

# PIT \* BRAC

**MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA  
PIT • BRAC TASK FORCE**

**Letters From Concerned Citizens In Support Of  
Pittsburgh Air Reserve Station, 99<sup>th</sup> RSC, and  
Charles E. Kelly Support Facility**

DCN 5108



The Honorable Anthony J. Principi, Chairman  
Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

**Re: PITTSBURGH, LAND & MORE**

July 10, 2005

The 911<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing is vital to our nation's defense, and in a strategic location for homeland security. Pittsburgh's renown for its medical community and an excellent recruiting area. The 911<sup>th</sup> can support additional aircraft right now. Land is not the issue! The four runways afford any and all aircraft ready accessibility. "If it can fly, it can land at Pittsburgh!" This cost-effective operation also hosts a variety of tenant functions which result in taxpayer savings.

The data used in analyzing this base's military value was flawed! Relocating these aircraft would not best serve our military defense posture, nor would it result in retaining the assigned, qualified personnel who have volunteered to serve. Additionally, more monies will have to spent at the gaining bases to support this. The 911<sup>th</sup> AW should not be closed! It should be considered for expansion as part of a Joint Readiness Regional Center -- combining the 99<sup>th</sup> RSC and Charles E. Kelly Support Facility.

Sincerely,



Address: DONALD J. WALSH  
1136 HUNTSRIDGE DR.  
CRESCENT, PA. 15046

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi, Chairman  
2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission  
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, Virginia 22202

22 July 2005

RE: Citizen Support of the Pittsburgh Air Reserve Station

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Within these binders are more than six thousand letters from supporters of the continued operation of the Pittsburgh Joint Air Reserve Station Pittsburgh PA. Many of these letters were collected during the "Wings over Pittsburgh" air show, which is held annually at the Pittsburgh ARS, and this year attracted approximately three hundred thousand spectators. There were a total of seventy-four aircraft parked at the ARS and adjoining aircraft parking areas, from the C-5 and C-17 to B-52's and the Thunderbirds, and available for use by the USAF for parking C-130's or any other aircraft in the Air Force inventory.

The citizens who are submitting these letters of support were aware of the proposed closure of the Pittsburgh ARS because it could allegedly host no more than ten C-130 aircraft. They were perplexed at the decision to close the ARS for this reason when it is clearly evident that there is ample room to expand to paved aircraft parking ramp previously offered by the Airport Authority and used for thirteen years by memorandum of agreement.

On the covers of these binders are pictures taken during this year's air show that make it quite evident that this base has ample space to accommodate twenty C-130 aircraft, but more importantly has the potential to assume any mission now planned or conceived in the future.

Pittsburgh has always supported its military units and the military has always enjoyed a fertile recruiting area here for all the services. It does not make sense to close the Pittsburgh Air Reserve Station.



Charles L. "Chip" Holsworth

Director BRAC Task Force

DCN 5108

## District 29



### STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA V.F.W.

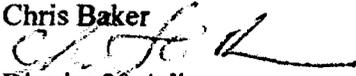
**Howard Strain**  
Commander  
District 29 Veterans of Foreign Wars

July 2, 2005

Base Closing Commission ,

District 29 Veterans of Foreign Wars voted at their meeting on May 15, 2005 to send you a letter raising our objections to the possible closing of the 911<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, Charles E. Kelly Support Facility, and the 99<sup>th</sup> Regional Readiness Command of the Army Reserve.

District 29 Veterans of Foreign Wars consists of all VFW members in Allegheny County Pennsylvania. Our objections include military readiness, the effect on our local economy, and the loss of jobs in our area.

Chris Baker  
  
District 29 Adjutant

DCN 5108

**YAHOO! MAIL**

Print - Close Window

**From:** "Norma L. Moore" <norma@forcomm.net>**To:** pitbrac@yahoo.com**Subject:** 911th air base**Date:** Sun, 10 Jul 2005 09:37:45 -0400

To whom it may concern,

I would like to give you the reasons for not closing the 911th air base. In the Gulf War everyone went on how it was fought with an all volunteer military. I know because I had two sons there, but when they all came home the thanks they got was down sizing them to save money.

