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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE WASHINGTON D C

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PROPOSED CLOSURE OF CRAIG AFB, ALABAMA AND WEBB AFB, TEXAS. APP--ETC(U)

1976 J E CROOKER, R LONGORIA, A THORSSAARD

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B.S.

APPENDIX B

RECORD OF INFORMAL PUBLIC HEARINGS

BIG SPRING, TEXAS

4 NOV 76

VOLUME I OF II



Environmental Impact  
Analysis Process



FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

PROPOSED CLOSURE OF

CRAIG AFB, ALABAMA  
AND  
WEBB AFB, TEXAS

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

AD NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
DDC FILE COPY

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A

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## PREFACE

APPENDICES A THRU F CONTAIN THE TRANSCRIPTS OF ALL INFORMAL PUBLIC HEARINGS CONDUCTED BY THE AIR FORCE WITH RESPECT TO THE PROPOSED ACTION TO CLOSE CRAIG AFB AND WEBB AFB. THE APPENDICES ARE ARRANGED AS FOLLOWS:

APPENDIX A	CRAIG AFB, SELMA AL
APPENDIX B	WEBB AFB, BIG SPRING TX
APPENDIX C	COLUMBUS AFB, COLUMBUS MS
APPENDIX D	LAUGHLIN AFB, DEL RIO TX
APPENDIX E	REESE AFB, LUBBOCK TX
APPENDIX F	VANCE AFB, ENID OK

APPENDIX G IS A RECORD OF THE COMMENTS RECEIVED BY THE AIR FORCE FROM OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES, ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES, PUBLIC OFFICIALS, AND PRIVATE CITIZENS DURING THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.

ALL OF THE COMMENTS PROVIDED IN APPENDICES A THRU G WERE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED BY THE AIR FORCE AND USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT. THE COMMENTS WERE OF SUCH BROAD SCOPE THAT THE PROPOSED ACTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES, ALONG WITH ALL ENVIRONMENTAL ATTRIBUTES, HAVE BEEN REANALYZED. IN MANY CASES, THEY HAVE BEEN REVISED IN LIGHT OF: ISSUES RAISED; SUPPLEMENTAL DATA PROVIDED; RECALCULATED IMPACT QUANTIFICATIONS; AND RECALCULATED COSTS AND SAVINGS.

WHEN THE ANSWER TO A SPECIFIC QUESTION IS NOT CONTAINED IN THE HEARING TRANSCRIPTS, THE QUESTION HAS BEEN ASSIGNED A NUMBER IN THE MARGIN OF THE APPENDIX (e.g., A-1). THE READER WILL FIND THE ANSWERS OR REFERENCES TO THE INFORMATION REQUESTED IN PART II OF THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.

SINCE SOME QUESTIONS DELVE DEEPLY INTO THE METHODOLOGY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ESTIMATES OR COST AND SAVINGS ESTIMATES, THE READER MAY FIND THAT SUCH DETAILS ARE NOT PRESENTED TO HIS SATISFACTION IN THE TEXT OF THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT. IN SUCH CASES, THE READER IS REFERRED TO THE BIBLIOGRAPHY IN CHAPTER X. ENVIRONMENTAL BACKGROUND STUDIES USE THE SAME AIR FORCE ENVIRONMENTAL REFERENCE NUMBER (AFERN) AS THE STATEMENT TO FACILITATE THE LOCATION OF DETAILED INFORMATION.

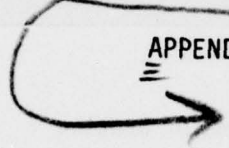
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Proposed Closure of Craig AFB, Alabama  
and Webb AFB, Texas.

Volume I.

APPENDIX B.



see table  
of contents  
OC

PUBLIC HEARING

ON

USAF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

HELD

4 NOVEMBER 1976

REGARDING

WEBB AFB, TEXAS

DDC  
RECEIVED  
OCT 17 1977

Big Spring, Texas.

