

Executive Correspondence
DCN 5790

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

July 28, 2005

Mr. Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
252 1 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

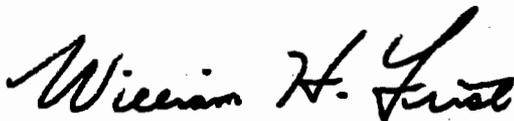
We are writing to express our interest in the Commission's consideration of the 118th Airlift Wing of the Tennessee Air National Guard. The 118th Airlift Wing is the third oldest Air National Guard (ANG) unit in the United States and has a long and distinguished career of service, most recently in Iraq.

We are concerned about the Defense Department's recommendation to move the C-130s currently used by the 118th to other installations around the country, and the methodology employed to reach this conclusion. We strongly urge the Commission to review this decision thoroughly to ensure the process that drove this recommendation was comprehensive, fair, and wholly consistent with the criteria and goals established by the Pentagon.

As has been conveyed to the Commission previously, we have always been impressed by the 118th's facilities, personnel, and the support the unit receives from the local community. The 118th and the C-130s it operates have performed superbly over the years, and both will serve a relevant and essential national and state airlift mission for many years to come.

The 118th Airlift Wing has a critical role to play in meeting Tennessee's and our Nation's needs in the 21st Century, and its C-130 fleet is integral to that success. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

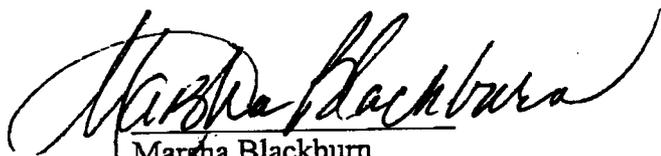


William H. Frist, M.D.
Majority Leader
United States Senate



Lamar Alexander
United States Senate

Executive Correspondence
DCN 5790

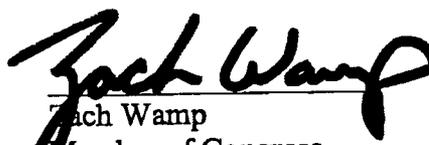

Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress

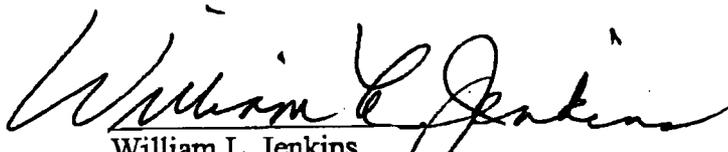

Jim Cooper
Member of Congress

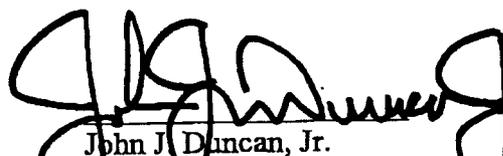

Lincoln Davis
Member of Congress


Harold E. Ford, Jr.
Member of Congress


John S. Tanner
Member of Congress


Zach Wamp
Member of Congress


William L. Jenkins
Member of Congress


John J. Duncan, Jr.
Member of Congress


Bart Gordon
Member of Congress

cc: General Lloyd W. Newton (USAF, Ret)
Admiral Harold W. Gehman, Jr., (USN, Ret)