Now we are in a pickle Korea is thrashing us on one side, Iran on another, Then we have the terrorists, who just showed what they could do in London. I don;t feel that any base in the United States should be closed. I really feel that the Pentagon has lost its mind in even suggesting that any base be closed. They didn't tell anyone how much it would cost to close these bases.

In World War II the Japanese were able to disable us by hitting our ships at Pearl Harbor. It was decided not to have everything in the same place. Now the Pentagon wants to do just that. Can you please tell me what they are thinking! I don;t think they are thinking at all.

My Father and Father in law both fought in WWII, When my Father came home he join the reserves stationed at the base.

My husband served his county in Viet Nam, I had two sons in the Gulf War. My husband has gone though allot because of Nam, He finally got implement at the 911th and was proud that he could serve his county again. My one son came home from the Gulf and join the reserves and works a job at the 911th. By closing the base he will lose his job that he depends on to take care of his two little boys. My youngest son was unable to join the Air Force because of an injury at birth, but was able to get a job serving his county by working at the base helping to take care of the reservists and recruits. He relays on this job even though its not a well paying job to take care of his three small children.

These children are watching and if our bases are closing they won't want to serve their county. Because basically they will see how their county is treating their men and women.

I am praying that the Lord will touch your hearts and minds and stop the closing of the 911th Air Base.

A Wife, and Mother  
NormaLee Moore



**Headquarters – CAP Squadron 603  
1110 Woodlawn Drive  
Coraopolis, PA 15108**

CHARLES L. HOLSWORTH  
Director-BRAC Task Force  
1550 Coraopolis Heights Road  
Moon Township, PA 15108

Sir:

As a member of the BRAC Task Force, I feel a personal obligation to help explore every option available to me in an attempt to help keep the 911<sup>th</sup> Air Force Reserve Base open and operational. Over the past three years, I have had the honor of being commander of Civil Air Patrol Squadron 603, Pennsylvania Wing, which is located on the 911<sup>th</sup> AFR Base. The Air Force has allowed Civil Air Patrol to meet and train on the installation and has afforded our young cadets educational opportunities to help develop their moral and leadership skills.

When I announced to my squadron the possible closure of the 911<sup>th</sup>, their concern and disappointment was immediately turned into a collective offer to “do anything” to help keep our base open. Their requests and concerns have been expressed on the attached twenty-two letters addressed to your task force. Please, use the letters from my cadets and senior members any way you can to help keep the 911<sup>th</sup> Air Force Reserve Base open for the city of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and our nation. Our national security depends on dispersed ready reserves to support our active military personnel. To close or consolidate valuable military assets seems to indicate we have not learned our lessons well from history.

In closing, my squadron of Civil Air Patrol cadets and senior members has offered their assistance in any other way you may need them. Squadron 603 is a proud partner of the 911<sup>th</sup> Air Force Reserve Base and we too want to assist your task force as they work to preserve this valuable national military installation.

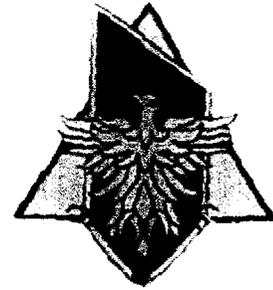
Sincerely

*Robert W. Smith* CAPT



**United States Air Force Auxiliary  
Golden Triangle Composite Squadron  
Civil Air Patrol Squadron 603**

1110 Woodlawn Drive  
Coraopolis, PA 15108



Dear Brac Task Force,

It has come to my knowledge that you are to close the 99th AFB Base and the 99th Readiness Group, both in Oakdale and Moon Township. The 99th in Oakdale serves not only as a base, but it also serves as a PX also.

