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WILLIAM E. STRINE, MAYOR
and Director of
Public Service and Safety

July 24, 2005

The Brac Commission
Anthony J. Principi, Chairman
2521 South Clark St., Suite 600
Arlington, Va. 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

This letter is to express my support for the retention of the Ohio Air National Guards 179th Airlift Wing base located in Mansfield, Ohio. The closing of this base would have a drastic negative impact on the local economy. The 179AW has highly skilled personnel who provide critical homeland security as well as other important missions. The 179AW also provides a large, highly mobile and ready force, under the direct authority of the Governor of Ohio, to respond to natural disasters and civil disobedience.

The 179AW also has room to expand and could do so for considerably less than the cost for the proposed expansion in Alabama. The loss of jobs with the proposed closing of the 179AW would be a serious detriment to the families employed there. Therefore, this letter strongly supports the repeal of the closure of the Ohio Air National Guard's 179th Airlift Wing at Mansfield, Ohio.

Sincerely,

William E. Strine, Mayor