

Executive Correspondence
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State of West Virginia
Joe Manchin III
Governor

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May 31, 2005

Donald H. Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

The Department of Defense recommendations for the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process included a recommendation to realign the 130th Airlift Wing in Charleston, West Virginia by turning the C-130 aircraft over to the Active Air Force and eliminating a multitude of positions at the air base.

I am writing to advise you officially that, as Governor of West Virginia, I do not agree to the proposed realignment.

The recommended realignment of the 130th Airlift Wing was not coordinated with me, my Adjutant General or any member of his staff. No one in authority in the West Virginia Air National Guard was contacted or even briefed about this action prior to public release.

The recommended realignment of this Air Wing appears to be the result of an uninformed and seriously flawed process that used antiquated data and furthermore completely ignored the important role of the 130th Airlift Wing in support of the State of West Virginia during periods of emergency.

The Governor of this State has called upon the Guard to alleviate suffering as a result of serious flooding over fifty times in the last ten years. The 130th Airlift Wing has

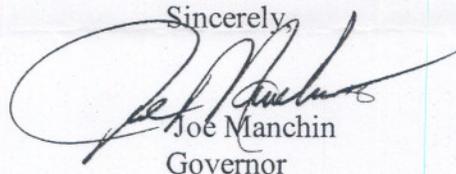
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answered the call to state duty during periods of state emergency more than you can imagine. Loss of the number of personnel that the BRAC study recommends will seriously impair my ability to provide assistance and security to the citizens of West Virginia during periods of emergency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Manchin", written over a white background.

Joe Manchin
Governor

cc: **The Honorable Anthony J. Principi**
Senator Robert C. Byrd
Senator John D. Rockefeller, IV
Congressman Alan B. Mollohan
Congressman Nick J. Rahall
Congresswoman Shelly M. Capito