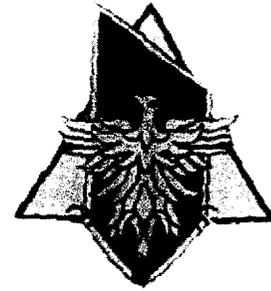
The 99th serves many purposes, one which is the wings over Pittsburgh Air Show. It also supports the local economy, as does the 99th.

AFCDC



**United States Air Force Auxiliary  
Golden Triangle Composite Squadron  
Civil Air Patrol Squadron 603**

1110 Woodlawn Drive  
Coraopolis, PA 15108



Dear BRAC Task Force,

I mean this whole heartedly when I say that the 21st Air Force base is a vital part of western Pennsylvania. The decision to close down this base within the last few years were harmful than beneficial to the area. The functions that the Air Force base serves are almost the nucleus to the area. I know first hand as I am a member of the Golden Triangle Composite Squadron 603. The area we've helped our squadron a great deal with - as far as providing resources, and training they provide. Squadron 603 has served the area many times in the past. We help with various community service programs in the area. We helped in the past two disaster events in the area. We perform search and rescue as well as in the area. When Hurricane Ivan hit our area, 603 helped with the relief. However, the Golden Triangle Composite Squadron 603 have provided me a course to take in the future. It would be an honor to be involved in the implementation of



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Civil Air Patrol Squadron 603**

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Dear Brac Taskforce,

To my understanding, you want to close the  
C11 Airforce base. By doing so, I believe you  
will loose several young men and women  
who had thought about joining the airforce.  
By seeing the base close I start to think  
about the future of the airforce. I believe  
that if I would join the airforce, my future  
would be unsure.

Being part of the airforce family I have  
grown to like it very much. Being in civil



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Civil Air Patrol is going to give me a  
standing chance of getting into JROTC  
at my high schools JROTC. Although the  
JROTC is better, I hope to get a chance  
to go to a Academy Civil Air Patrol Teaches  
me about physics and chemistry. I might  
meet people who can help me with that.  
That we can't possibly cover all that information.  
We are able to cover the topics in different creative  
ways. We get to design Aircraft, not just a  
Plane, but a plane that will serve the purpose  
that we need it for. We also had the chance  
to make models of it.



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6-June-2005

To whom it may concern,  
My name is Bill Ellis and I am the  
Aerospace Education Officer at CAP  
Squadron 603. I am respectfully  
requesting that the 911 Air Reserve  
base be kept operational. I have  
witnessed the growth and maturing  
of many of the cadets (young people)  
in this program. This base, with  
its Air Force Reserve volunteers and  
spacious facilities is making a



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6/6/05

To Whom it may Concern,

I am writing on behalf of all of us at the 911<sup>th</sup> airbase who are concerned about the possible closing of this base.

The 911<sup>th</sup> is an important, and to us a very necessary base, which we feel very strongly about keeping open.

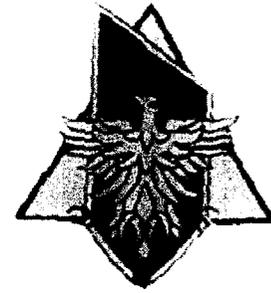
The 911<sup>th</sup> has the area needed to expand and has started renovations. To close this base would be a great loss, not only financially but statistically also.

T.D. 911<sup>th</sup> is a very important asset to



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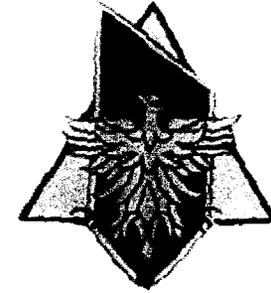
Dear BRAC Task Force,

I am writing to request that you do not close the 911th Air Base. This base is an integral part of our community. Myself personally, I have experienced the challenges of life on this base through the Civil Air Patrol organization. This has been an amenity to my experiences as a person. It would be a tragedy if this centerpiece of patriotic pride was closed to future generations of American heroes. Please consider keeping this extremely pertinent center of freedom open so it can continue to nurture the spirit of pride in the cause of democracy and



