



NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES

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July 26, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

The Board of Directors of the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) met in Washington, DC on 23-24 July 2005. The board unanimously adopted the attached position statement relating to their objection to portions of the Department of Defense recommendations to the Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

NGAUS represents the active and retired commissioned and warrant officers of the National Guard. The association's purpose is to "...promote the national security of the United States of America." With respect to the National Guard, we have been able to contribute to that end by providing "...united representation before the Congress" for the last 127 years.

I would respectfully request that you consider the requests we have made to the Commission along with our pledge of full cooperation and support of appropriate alternative solutions. Our thanks to you and the Commission for your tireless efforts in these most difficult and demanding times.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert V. Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Robert V. Taylor
Brigadier General, MIARNG
Chairman

Encl: NGAUS Position Paper on BRAC

The Position Paper on BRAC
The Board of Directors
of the
National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS)

Department of Defense (DoD) recommendations to the 2005 Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC), specifically as they relate to the Air National Guard, will have a negative impact of unprecedented proportion. It has become obvious that the Air Force process was flawed, and current recommendations will result in crippling and totally unacceptable changes to the very fabric of the Air National Guard.

NGAUS certainly understands and accepts that change is a necessary part of any national defense strategy and that the Air Force and Air National Guard should be prepared to change in a logical and proper way. We stand ready to support change that will make America stronger, but we must speak out against recommendations that are clearly wrong, based on flawed processes and clearly exceed statutory authority.

Please take special note that NGAUS represents its' members in both the Army and Air National Guard in the 54 states and territories. The Army National Guard is actually more than three times larger, yet we raise no objection to the 000 recommendations, which impact the Army National Guard. All such proposals appear properly authorized and were developed with full involvement of Army Guard National and State leadership. This was not the case with the recommendations relating to the Air National Guard.

Recommendations pertaining to the Air National Guard compromise the BRAC process in the following ways:

1. BRAC legislation authorizes the closure or realignment of excess facilities and infrastructure - real estate and buildings. Recommendations, which relocate equipment and personnel, deactivate units, or change force structure within states are not authorized under the BRAC statute.
2. Recommendations affecting National Guard facilities and force structure require the advice and consent of the Governors of the affected states; that has not been complied with in this BRAC process.
3. DoD's recommendations that relate to the Air National Guard substantially deviate from published BRAC selection criteria.

NGAUS is committed to maximum flexibility in embracing logical and legal change. We believe that the current DoD recommendations to the BRAC Commission, pertaining to the Air National Guard, should be withdrawn and

appropriate alternatives be resubmitted. Absent such corrective action, we urge the BRAC Commission to reject that portion of the DoD recommendations that impact the Air National Guard.