



DAVE HOBSON

June 27, 2005

To: The Honorable James H.
Bilbray

From: Congressman Dave Hobson

Re: Springfield ANG Base

If you answer the following questions, it would appear that the Air Force logic is flawed and the Springfield ANG base should be allowed to continue its current mission.

- 1) The AF currently lacks sufficient training capacity for F-16 pilots. Won't the proposed realignment further diminish this already insufficient capacity? Does this make sense when the demand for pilots remains constant?

(over, please)

- 2) The Air Force Air Education and Training Command has assigned student training loads to Springfield for FY08. But the BRAC information shows the maintenance and operations personnel are scheduled to leave in 2007. How is this possible?

- 3) The Air Force projects they will stop flying all of the F-16 aircraft by 2015. The COBRA analysis shows it will take more than 18 years to realize any return on the initial investment. If the F-16 planes are retired before the proposal breaks even, how can these savings be realistic? Doesn't it end up costing taxpayers money? How much will it cost to replace and train the people from the locations that are being set aside?

Please look at the data provided to your analysts. The assessment for the Springfield ANG Base is seriously flawed. Please keep this F-16 pilot training capacity in tact until it is no longer a programmatic need!