We look upon the Men and Women of the 130th as part of our Park Family due to the close day to day working relationship that we enjoy with them. In time of need the Men and Women of the 130th have proven that they will respond to protect and support the Citizens of the U.S.A., the Great State of West Virginia, Kanawha County and Coonskin Park with a commitment to duty that in the recent past has been noticed and praised by our President George W. Bush.

Being neighbors, we've had the opportunity to watch the 130th train and get ready for active duty. They have an unparalleled commitment to being the best, as they train in tough terrain and extreme temperatures, night and day. This base is renowned for the honed and special skills of its soldiers and their "get er done" attitude. Their morale is always high and their commitment strong whether they are going off to fight for our country or staying stateside to train and support. The threat to reduce the 130th Airlift Wing does more than take away planes, it threatens the morale that makes these men and women some of the most courageous soldiers and such an asset to our country and our state.

In closing, the Kanawha County Parks and Recreation would like the BRAC Commission to know that as citizens of this great and wonderful nation we support the 130th Airlift Wing in its missions world wide and that we are immensely proud that Yeager Airport is the Home of the 130th. We beseech you to reconsider the decision that was made to remove the 130th's Aircraft and support personnel and not only leave this award winning unit's aircraft at home but augment their eight superb aircraft with another eight so that the missions they fly will have an even greater rate of success. God Bless the USA and all of her citizens here at home and abroad.

Respectfully Yours,

Jeffrey K. Hutchinson, Director (On Behalf of Kanawha County Parks & Recreation Commission)



Shawnee Park
(304) 341-8030

Big Bend Golf Course
(304) 722-0400

Sandy Brae Golf Course
(304) 965-6800

Pioneer Park
(304) 949-3500