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To the BRAC Task Force,

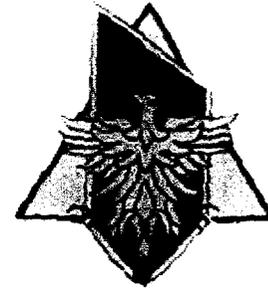
I am a member of the Civil Air Patrol squadron here at the 911<sup>th</sup> Air Force Reserve Base. The base is important to us because we meet here every Monday at 0630. By closing the base we would have nowhere to meet. The base is also a MEPS center for all 5 branches of the military. By closing it, it would make it extremely inconvenient for young men and women to get sworn in to the military. Also a lot of people would lose jobs so it would also disrupt the lives of a lot of people. In conclusion it is a bad idea to close the base.

Sincerely  
C/SA [Signature] Civil Air Patrol



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To the Biac Taskforce

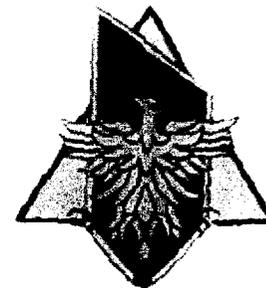
We at the C.A.P Squadron 603 are on the 911th Airforce base. We need the base because The People here help us in marching and color guard stuff. We have TSGT/S Newhard as a Senior member. He is on the 911th Base Honor Guard team and other people from his team and his unit has helped us as volunteers at no charge. They also help the communitys during the flood after Ivan hit the coast. This Is my home base and I Love it. The other bases Like The 99th Reddeness Group, We need the groups for the search and rescue teams. Please Let our Units stay in Pittsburgh, PA.

Sincerely  
Airman Jash DeLuzze



**United States Air Force Auxiliary  
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Civil Air Patrol Squadron 603**

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Brac Task Force

Please do not close the 911th Airforce base,  
It is the home of our civil Air Patrol Squadron  
603. It is also the home of the 911th  
airlift. Both of these squadrons help America,  
This civil Air Patrol squadron helped the  
victims of hurricane Ivan. It also supports  
airshows. That is why you should not  
close this base.

Airman Jacob Felker



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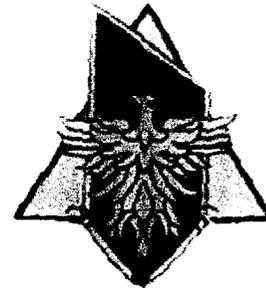
Dear BRAC Task Force,

I suggest you do not close this base. It is the home of many military personal including Civil Air Patrol. I am new to this base but I have been in C.A.P. for two years. My original C.A.P. home was in West View but unfortunately our Commander died and we had to transfer here. I love my new Civil Air Patrol home and the rest of the cadets here love it as well.

This base is also the home of Pittsburgh's and it's surrounding area MEPS. After I graduate college, I plan on joining the United States Navy as an officer. I would love to come to this base for MEPS because it's close to home and I can visit



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*Dear BRAC folks,*

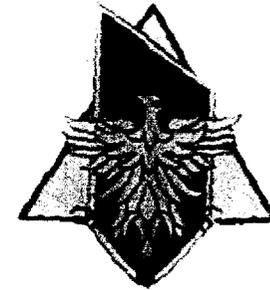
*My name is codeD aviator Michael J. Schmitt.  
I believe the 911th airlift wing and surrounding  
facilities are a very important asset and without  
Pennsylvania can not afford to lose them.*

*The closing down of these facilities would be a  
major blow to security and morale. It was at  
this base where I saw the dazzling aerial performances  
of the pararescue aircrew that made me decide I  
wanted to devote my life to the United States Air Force.  
If this base is closed down it will...*



**United States Air Force Auxiliary  
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BRAC Taskforce,

Civil Air Patrol has changed in many ways possible. With the closing of the Tri- Air Force Base the squadron will, in a likelyhood remain. C.A.P. has played a profound effect in my life and choices for the future. I'd hoped to pass this on to new cadets in the future, as I am now a flight commander. C.A.P. is an important program and needs you. This is not only is it our base, but a Msgr here or base has been teaching a leadership class for us. Please reconsider closing the base here.

