



**BRAC Commission
Received**
6/23/2005

**The United Methodist Church
West Virginia Annual Conference**

Judith M. Kenaston
Conference Secretary

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20 June 2005

2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark St.
Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Members of the BRAC Commission,

At the request of the West Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, I am sending a copy of a resolution encouraging the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission to remove the 130th Airwing from its list of base closures and realignment or postpone the implementation of the Commission's recommendation. This resolution was approved at the Annual Conference Session in Buckhannon, West Virginia, which was held June 9-12, 2005.

Thank you for your attention to this resolution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judith M. Kenaston".

Judith M. Kenaston
Conference Secretary



Resolution approved at the 2005 session of the West Virginia Annual Conference
of
The United Methodist Church held June 9-12, 2005 at Buckhannon, WV.

Bishop Ernest S. Lyght, Resident Bishop
Judith M. Kenaston, Conference Secretary

Support of the 130th Air Lift Wing

WHEREAS, the 130th Air Lift Wing of the West Virginia Air National Guard has been included on the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission recommendations for realignment of some of its forces and its air frames (C-130 Transport planes).

WHEREAS, Charleston, WV is the right location for 130th Airlift Wing:

- 130th airmen are dedicated—retention is 96.9% and unit strength 103.2% while meeting the high demand of all wartime commitments
- 130th Air Base supports West Virginia's military retirees and dependents—nearest support facility of its kind within 200 miles
- West Virginia's surrounding airspace is free of major congestion and offers excellent environment for training missions over challenging and rugged terrain

WHEREAS, the 130th offers economic vitalization for West Virginia:

- Contributes millions to the regional economy annually
- 130 AW fire department saves Yeager airport approximately 1.7 million dollars annually and would cost much more to replace
- An estimated 156 fulltime and nearly 450 part-time jobs will be lost, if realigned
- Nearly 90 indirect jobs will be lost
- Conducts business with nearly 450 companies throughout WV
- The 130th Tuition Assistance Program provided Air Guard members \$264,000 in tuition and fees to WV colleges and universities for spring semester 2005

WHEREAS, the 130th personnel:

- Reside in 40 WV counties
- Volunteer with organizations such as Special Olympics, Kids Camp, Youth Leaders Camp, Mountaineer Challenge Academy, Salvation Army Toy Drive, Make-A-Wish Foundation, anti-drug education, Scouts, and junior ROTC
- Provide the 130th Starbase Academy, a 5-day program emphasizing math, science, technology, and goal setting, educates the majority of Kanawha County 5th graders—over 5000 students since 2001
- Have been part of the community since 1947 and is a family tradition for multiple generations of Guardsmen

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Annual Conference of the West Virginia Area of the United Methodist Church forward, within two weeks of the end of the Annual Conference Session, the Annual Conference's recommendation to the BRAC Commission, West Virginia's United States Senators and Representatives, and the President of the United States to either encourage removal of the 130th Airwing from its list of base closures and realignment, or postpone the implementation of the BRAC Commission's recommendation.