PIT*BRAC
MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA
PIT•BRAC TASK FORCE

Letters From Concerned Citizens In Support Of
Pittsburgh Air Reserve Station, 99th RSC, and
Charles E. Kelly Support Facility
The 911th Airlift Wing is vital to our nation's defense, and in a strategic location for homeland security. Pittsburgh's renown for its medical community and an excellent recruiting area. The 911th can support additional aircraft right now. Land is not the issue! The four runways afford any and all aircraft ready accessibility. "If it can fly, it can land at Pittsburgh!" This cost-effective operation also hosts a variety of tenant functions which result in taxpayer savings.

The data used in analyzing this base's military value was flawed! Relocating these aircraft would not best serve our military defense posture, nor would it result in retaining the assigned, qualified personnel who have volunteered to serve. Additionally, more monies will have to spent at the gaining bases to support this. The 911th AW should not be closed! It should be considered for expansion as part of a Joint Readiness Regional Center -- combining the 99th RSC and Charles E. Kelly Support Facility.

Sincerely,

Donald J. Walsh

Address: 1136 Huntsridge Dr.
Cressent, PA. 15046
The Honorable Anthony J. Principi, Chairman  
2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission  
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, Virginia 22202  

22 July 2005  

RE: Citizen Support of the Pittsburgh Air Reserve Station  

Dear Mr. Chairman,  

Within these binders are more than six thousand letters from supporters of the continued operation of the Pittsburgh Joint Air Reserve Station Pittsburgh PA. Many of these letters were collected during the “Wings over Pittsburgh” air show, which is held annually at the Pittsburgh ARS, and this year attracted approximately three hundred thousand spectators. There were a total of seventy-four aircraft parked at the ARS and adjoining aircraft parking areas, from the C-5 and C-17 to B-52’s and the Thunderbirds, and available for use by the USAF for parking C-130’s or any other aircraft in the Air Force inventory.  

The citizens who are submitting these letters of support were aware of the proposed closure of the Pittsburgh ARS because it could allegedly host no more than ten C-130 aircraft. They were perplexed at the decision to close the ARS for this reason when it is clearly evident that there is ample room to expand to paved aircraft parking ramp previously offered by the Airport Authority and used for thirteen years by memorandum of agreement.  

On the covers of these binders are pictures taken during this year’s air show that make it quite evident that this base has ample space to accommodate twenty C-130 aircraft, but more importantly has the potential to assume any mission now planned or conceived in the future.  

Pittsburgh has always supported its military units and the military has always enjoyed a fertile recruiting area here for all the services. It does not make sense to close the Pittsburgh Air Reserve Station.  

Charles L. Holsworth  
Chair, BRAC Task Force
Howard Strain  
Commander  
District 29 Veterans of Foreign Wars  

July 2, 2005  

Base Closing Commission,  
District 29 Veterans of Foreign Wars voted at their meeting on May 15, 2005 to send you a letter raising our objections to the possible closing of the 911th Airlift Wing, Charles E. Kelly Support Facility, and the 99th Regional Readiness Command of the Army Reserve.  
District 29 Veterans of Foreign Wars consists of all VFW members in Allegheny County Pennsylvania. Our objections include military readiness, the effect on our local economy, and the loss of jobs in our area.

Chris Baker  
District 29 Adjutant
To whom it may concern,

I would like to give you the reasons for not closing the 911th air base. In the Gulf War everyone went on how it was fought with an all volunteer military. I know because I had two sons there, but when they all came home the thanks they got was downsizing them to save money.

Now we are in a pickle Korea is threshing us on one side, Iran on another, Then we have the terrorists, who just showed what they could do in London. I don't feel that any base in the United States should be closed. I really feel that the Pentagon has lost its mind in even suggesting that any base be closed. They didn't tell anyone how much it would cost to close these bases.

In World War II the Japanese were able to disable us by hitting our ships at Pearl Harbor. It was decided not to have everything in the same place. Now the Pentagon wants to do just that. Can you please tell me what they are thinking! I don't think they are thinking at all.

My Father and Father in law both fought in WWII, When my Father came home he join the reserves stationed at the base.

My husband served his county in Viet Nam, I had two sons in the Gulf War. My husband has gone though allot because of Nam, He finally got implement at the 911th and was proud that he could serve his county again. My one son came home from the Gulf and join the reserves and works a job at the 911th. By closing the base he will lose his job that he depends on to take care of his two little boys. My youngest son was unable to join the Air Force because of an injury at birth, but was able to get a job serving his county by working at the base helping to take care of the reservists and recruits. He relays on this job even though its not a well paying job to take care of his three small children.