C/S Msgr Pasquerelli, Coraopolis  
Civil Air Patrol



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Dear Base, Task Force,

Please DON'T close the  
911<sup>th</sup>. It is the home of  
Squad. 603 C.A.P. which is mine.  
FP is important to me. Don't close  
the Base.



Capt. Base



**United States Air Force Auxiliary  
Golden Triangle Composite Squadron  
Civil Air Patrol Squadron 603**

1110 Woodlawn Drive  
Coraopolis, PA 15108



6 June 2005

*To whom this may concern:*

*I respectfully request that you reverse the Commission's decision to close the 911th AFRES. The 911th recently underwent renovation, has room to expand and maintains superior physical facilities to Pope AB - the projected facility to which 911th's resources will transfer.*

*As a tax-paying father of four (4) Civil Air Patrol cadets, I also sincerely value the opportunities our children have to learn from Air Force personnel on an Air Force facility. Proof is the decision of our oldest to join the PA Air National Guard.*



**United States Air Force Auxiliary  
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Dear PFAIC,

As a member of the C.A.P., I feel that it is my duty to remain faithful to my country and my squadron. If you shut the 9/11th cadets' door, not attend their meetings! C.A.P. is a big part of Jan's life; it opens new opportunities and cracks the door to possibilities, so then I must ask you, as a future adult residing in America, why should you not be the door and clean our door? Please think about our future before you the final decision. That is all 603 ask of you.

Sincerely,

Arman  
1st class Keith Vares



**United States Air Force Auxiliary  
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Civil Air Patrol Squadron 603**

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Brac  
Task Force

The 911<sup>th</sup> Air Force Base is home to  
Civil Air Patrol Squadron 603. I believe,  
and the cadets enjoy the squadron, I included.  
The seniors and cadets all helped with hurricane  
Ivan, and its search and rescue missions.  
We are fortunate to have the air force help us  
in training and RT. Please keep the 911<sup>th</sup>

Cadet

Jonathan C. Veses



**United States Air Force Auxiliary  
Golden Triangle Composite Squadron  
Civil Air Patrol Squadron 603**

1110 Woodlawn Drive  
Coraopolis, PA 15108



Dear BRAC Taskforce,

I am a cadet in the Civil Air Patrol Squadron 603 at the 911th Air Force Base. I have been in CAP for about one and a half years, and I feel that I have learned more life lessons here than I could have anywhere else. In CAP they taught me about integrity, and how important it is to make a good first impression. But I must say I learned the most from joining CAP Honor Guard, and being taught by the 911th base honor guard. I think it is important for the youth of our country to learn about and experience leadership.



**United States Air Force Auxiliary  
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1110 Woodlawn Drive  
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Dear B.RAC, Task force

In the recent weeks it has come to my attention that the 911th AirBase is destined to close if nothing is done to stop this impending tragedy. I call it a tragedy for this entire area (Pittsburgh & Region) will be affected, and not just economically, the 911th is the home of the western Pennsylvania MEPS Center, where future military personnel spend the night before shipping out or swearing in at the Federal Building. I know this for it is what I did on February 21 before I enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. Also the 911th is home to dedicated Reservists who are currently fighting overseas such as Lt. Col. PAUL Dobracki, a good friend of my family, and an excellent pilot who would be forced to move from this region or leave the Air Force, not to mention the veterans in the area who shop at the Base exchange, and finally the organization I am affiliated with the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) would be forced to find another Base for this unit 603, may be disbanded like my former Squadron 705. Thank you for your time and concern,



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To whom it may concern ~

This letter is written on behalf of the 911th air base's possible closing. One reason given for closing it is no room to expand the premises. Yet, it has come to attention the base perimeter shows more than enough possibility for expansion. The 911th also renovated the base. By closing it money (much) would be simply, <sup>1</sup> want of a better word, wasted. Unnecessary, a strong consensus.