9 Final environmental impact statement,

Prepared by: 10 Joyce E. Crooker, Court Reporter  
Rudy Longoria, Jr., Court Reporter  
Al Thorsgaard, Court Reporter

11 1976

12 202p.

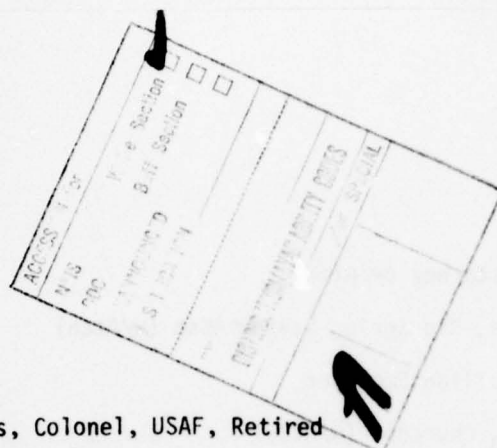
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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Opening remarks by Colonel Smith and slide presentation not included.

	<u>Page No.</u>
1. Congressman Omar Burleson	B-5
2. Bob Block, Administrative Aide for Senator Bentsen	B-9
3. Mike Cooper for Governor Dolph Briscoe (w/Atch)	B-11
4. Mayor Wade Choate representing State Senator Ray Farabee (w/Atch)	B-14
5. State Representative Mike Ezzell	B-19
6. Martin County Judge Jimmy Mathis	B-20
7. Mayor Wade Choate representing Midland County Judge Barbara G. Culver, Sterling County Judge Roland L. Lowe, and Mitchell County Judge Bill F. Carter (w/Atch)	B-24
8. Mayor Joe Swinney, Coahoma	B-30
9. Mayor Wade Choate representing Odessa Mayor Dan Hemphill, Stanton Mayor Donald L. Tollison, and Congressman George Mahon (w/Atch)	B-34
10. Lea Taylor, Administrative Aide for Congressman White	B-41
11. Harold Hall, Permian Basin Planning Council (w/Atch)	B-42
12. Senator John G. Tower, Jr.	B-115
13. Howard County Judge Bill Tune (w/Atch)	B-123
14. Mayor Wade Choate, Big Spring (w/Atch)	B-127
15. Adolph Swartz, Century Club	B-191
16. Kyle Riddle, Brig Gen, Retired	B-192
17. Winston Wrinkle, Socio-economic	B-193
18. J. Tom Graham, Operational Considerations	B-199
19. Terry Hanson, Big Spring Chamber of Commerce	B-206
20. Pete Evans, Federal Employees Union (w/Atch)	B-208





	<u>Page No.</u>
21. Sandy Freeman	B-287
22. Ralph L. Brooks, Colonel, USAF, Retired	B-288
23. Wilson H. Banks, Colonel, USAF, Retired	B-290
24. Ben Bancroft, Comparison Webb and Columbus	B-293
25. Dr Alan D. Carey, Univ Texas of the Permian Basin (w/Atch)	B-298
26. Roy Watkins, Schools (w/Atch)	B-305
27. Dr Charles D. Hays, Howard County College (w/Atch)	B-317
28. Walley Slate, Real Estate (w/Atch)	B-325
29. Jimmy Taylor, Banking	B-343
30. Jim Allison, Publisher Midland Reporter Telegram	B-347
31. Martin C. Meissner representing Midland Mayor Ernest Angelo, Jr., and Midland Chamber of Commerce	B-348
32. Norman Knox, Hospitals	B-352
33. H. W. Nagel, Big Spring City Manager (w/Atch)	B-360
34. Bill Pollard, Automobile Dealers (w/Atch)	B-369
35. Jimmy Morehead, Moving and Storage (w/Atch)	B-373
36. J. Tom Graham, Publisher Big Spring Herald (w/Atch)	B-377
37. Jimmy Jolly, Minorities	B-381
38. Terry Carter, Furniture Stores (w/Atch)	B-382
39. Denton Marsalis, Mobile Homes (w/Atch)	B-384
40. Owen Ivey, Colorado River Municipal Water District	B-386
41. Jack Redding, Texas Electric Service Company (w/Atch)	B-393
42. Darrell Pittman, Pioneer Natural Gas Company (w/Atch)	B-399
43. James A. Lancaster, Big Spring TV Cable, Inc.	B-402
44. Nabar Martinez, Big Spring Human Resource Center (w/Atch)	B-404
45. Dr John Key, Dentist (w/Atch)	B-408

