



BRAC Commission

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**AUG 17 2005**

RICK PERRY  
GOVERNOR

Received

August 12, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi

Chairman  
2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission  
2521 Jefferson Davis Highway  
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

As the BRAC Commission begins its deliberations on individual recommendations, I would like to present my position on the two BRAC recommendations affecting Dyess AFB, Texas. The recommendations include the transfer of 24 B-1s from Ellsworth AFB to Dyess AFB and the transfer of 29 C-130s from Dyess to Little Rock, Elmendorf and Peterson AFBs.

As conveyed by Abilene Mayor Norm Archibald in his detailed letter on this issue, dated August 10, 2005, transfer of the B-1s to Dyess AFB makes good sense. Dyess has the infrastructure, ranges, crew training facilities, and logistics programs to support the consolidated B-1 fleet in a cost efficient manner, providing significant cost savings to the Air Force. The recommendation is supported by comprehensive, objective analyses and by the testimony of senior officials from the Department of Defense (DOD) and the Air Force to the BRAC Commission.

The same rigor of analysis was not accomplished for the recommended relocation of the C-130s at Dyess AFB. The Air Force's proposed realignment of the 32 C-130s to three different locations will increase Air Force manning requirements by 225 personnel and BRAC MILCON requirements by at least \$18 million. In addition, the Air Force has officially stated, in response to questions from our congressional delegation, that they did not complete a formal capacity analysis for an expanded C-130 fleet at Little Rock AFB (the intended location for 24 of the Dyess C-130s). This oversight, especially in light of the already elevated level of aircraft activity at Little Rock, puts the military readiness of the C-130 program at risk, as well as the expected savings based on an incomplete analysis.

As a former Air Force pilot and as the governor of the State of Texas, I encourage the BRAC Commission to evaluate the DoD recommendations for Dyess carefully. The B-1 and C-130 programs would both be better served by being located at Dyess AFB.

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi  
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Sincerely,

  
Rick Perry  
Governor

RP:jek

cc: BRAC Commissioners  
The Honorable John Cornyn, U.S. Senator  
The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison, U.S. Senator  
The Honorable Randy Neugebauer, U.S. Congressman  
The Honorable Troy Fraser, Texas State Senator  
The Honorable Bob Hunter, Texas State Representative  
The Honorable George Newman, Taylor County Judge  
The Honorable Dale Spurgin, Jones County Judge  
The Honorable Norm Archibald, Mayor, City of Abilene  
Colonel William J. Ehrie, USAF (Ret.), Chair, Texas Military Preparedness Commission  
Colonel Garrett Harencak, Commander, 7th Bomb Wing, Dyess AFB  
Mr. David W. May, Public Affairs Officer, 7th Bomb Wing, Dyess AFB  
Mr. Larry Gilley, City Manager, City of Abilene  
Mr. Mike McMahan, President, Abilene Chamber of Commerce