DCN 7775

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BRAC Commission
AUG 18 2005
Received

August 9, 2005

2005 BRAC Commission
2521 S. Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear BRAC Commission Members:

Re: 130th Airlift Wing

The 130th Airlift Wing has been in Charleston, West Virginia for 58 years. During that time, they have flown in and out of Yeager Airport without incident. The 130th has met and frequently exceeded all standards of inspections, performance and readiness. The 130th has been able to recruit and retain hundreds of qualified personnel from the area over the years. Even in the face of declining recruitment nationally, the 130th has been able to maintain its ability to recruit qualified individuals. The 130th has proven over the years that it can fly anywhere in the world to support our nation's efforts and has done so frequently and proudly.

Charleston Area Medical Center is one of the largest employers in the region, and we have many employees who are current and past members of the 130th. We are proud of their service to our country and community. Our employees represent the character, spirit and devotion to duty that is inherent of the people that live in this area. You will not find better prepared or more dedicated individuals anywhere in our great country.

By now, I hope you are keenly aware of the flaws in the original BRAC Report:

- **Charleston's Yeager Airport will soon have a 6,800-foot runway. The expansion project is currently underway.**
- **Fuel hydrants are for tanker bases and are not authorized for Air Guard bases.**

- **The 130th has no need for published low level routes because the entire state is approved for low altitude navigation. In fact, the 130th has 26,000 square miles of low level training, more than twice the space available for training at Pope Air Force Base.**

- **The 130th can currently park twelve C-130s and has demonstrated the capacity to park fifteen airplanes.**

- **Currently, the 130th has the lowest personnel cost, lowest operations and maintenance cost and the lowest cost per flying hour.**

- **The base at Yeager Airport costs $1 per year, and for an additional $1 per year, the base could be expanded to park 24-26 C-130s.**

Finally, the realignment of the 130th Airlift Wing will result in no cost savings to the Air Force's total budget. It seems clear that closing the best Air National Guard Base is not in the Air Force's economic interest or the nation's best interest. Please keep the C-130s flying in Charleston, West Virginia!!

Sincerely,

David L. Ramsey
President and CEO
Charleston Area Medical Center

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Copies to:

President George W. Bush
Senator Robert C. Byrd
Senator John D. Rockefeller IV
Representative Shelley Moore Capito
Representative Alan B. Mollohan
Representative Nick Joe Rahall II
Donald H. Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense
General Richard Myers, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
Michael L. Dominguez, Acting Secretary, U. S. Air Force