	<u>Page No.</u>
46. Rick Hamby, Attorney (w/Atch)	B-414
47. R. D. Williams, Big Spring Savings Assn (w/Atch)	B-418
48. Dick Egan, Civilian Employee	B-420
49. Reverend Kohl, Churches (w/Atch)	B-425
50. James Henderson	B-444
51. Sandra Freeman, Retail Sales	B-445
52. D. W. Karns, Social Impact	B-446
53. Lowell Jones, Taxpayer	B-448
54. Mayor Choate, Conclusion	B-449
55. Ltr, 10 Nov 76 from Harry H. Sanders	B-450
56. Ltr, 9 Nov 76 from Mayor Wade Choate	B-453

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF STATEMENT BY CONGRESSMAN OMAR BURLESON

Colonel Smith, and gentlemen of the military and panel, I first want to convey to you and to the audience here a message from my colleague in the Congress, Congressman George Mahon, of the area just west of us here--from Lubbock--expressing his regret that he would be unable to be here, but he sends his assurance of his furthered effort in behalf of Webb Air Force Base. I have been in some of these hearings of the panel--with a number of you gentlemen before--and it would probably be repetitious--and some of the things that occurred here this morning would likewise be somewhat repetitious. I think that I would not have to submit a caveat that I have been a strong supporter of our defense establishment for many years--as a matter of fact all the years that I have been in the Congress and I shall continue to be. I won't make a defense speech here but I've made them in the last several days around over this area. The proposed closing of Webb, in my judgment, is shortsighted and endangers our long range defense capabilities. I want to make it clear at the very outset that I shall do everything within my power to prevent the closing of this fine facility.

According to information I have received, other commands of the Air Force recognize the unique advantages of Webb and at least two possible change of mission studies are underway. This reflects the good judgment of some of our higher echelons in the command.

We are reviewing here today the proposed closing of Webb Air Force Base as an undergraduate pilot training base. It is obvious to me that decisions giving Webb a low priority have been made over a long period of time. There are many indications of this fact. As an example, the on again/off again schedule for the instrument flight simulator and tentative plans for a third runway have been considered. The Air Force, represented by you gentlemen, need not be defensive on this point. These were long range considerations before the National Environmental Policy Act was injected into base closing decisions by court action. However, I am disappointed by actions such as the four hundred to five hundred draw-down in personnel here since March of this year and do not intend to let this action go unchallenged, and I just might add, gentlemen, parenthetically, that I have been--and this doesn't matter but I must say it--I have been just a little embarrassed in my presentation on the simulator program in talking to my colleagues on both the authorizing committee in the Congress and the Appropriations Committee when I gave them such assurance--and probably this would reflect on my--I prefer to say my trust--of the capabilities of Webb--and I don't suppose that anything is indispensable--but just as my premise here has indicated I think it is a vital link in our national defense--and its record is uncontested really--but when I gave such men as Congressman Sikes in Florida, who is on the Appropriations Committee, and those on the Armed Services Committee what we had here as a necessity for a simulator and then to have it go out the window--they haven't questioned me but I have questioned myself. I did this with all confidence of thinking that I had the knowledge to give such assurance--and as I said--I don't think they have challenged me but I have challenged myself--I think I'll have to, in



time, go back to them and say if it comes to the final action of the closing of this installation--to say the least I was overly enthusiastic.