Squadron 603 of Civil Air Patrol meets every Monday on the 911th side. It is utilized by cadets and senior members alike as a place for continuing cadet education, promoting volunteerism in our communities, and as well as a place of belonging for each member; like another, bigger family. Please, reconsider the 911th. It is not simply a base to many.



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To Brac Task Force

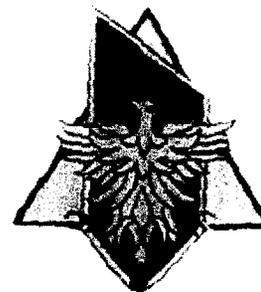
I am involved with Civil Air Patrol stationed at the 911<sup>th</sup> Air Base. I have heard that the 911<sup>th</sup> is on the base to be closed list. There are several reasons why it should not be closed. One of them being that it is the only place where we can have the Wings Over Pittsburgh Air show. It is probably the 2nd best Airshow in the US, that being Oshkosh better, but only due to size. It is also the MEPS center in Pittsburgh. People entering the armed services from all over come here to be sworn in here. It is the home of Civil Air Patrol Squadron 603. CAP is a great organization with its outstanding Leadership Program and great Aerospace Education. Taking away the base would deprive 603 of a home and the ability to help the Air Force with its Search and Rescue as well as Homeland Security. Also being in the Honor Guard we would not only lose our instructor but also the facilities to practice. Due to the great instruction and the facilities our Honor Guard belted 3 teams in the National Cadet Color Guard Competition. We placed 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, the best place team won Regions as well and is going to Nationals in DC. We would never be that good. It would also hand Pittsburgh more job losses, so closing the base would negatively effect the community as well.

Sincerely, Cadet Senior Airman Brian C Lonta



**United States Air Force Auxiliary  
Golden Triangle Composite Squadron  
Civil Air Patrol Squadron 603**

1110 Woodlawn Drive  
Coraopolis, PA 15108



Dear Brac Taskforce,

I am writing to you to outline the importance of keeping the 911<sup>th</sup> Air Force Reserve Base active to our Civil Air Patrol Squadron and other squadrons in the area. Our squadron is extremely involved and many of our activities are made possible by Air Force personnel on base. For instance, two years back we were given the opportunity to ride in a C-130 stationed at the 911<sup>th</sup> and flown by pilots on base. This activity ~~did~~<sup>was</sup> not only open to our cadets, but also other Civil Air Patrol squadrons and even a Young Marines unit. It was a particularly rewarding experience as cadets were allowed on the flight deck and were exposed to the various operations performed during flight. ~~The 911<sup>th</sup> is also has these flights~~ Another event which the 911<sup>th</sup> hosts and other squadrons, as far aserie and into Ohio, send cadets to volunteer and enjoy 13 Wings Over Pittsburgh, our annual air show. This event incorporates literally hundreds of cadets who assist in parking and crowd control and then enjoy a private show in the evening. The 911<sup>th</sup> provides copibus events which allow other squadrons' cadets to build leadership, enthusiasm toward military operations, and bondage between squadrons and cadets.

Aside from inter-squadron goings-on, there are many services the 911<sup>th</sup> personnel provide for our own squadron on an almost everyday basis. Probably the most important contribution is a squadron building which comfortably accomodates around 30-40 cadets and 10-20 senior members. Our building also has enough space and rooms for a supply office, a squadron commander office, and a cadet staff room. And if, for



**United States Air Force Auxiliary  
Golden Triangle Composite Squadron  
Civil Air Patrol Squadron 603**

1110 Woodlawn Drive  
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Dear BRAC Taskforce,

It has come to my knowledge that the  
111th Air Force Base may be coming to a close.  
This cannot happen, especially for us. We have  
our weekly meetings here, we get trained by  
people who are stationed here, and we also  
fly many air crafts here. When this base

used for the Air Force personnel, but  
also Navy, Army, and Marine. If this base  
closes, many people will not only be inconvenienced,  
but they will be out of jobs, and good careers  
will no longer be able to pursue a career  
in which we live