



JUL 25 2005

Received

Office of the Governor  
State Capitol  
1900 Kanawha Blvd., East  
Charleston, WV 25305

*State of West Virginia*  
*Joe Manchin III*  
*Governor*

Telephone: (304) 558-2000  
Toll Free: 1-888-438-2731  
FAX: (304) 342-7025  
[www.wv.gov.org](http://www.wv.gov.org)

July 20, 2005

Mr. Anthony J. Principi, Commission Chairman  
BRAC Commission  
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

It has been brought to my attention that the BRAC 2005 analysis report contains a recommendation to close the Pennsylvania National Guard's 911<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing located in Pittsburgh, PA, which may cause the Morgantown, WV detachment to be eliminated in the process.

Therefore, I want to go on record in opposition to the elimination of the sixty-six member Air Force Reserve Detachment located in Morgantown, WV. Eliminating this unit would result in West Virginia losing jobs. It would also decrease our state's homeland security capabilities and response time.

I have appeared before BRAC Commissioners in regional hearings, and I will continue to spread the message that West Virginians have always been there to answer our nation's call to service and any plan that would eliminate opportunities for our service simply does not make sense. I remain hopeful such action can be avoided, and I thank you for all of your hard work. You have continually shown throughout this difficult and complicated process your willingness to review all of the facts involved, and I, and the people of the state of West Virginia, are most appreciative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Manchin III".

Joe Manchin III  
Governor