According to Air Force projections I have seen, 2246 pilot trainees will be needed by 1981. The present capacity of all seven ATC bases is 2760. Using present facilities, all seven would be operating at 81% capacity by 1981. If Webb and Craig are closed, the training capacity of the five remaining would be 2056. Even with maximum usage to surge capacity resulting in a 10% increase, capacity of the five would be 2262.

I am aware of the proposed installation of the instrument flight simulators with five ATC bases operational and if in place at all five, the estimated capacity by 1981 would be 2400 pilot trainees per year. With an anticipated need of 2246, these five bases would be operating at 93% of capacity. This simply does not provide enough flexibility. I want to point out that not a single ATC base now has a proved functioning IFS facility, and I consider it highly unlikely that the five proposed will be in place by 1981. It is my understanding that--well, I say this because approximately three years, as I understand it, is required to install the IFS, so with that reasoning it seems to me there that looking to 1981 that serious consideration should be given to this point.

Purely from the anticipated needs of the Air Force, it seems to me foolhardy to think in terms of closing more than one ATC installation. Taking into account the possibility of a need even similar to 1972, it is highly suspect that any should be closed.

If it can be proved that six ATC bases can meet the anticipated needs for pilot training, I am perfectly willing for Webb to be measured on its efficiency and comparative merits with any other base. I am convinced from my own study, and relying mainly upon information supplied by the Air Force, that Webb should not be one of those so chosen. Our excellent weather and other operational advantages are numerous and beyond dispute.

Another consideration called environmental impact has now been brought into base closure considerations. I welcome this requirement that the governmental agency involved be required to take this into account. Previously, agencies, military or otherwise, simply made de facto announcements and public officials such as myself found ourselves on the outside trying to get consideration for the impact on our local economic and social environment.

Much of the material in the draft already released in the environmental impact analysis process is inaccurate and it seems to me woefully inadequate. I have seen much of the material being prepared locally to accurately reflect the serious impact of the proposed closure on Big Spring and the surrounding region. It is excellent and authoritative. At the same time it is conservative and I commend our citizens for the excellent presentation of the facts.

I am impressed with the work of Dr. Allen Carey of our own University of Texas at Permian Basin in Odessa. He has the ability to express himself very clearly and has done so on numerous occasions. In reviewing his comparative studies of the six ATC bases included in the Environmental Impact Statement, it is obvious that Webb can hold it own in a fair evaluation of the impact of closure reflected in population loss, increase in unemployment, public school enrollment and similar considerations.

A statement prepared by Mayor Wade Choate effectively points out the fallacy in the four main reasons given for the initial decision to close Webb. Briefly stated, these are--of course, he will subsequently present it in more detail--but, one is urban encroachment, and, two, is operational limitations because of two runways---I heard this discussed somewhat briefly in what time I was able to spend in the hearing this morning--three, a substantial savings to the Air Force as compared with other bases, and, four to be emphasized, a high percentage of substandard facilities. Frankly, none of these assumptions have been proved in any material I have seen, and I understand the Air Force has all but abandoned these arguments but not all of them. I must admit that the last one regarding substandard facilities has given me some concern. The task of appraising some 297 million dollars' worth of real estate and other physical properties at six ATC bases is a formidable one. This would be necessary to try and find out what this Code 3 and Code 4 designation might mean.

I call your attention to Pages R-7 and R-8 of the Draft Resources Study, Number 5B:

"IV. Summary

1. The summary of resource implications...illustrates that these factors, alone, do not provide compelling rationale to choose closure of any two bases over any others. The three facilities indices: Past investments, percentage of code 3/4 facilities, and programmed expense, provide no clearcut facility distinctions.

...

4. While resource considerations represent a driving force to close two UPT bases, they do not provide compelling reasons for choosing any particular two bases."