These children are watching and if our bases are closing they won't want to serve their county. Because basically they'll see how their county is treating their men and women.

I am praying that the Lord will touch your hearts and minds and stop the closing of the 911th Air Base.

A Wife, and Mother

NormaLee Moore
Sir:

As a member of the BRAC Task Force, I feel a personal obligation to help explore every option available to me in an attempt to help keep the 911th Air Force Reserve Base open and operational. Over the past three years, I have had the honor of being commander of Civil Air Patrol Squadron 603, Pennsylvania Wing, which is located on the 911th AFR Base. The Air Force has allowed Civil Air Patrol to meet and train on the installation and has afforded our young cadets educational opportunities to help develop their moral and leadership skills.

When I announced to my squadron the possible closure of the 911th, their concern and disappointment was immediately turned into a collective offer to "do anything" to help keep our base open. Their requests and concerns have been expressed on the attached twenty-two letters addressed to your task force. Please, use the letters from my cadets and senior members any way you can to help keep the 911th Air Force Reserve Base open for the city of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and our nation. Our national security depends on dispersed ready reserves to support our active military personnel. To close or consolidate valuable military assets seems to indicate we have not learned our lessons well from history.

In closing, my squadron of Civil Air Patrol cadets and senior members has offered their assistance in any other way you may need them. Squadron 603 is a proud partner of the 911th Air Force Reserve Base and we too want to assist your task force as they work to preserve this valuable national military installation.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

CHARLES L. HOLSWORTH
Director-BRAC Task Force
1550 Coraopolis Heights Road
Moon Township, PA 15108
Dear Brac Task Force,

It has come to my knowledge that you are to close the 991st AF Base and the 99th Readiness Group, both in Oakdale and Moon Township. The 99th in Oakdale serves not only as a base, but also serves as a PX also.

The 991st serves many purposes, one of which is the wings over Pittsburgh Air Show. It also supports the local economy as does the 99th. A MEDS exists at
Dear BRAC Task Force,

I mean this wholeheartedly when I say that the Air Force base is a vital part of western Pennsylvania. The decision to close down this base will in the long run be more harmful than beneficial to the area. The functions of this Air Force base serve not only the number of people in the area. As a pilot and a member of this community, I know firsthand the contributions it makes to the quality of life for those who live here. For many years, we have worked to enhance and improve the area. We perform many programs and events in the area. We have served in just two disasters in the area. We perform many programs and events in the area. In hurricane Katrina hit our area, 603 had a role in relief. However, for the past 32 years as a Civil Air Patrol, our area has provided us a source of pride and accomplishment. It is something we can say with the utmost of
Dear Brac Task-force,

To my understanding, you want to close the Cull Airforce base. By doing so, I believe you will lose several young men and women who had thought about joining the airforce. By seeing the base close a short time back, I realize the future of the airforce. I believe that if I would join the airforce, my future would be unsure.

Being part of the airforce family, I have grown to like it very much. Being in civil
Civil Air Patrol is going to give me a chance to go to college. I hope to get into ROTC. ROTC is better. I think that I can learn a lot from them. Although I'm not good at math, I think that I can learn a lot. We can't possibly cover all that information. We are going to learn the basics of accounting and data types. We get to design aircraft and planes. I think that I can learn a lot. I think that I can learn a lot from them.
United States Air Force Auxiliary
Golden Triangle Composite Squadron
Civil Air Patrol Squadron 603

1110 Woodlawn Drive
Coraopolis, PA 15108

6 - June - 2005

To whom it may concern,

My name is Bill Ellis and I am the Aerospace Education Officer at CAP Squadron 603. I am respectfully requesting that the 911 Air Reserve Base be kept operational. I have witnessed the growth and maturing of many of the cadets (young people) in this program. This base, with its Air Force Reserve volunteers and spacious facilities is making a
To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of all of us at the 911th airbase who are concerned about the possible closing of this base. The 911th is an important and to us a very necessary base, which we feel very strongly about keeping open. The 911th has the area needed to expand and has started renovations. To close this base would be a great loss, not only financially but statistically also. The 911th is a very important asset to
Dear BRAC Task Force,

I am writing to request that you do not close the 911th Air Base. This base is an integral part of our community. Myself personally, I have experienced the challenges of life on this base through the Civil Air Patrol organization. This has been an amenity to my experiences as a person. It would be a tragedy if this centerpiece of patriotic pride was closed to future generations of American heroes. Please consider keeping this extremely pertinent center of freedom open so it can continue to nurture the spirit of pride in the cause of democracy around
To the GRAC Task Force,

