

BRAC COMMISSIONER

JUL 13 2005

Received



# New Castle County Volunteer Firemen's Association of Delaware

Post Office Box 3211 Wilmington, DE 19804-0211

July 2, 2005

Chairman Anthony J. Principi  
Base Realignment and Closure Commission  
2521 South Clark Street  
Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

Subject: New Castle County Delaware Airport Air Guard Station

Dear Chairman Principi and BRAC Commissioners:

On behalf of the Officers and Members of the 21 member companies of the New Castle County Volunteer Firemen's Association, we respectfully request that the 166<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing remain intact at the New Castle County Airport in Delaware.

The 166<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing plays a vital role not only in our homeland defense, but in the preservation of life and protection of property in Delaware. In addition to the military value to our nation, the unit is an important partner in public safety, not only in New Castle County but in the Delaware Valley region. The professional men and women of this unit are strategically located within an hour of two major metropolitan areas, Philadelphia and Baltimore. Relocation of the 166<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing has the potential to place millions of citizens at risk, at a time in our history when we can ill afford to reduce our defenses.

*"Fire, Rescue and EMS Services, Neighbor Helping Neighbor"*

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The 166<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing has maintained a high level of readiness and efficiency. They have served the residents of New Castle County in times of crisis, during severe weather events and hurricanes. They provide a vital service to the travelers who arrive in and depart from the New Castle County Airport, with specialized equipment and highly trained personnel that are not available elsewhere. Finally, they are our neighbors and colleagues who face the disruption of family lives.

We urge you in the strongest terms possible to reconsider your decision and remove the 166<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing from the Base Realignment and Closure list.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas J. D'Alessandro III  
 President

Cc: President George W. Bush  
 Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld  
 Governor Ruth Ann Minner  
 Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
 Senator Thomas R. Carper  
 Representative Michael N. Castle  
 MG Frank Vavala  
 President Raymond T. Stevens, DVFA  
 NCCVFA Officers

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*Holloway Terrace Volunteer Fire Company No. 1, Inc.*

*Post Office Box 684, Manor Branch  
New Castle, Delaware 19720*

BRAC Commission

JUL 13 2005

Received

June 24, 2005

BRAC Commission  
Attn: Chairman Anthony J. Principi  
2521 South Clark Street Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

RE: Delaware Air National Guard

Dear Chairman Principi,

I am writing on behalf of the officers and members of Holloway Terrace Volunteer Fire Company, to go on record as supporting the continuation of the operations and to request that you review the BRAC Commission recommendations regarding the DE Air National Guard. The impact of these recommendations on the safety, security and economy of our state would be significant.

As fellow firefighters we can not imagine the financial and physical impact the loss of operations would have on our volunteer fire service. The Delaware Air National Guard staff has the training, experience and equipment to handle aircraft emergencies that are beyond our expertise and our budget. We fully respect and appreciate the aid agreement that we have with the base firefighters and can't imagine how we will handle large situations (like the junkyard fire of last year) without their assistance.

Unfortunately, we must now also consider the impact on the Homeland Security of our communities if the base operations were to be relocated and/or eliminated. While Delaware is a relatively small state we have several potential targets of terrorism. Our fire/rescue district includes the Delaware River, the Delaware Memorial Bridge, the Port of Wilmington and a portion of Interstates 495 and 295. We are in close proximity to Salem/New Hope (NJ) Nuclear facilities, Premcor's Oil Refinery, Oxy-Chem's chlorine plant, and Interstate 95, all of which would require the coordination of local as well as military services should there be a major emergency. We hope that you are sensitive to these issues when reviewing the recommendations and will keep the safety and security of our citizens in mind.

Please add our name to the numerous organizations and neighbors that rely on the services provided by the Delaware Air National Guard and know that we support the base remaining open and fully functional.

Sincerely,



Terri Reed  
Recording Secretary

CC: Thomas "Mark" Gott, President  
Paul Maxwell, Fire Chief

# Wilmington Manor Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.

Post Office Box 631 Manor Branch • New Castle, Delaware 19720-0631  
Business Phone (302) 328-3209



July 6, 2005

Base Realignment and Closure Commission  
C/o Anthony Principi, Chairman  
2521 Clark South Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi,

The Officers and Members of the Wilmington Manor Volunteer Fire Company would like to take a moment and express our concerns over the possible realignment of the Delaware Air National Guard installation in New Castle, Delaware.

We do not believe the Commission is fully aware of the unique attributes that the 166<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing and their Fire Department offers to our national defense and the local community on a daily basis. The Wilmington Manor Volunteer Fire Company is solely responsible for all of the civilian aircraft emergencies, and provides assistance to the DE Air National Guard on all military aircraft emergencies. Over the last 60 years, our department and the citizens of New Castle County have relied on the expertise and assistance of the DANG Fire Department to assist us with aircraft emergencies, serious motor vehicle accidents, building fires, field fires, as well as hazardous material situations on and around the New Castle County Airport. It is in our opinion, that removal of the base would adversely affect the manner in which Public Safety is provided within New Castle County, Delaware, not to mention it would place a large financial burden on our department, which would be faced with having to purchase and maintain aircraft crash rescue trucks, and obtain more specialized training. We must ask is the BRAC Commission truly aware of the impact the closing of the Delaware Air National Guard base would have on the quality and effective delivery of Public Safety within the State of Delaware?

The realignment of the Delaware Air National Guard Base will not only affect us in the public safety arena, but it will have a huge impact on our economy. One estimate released, showed that the area would lose greater than 50% of it's work force, loss in military salaries, civilian jobs, and base contracts by local business men and woman. Once again, we must ask, is the BRAC Commission truly aware of the financial impact the closing of the DE ANG base would have on the citizens within the State of Delaware?

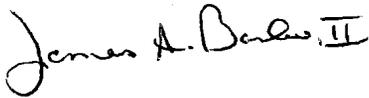
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With the war on terrorism, and the increased threat against the citizens of the United States, along with the need for trained active and reserve military personnel, how can a conscious decision be made to close bases while we are actively engaged in a large military conflict? Will it take another 9/11/2001 for our elected officials to realize that closing bases and downsizing our forces is NOT in the best interest of OUR country? Finally, we must again ask is the BRAC Commission truly aware of the threat this would cause on our Homeland Security?

We would ask for your support to urge the Commission in the strongest possible terms to remove the 166<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing from the Pentagons list of base closures and take a moment to see how closing this base would affect the citizens of Delaware.

Should you have any questions or would to take a moment and discuss our concerns, please feel free to contact us at (302) 328-5520.

Sincerely,



James A. Barlow, II  
President



Stephen Maichle  
Fire Chief

cc: President George W. Bush  
Senator Joseph Biden  
Senator Thomas Carper  
Governor Ruth Ann Minner  
General Vavala  
Christopher Coons, New Castle County Executive  
Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association  
New Castle County Volunteer Firemen's Association