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Received

SPONSOR: Sen. DeLuca & Rep. DiPinto ;
Sens. Adams, Blevins, Bunting, Cook, Henry, Marshall, McBride,
McDowell, Peterson, Sokola, Vaughn, Venables, Amick, Bonini,
Cloutier, Connor, Copeland, Simpson, Sorenson, Still; Reps. Booth,
Fallon, Gilligan, Hall-Long, Hocker, Hudson, Johnson, Longhurst,
McWilliams, Mulrooney, Stone, Viola, Spence, Atkins, Wagner,
Buckworth, Ewing, Thornburg

DELAWARE STATE SENATE

143rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 7

ESTABLISHING AN INDEPENDENT, BI-PARTISAN TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP STRATEGIES TO PREVENT THE
BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE COMMISSION FROM APPROVING THE MAY 13, 2005, DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE RECOMMENDATIONS TO REALIGN THE DELAWARE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BY TRANSFERRING ALL
(8) EIGHT C130 AIRCRAFT TO OTHER STATES AND ELIMINATING HUNDREDS OF ASSOCIATED POSITIONS IN
THE DELAWARE AIR NATIONAL GUARD.

1 WHEREAS, the Delaware Air National Guard has served the citizens of Delaware, the nation, and community with valor
2 and honor in all major military operations during the past fifty-nine years to include the Korean War, Vietnam War, Operations
3 Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Noble Eagle; and

4 WHEREAS, the Delaware Air National Guard located on New Castle County Airport is the home of the 166th Airlift
5 Wing with a heritage at the facility dating back to World War II; and

6 WHEREAS, the Delaware Air National Guard on the New Castle County Airport has (8) eight modern C130H airplanes
7 assigned; and

8 WHEREAS, more than 1,000 military members, over 300 of which are fulltime, work for the Delaware Air National
9 Guard on the New Castle County Airport; and

10 WHEREAS, the Delaware Air National Guard facilities on New Castle County Airport cover more than 90 acres, with two
11 runways, and 36 buildings; and

12 WHEREAS, the Delaware National Guard is the "Hometown Force" for Delaware and is the only military under the direct
13 authority of the Governor and the New Castle County Airport location provides the Governor with a large and ready force in the
14 northern and most populated county in the State; and

15 WHEREAS, the Delaware Air National Guard plays a vital role in homeland security in New Castle County by providing
16 at the New Castle County Airport, highly secured, controlled access facilities protected fulltime by the 166th Security Forces
17 Squadron; and

18 WHEREAS, due to the military presence on the New Castle County Airport, the Delaware Air National Guard provides
19 significant resources to the New Castle County Airport by providing maintenance support for the runways and providing a 24 hours
20 a day, specialized aviation fire and rescue operations supporting both military aircraft and civilian aircraft operations and their
21 facilities; and

22 WHEREAS, the Department of Defense has made a recommendation to the Base Realignment and Closure Commission to
23 transfer all (8) eight C130 aircraft of the Delaware Air National Guard to other states and eliminate hundreds of positions associated
24 with the C130 mission; and

25 WHEREAS, the Department of Defense Base Realignment and Closure Recommendation to realign the Delaware Air
26 National Guard was not coordinated with the Governor, or the office of the Adjutant General as required by Title 10 and Title 32 of
27 the United States Code; and

28 WHEREAS, the loss to America and Delaware of airmen who proudly serve as the nation's most experienced C130
29 aircrews, crew chiefs and mechanics is not assured by the Department of Defense realignment recommendation and the cost
30 associated with losing these airmen is not factored into the projected savings; and

31 WHEREAS, the proposed realignment of C130 bases would leave no C130 units between Rhode Island and North
32 Carolina where highly trained and experienced C130 flight and maintenance personnel in the Air National Guard live and serve; and

33 WHEREAS, the proposals impacting the Air National Guard disregard unique aspects of National Guard community based
34 service that is not conducive to long distance personnel transfers common in active duty service; and

35 WHEREAS, the Department of Defense BRAC recommendations were finalized without the benefit of the Quadrennial
36 Defense Review (QDR) that identifies threats, develops strategies and allocate resources to combat those threats; and

37 WHEREAS, the replacement costs to the taxpayer for these airmen impacted by this proposal cannot be captured in
38 economic terms; and

39 WHEREAS, the Base Realignment and Closure Commission is required by law to make final recommendations to the
40 President of the United States on or before September 8, 2005,

41 NOW, THEREFORE:

42 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate and House of the 143rd General Assembly of the State of Delaware, with the approval of the
43 Governor, that an independent, bi-partisan Task Force be created and charged with developing strategies to (i) prevent the BRAC
44 commission from approving the May 13, 2005 Department of Defense recommendations to realign the Delaware Air National
45 Guard by transferring all (8) eight C130 aircraft to other states and eliminating hundreds of associated positions in the Delaware Air
46 National Guard, (ii) prevent the devastating loss of emergency and defense capabilities provided by the Delaware Air National

47 Guard to the citizens of Delaware, the mid Atlantic region and the nation and (iii) prevent the negative economic impact of these
48 changes to the citizens of Delaware.

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force shall serve without compensation and be comprised of 13 members: 2
50 appointed by the Governor; 2 appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, one of whom shall serve as the Chair; 2
51 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall serve as the Co-Chair; the Adjutant General or his
52 designee; the Director of the Delaware Economic Development Office or her designee; the Secretary of the Department of Natural
53 Resources and Environmental Control or his designee; the Chief Executive Officer of the Delaware River and Bay Authority or his
54 designee; the New Castle County Executive or his designee; the New Castle County Council President or his designee; and the
55 President of the New Castle County Chamber of Commerce or his designee.

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the first meeting of the Task Force shall be held no later than 15 days after enactment of this
57 Resolution.

58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force hold public meetings and/or hearings and call before it witnesses to testify on
59 issues relevant to this Resolution.

60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force shall report its initial findings and recommendations to the Governor and the
61 members of the 143rd General Assembly by August 15, 2005, and thereafter shall remain constituted as a Task Force for the
62 purposes of rendering advice and guidance as needed throughout the Base Closure and Realignment process.

SYNOPSIS

This Joint Resolution establishes an independent, bi-partisan Task Force to develop strategies to prevent the BRAC commission from approving the May 13, 2005, Department of Defense recommendations to realign the Delaware Air National Guard by transferring all (8) eight C130 aircraft to other states and eliminating hundreds of associated positions in the Delaware Air National Guard. The BRAC commission has until September 8, 2005 to review and make any changes to the Department of Defense recommendations, which if implemented, would cause a devastating loss of emergency and defense capabilities provided by the Delaware Air National Guard to the citizens of Delaware, the mid Atlantic region and the nation, and would also have a negative economic impact on Delaware.

Author: Senator DeLuca