I am a member of the Civil Air Patrol squadron here at the 911th Air Force Reserve Base. The base is important to us because we meet here every Monday at 0630. By closing the base we would have nowhere to meet. The base is also a MEPS center for all entering of the military. By closing it, it would make it extremely inconvenient for young men and women to enter into the military. Also a lot of people would lose jobs as it would also change the lives of all the people. In conclusion I strongly believe to close the base.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Name]

[Rank]
To the Biac Taskforce

We at the CAPO Squadron 603 are on the 911th Airforce base. We need the base because the people here help us in marching and color guard stuff. We have TSgt Newhard and other people from his team and his unit has helped us as volunteers at no charge. They also help the community during the flood after Ivan hit the coast. This is my home Reddiness Group. We need the groups for the search and rescue teams. Please let our units stay in Pittsburgh, PA.

Sincerely,
Airmen Josh Delruce
Brac Task Force

Please do not close the 911th Air Force base. It is the home of our Civil Air Patrol Squadron 603. It is also the home of the 911th airlift. Both of these squadrons help America. This Civil Air Patrol squadron helped the victims of Hurricane Irene. It also supports airshows. That is why you should not close this base.

Airman Jacob Felker
Dear BRAC Task Force,

I suggest you do not close this base. It is the home of many military personnel including Civil Air Patrol. I am new to this base but have been in CAP for two years. My original CAP home was in West Virginia, but unfortunately our Commander died and we had to transfer here. I love my new Civil Air Patrol home and the rest of the Cadets have loved it as well.

This base is also the home of Pittsburgh and the surrounding area MEPS. After I graduate college, I plan on joining the United States Navy as an officer. I would love to come to this base for MEPS because it’s close to home and I can visit...
Dear BRAC Task Force,

My name is David Jones. I believe the 11th Air Refueling Wing and its surrounding facilities are very important to our state and western Pennsylvania. We cannot afford to lose them.

The closing down of these facilities would be a main blow to our economy and morale. It would affect the entire region and the closing of the facility would have a negative impact on our state. I wanted to defend my state to the United States Air Force.
BRAC TaskForce,

Civil Air Patrol has changed in many ways since the closing of the 1101 Air Force Base. The squadron will, in a lifelike manner, C.A.P. has played a profound effect in my life and others for the future. I'd hoped to pass this on to new members in the future, it is now a big commander. C.A.P. is an important program and it's important to our base, but a national or base has been teaching a leadership class for a...Please reconsider closing the base here.

O/S/Maj. Pasquerelli, Commander
Civil Air Patrol
United States Air Force Auxiliary
Golden Triangle Composite Squadron
Civil Air Patrol Squadron 603
1110 Woodlawn Drive
Coraopolis, PA 15108

Dear Bill, Task Force,

Please don't close the 911 in. It is the home of Squad 603 CAP. Make it mine.
It is important to me. Don't close the Base.

Cat B26-C

DCN 5108
United States Air Force Auxiliary  
Golden Triangle Composite Squadron  
Civil Air Patrol Squadron 603  
1110 Woodlawn Drive  
Coraopolis, PA 15108

6 June 2005

To whom this may concern:

I respectfully request that you reverse the Commission's decision to close the 911th AFRES.  The 911th recently underwent renovation, was moved to expand and maintain superior physical facilities at Pope AB— the perfected facility to which 911th resources well transfers.

As a tax-paying father of four (4) Civil Air Patrol Cadets, I also sincerely value the opportunities our children have to learn from Air Force personnel on an Air Force facility. Proof of the decisioning our oldest to join the PA Air National Guard,  

DCN 5108
Dear EFFIC,

As a member of the CAP, I feel that it is my duty to remain present and vigilant in any situation. I was told the 7th Air Base can be quite intense during meetings. CAP is a very positive and unique environment. I believe we should always show that door to possibilities, so when I meet each you, to a future adult residing in America, why should you not see the door and turn your head? Please think about our future before you make your final decision. That is all. Good luck to you!

Sincerely,

Aaron
1st Class Chief Warrant
Brac
Task Force

The 911th Air Force Base is home to the Civil Air Patrol squadron 603. Virtually all the cadets enjoy the squadron, which includes the senior and cadet air help with hurricane Teddy and its search and rescue missions. We are fortunate to have the Air Force help us in training and PTF. Please keep the good

Cadet
Jonathan C. Veirs
Dear BRAC Taskforce,

I am a cadet in the Civil Air Patrol squadron 603 at the 911th Air Force Base. I have been in CAP for about one and a half years, and I feel that I have learned more life lessons here than I could have anywhere else. In CAP they taught me about integrity, and how important it is to make a good first impression. But I must say I learned the most from joining CAP honor guard, and being taught by the 911th base honor guard. I think it is important for the youth of our country to learn about and experience leadership.
Dear B.R.A.C. Task Force

