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07 05 2005

Joseph R Coppola
13691 McKinley Avenue
Warren MI 48089

30 June 2005

Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark St, Ste. 600
Arlington VA 22202

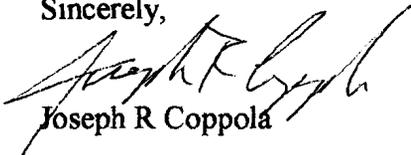
Re: Battle Creek MI (MIANG)

Dear Mr. Principi:

I am writing with regards to the BRAC recommendation to close the Air National Guard Base at Battle Creek MI. I agree that closing this base would be beneficial to the Air Force and thereby the Department of Defense. The recommendation, however, loses in its suggested transfer of airframe to Selfridge ANGB and the retiring of the aircraft there. Closing the base at Battle Creek is fiscally responsible, but the unit should be transferred in total to Selfridge. Increasing the size of the 127th Wing at Selfridge would not be that difficult of a task. I have been the Wing Historian for the 127th since 1993 and have seen numerous changes implemented and accomplished with ease. There is plenty of ramp space for an additional unit or more. Perhaps in time the C-130 fleet could be retired and the F-16s replaced with another aircraft. Sending the Air Force Reserve unit to Florida without their aircraft (KC-135) doesn't make sense either. The pilots of the 107th Fighter Squadron (127th Wing) have had to learn new aircraft before and it is time-consuming so now is not the time to start that process again.

I submit to you and the Commission that the 110th fighter unit from Battle Creek be transferred to the 127th Wing as an additional unit. Therefore the 127th would have the 107th Fighter Squadron (F-16s), the 171st Airlift Squadron (C-130s), and the 110th Fighter Squadron (A-10s). Through attrition some positions would disappear and of course with the consolidation some higher level commanders would no longer be needed. Minimal loss of personnel and overall costs would decrease dramatically. The State of Michigan could buy or lease the real estate at Battle Creek and open another prison they are always saying they need. Please consider my suggestion and feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this further.

Sincerely,



Joseph R Coppola

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Betty West
71 Maurer Dr
Battle Creek, MI 49017-2057

29 June 2005

The Honorable Anthony Principi
Chairman:

First, I cannot understand why you would want to close any base right now the way the world situation is today.

Second, The 110th is a wonderful base, I've watched it grow since 1947, when my husband was a charter member to get it started. Never have had a problem recruiting men. It has been taken care of very well.

They have spent millions of dollars on new buildings, some not completed yet.

The 110th has been called to active duty many times, always ready when called.

You should come to Battle Creek ANB & see what we are talking about

Sincerely

Betty West

P.S. Please come to see us.