In the recent weeks it has come to my attention that the 9/11th Airbase is intended to close. I want to speak to stop this misunderstanding. I call this tragedy for this entire area (Pittsburgh Region) will be affected and not just economically, the 911th is the home of the Western Pennsylvania MEPS center, where future military personnel show up right before shipping out or swearing in at the Federal building. I know this because I went on February 21 before I enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. Also the 911th is home to dedicated reservists who are currently fighting overseas such as Lt. Col. Paul Dobrachki, a good friend of my family, and an excellect pilot who would be forced to move from this region or leave the Air Force. Not to mention the veterans whose area who shop at the Base Exchange and finally the organization I am affiliated with the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) would be forced to find another Base for the Unit 603, may be dissipated like the former squadron 705. Thank you for your time and concern.
To whom it may concern:

This letter is written on behalf of the 911th air base's possible closing. One reason given for closing it is no room to expand the premises. Yet, it has come to attention the base perimeter shows more than enough possibility for expansion. The 911th also renovated the base. By closing it many (much) would be simply, waste of a better word, wasted. Unnecessary, a strong consensus.

Squadron 603 of Civil Air Patrol meets every Monday in the 911th site. It is utilized by cadets and mains members alike as a place for continuing cadet education, promoting volunteerism in our communities, and as well as a place of belonging for each member; like another, bigger family.

Please, reconsider the 911th. It is not simply a base to many.
United States Air Force Auxiliary
Golden Triangle Composite Squadron
Civil Air Patrol Squadron 603
1110 Woodlawn Drive
Coraopolis, PA 15108

To Brac Task Force

I am involved with Civil Air Patrol stationed at the 911th air base. I have heard that the 911th is on the base to be closed list. There are several reasons why it should not be closed! One of them being that it is the only place where we can have the things over Pittsburgh Air show! It is probably the 2nd best airshow in the U.S., that being Oshkosh, not just but only due to size. It is also the MEPS center in Pittsburgh. People enlisting to armed services from all over come here to be examined here. It is the home of Civil Air Patrol Squadron 603. CAP is a great organization with its outstanding Leadership Program and great Aerospace Education. Taking away the base would deprived 603 of a home and the ability to help the Air Force with its search and rescue as well as Homeland Security. Also being in the Honor Guard we would not only lose our instructor but also the facilities to practice. Due to the great instruction and the facilities our Honor Guard placed 3rd place in the National Cadet Color Guard Competition! If they had placed 1st, 2nd, 5th, the best place team won Regions as well and is going to Washington D.C. We would never be that good. It would also hurt Pittsburgh more for bases so closing the base would negatively effect the community as well.

Sincerely, Cadet Senior Airman Brian E. Senta
Dear Broc Taskforce,

I am writing to you to outline the importance of keeping the 911th Air Force Reserve Base active to our Civil Air Patrol squadron and other squadrons in the area. Our squadron is extremely involved and many of our activities are made possible by Air Force personnel on base. For instance, two years back we were given the opportunity to ride in a C-130 stationed at the 911th and flown by pilots on base. This activity was not only open to our cadets, but also other Civil Air Patrol squadrons and even a Young Marines unit. It was a particularly rewarding experience as cadets were allowed on the flight deck and were exposed to the various operations performed during flight. The squadron also has these flights. Another event which the 911th hosts and other squadrons, as far as we are aware, is a semiannual air show held over Pittsburgh. Our annual air show, which incorporates literally hundreds of cadets who assist in parking and crowd control and then enjoy a private show in the evening. The 911th provides copious events which allow other squadrons' cadets to build leadership, enthusiasm toward military operations, and bonding between squadrons and cadets.

Aside from inter-squadron goings-on, there are many services the 911th personnel provide for our own squadron on an almost everyday basis. Probably the most important contribution is a squared building which comfortably accommodates around 30-40 cadets and 10-20 senior members. Our building also has enough space and rooms for a supply office, a squadron commander office, and a cadet staff room. And if, for any reason, we need additional space, the building can be extended. A new science lab is in the process of being built.
Dear BRAC Taskforce,

It has come to my knowledge that the United Air Force base may be coming to a close. This cannot happen, however, for us. We have our weekly meetings here, we get trained by people who are stationed here, and we also fly many air shows here. Then also honored as the only air force in the United States. We use for the United Air Force personnel, but also Navy, Army, and Marine. As the base closes, many people will not only be inconvenienced, but they will be out of jobs, and good ones will no longer be able to service our Calder in which we have