By their own statement, this is not a compelling reason and hence the four reasons given originally are proved inaccurate.

It is my aim, together with other elected officials, to see to it that proper consideration is given to the environmental impact as it is accurately determined.

Fair evaluation in this area coupled with the operational advantages of Webb and its vital contribution to our defense needs are strong, compelling reasons to keep Webb Air Force Base open and productive.

3-8



VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF THE STATEMENT OF MR. BOB BLOCK  
ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE, OFFICE OF SENATOR LLOYD BENTSEN, JR.

Before I submit a statement on behalf of the Senator, I would first like to make a couple of comments. The Senator wanted me to give his regrets that he could not be here personally today. He has been leading a rather hectic life the last couple of months and had some other commitments prior to today that did not allow him to be here. The statement that I am going to be submitting is much shorter than that of Congressman Burleson and I'm glad I don't have to compete with somebody such as the Congressman--I think he has stated his case quite well in many respects.

Subsequent to a meeting this morning in which finally I think some issues were resolved and others at least were raised and hopefully which would be brought to the floor very quickly, I had been authorized to release this statement on behalf of the Senator:

Due to the significance of some information obtained within the last week, a portion of that only within the last few hours, and the additional substantive documents and responses which are pending, I desire to reserve the right to make a statement for the public comment portion of this record until the requested documents have been provided. It is my assumption that these will be received by my office at a date sufficiently prior to the end of the public comment period to allow for a review and comment.

STATEMENT BY LLOYD BENTSEN,  
UNITED STATES SENATE, AT  
PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED CLOSURE  
OF WEBB AFB, TEXAS, NOVEMBER 4, 1976

DUE TO THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SOME INFORMATION OBTAINED WITHIN THE LAST WEEK, A PORTION OF THAT ONLY WITHIN THE LAST FEW HOURS, AND THE ADDITIONAL SUBSTANTIVE DOCUMENTS AND RESPONSES WHICH ARE PENDING, I DESIRE TO RESERVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE A STATEMENT FOR THE PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION OF THIS RECORD UNTIL THE REQUESTED DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED. IT IS MY ASSUMPTION THAT THESE WILL BE RECEIVED BY MY OFFICE AT A DATE SUFFICIENTLY PRIOR TO THE END OF THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD TO ALLOW FOR A REVIEW AND COMMENT.

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF MR. MIKE COOPER  
REPRESENTING GOVERNOR DOLPH BRISCOE, GOVERNOR OF TEXAS

Thank you, Colonel Smith--what I would like to do today would be to submit to this hearing a copy of the letter which Governor Briscoe had sent to Secretary of the Air Force Reed on November 1st. In essence this letter reflects Governor Briscoe's deep concern for the continued economic and social well being of the City of Big Spring and Howard County. It is observed that when more than 7,600 people are affected--nearly one-fifth of this County's total population--that to us this is a major social and economic impact. More alarming is the suggested leap in unemployment to 12.9%. This should not occur in such an already ideally suited location for such a training base. Our observations lead us to believe that Webb is among the very finest of the Air Training Command bases. Consequently, I respectfully submit this letter to these hearings, hoping that you will greatly consider the Governor's opposition to the closure of Webb Air Force Base. (Letter Attached)





STATE OF TEXAS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
AUSTIN

DOLPH BRISCOE  
GOVERNOR

November 1, 1976

The Honorable Thomas C. Reed  
Secretary of the Air Force  
Headquarters U.S.A.F.  
Pentagon  
Washington, D. C. 20330

Re: Vital importance of Webb Air Force  
Base to the Air Force and to the  
local community

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter reflects my deep concern as Governor of Texas for the continued economic and social well-being of every community in this State whether it be rural or urban, large or small. Accordingly, I feel compelled to make known my continuing concern and to share with you some facts and observations which should be a matter of your personal knowledge before any final decision is reached on the future of Webb Air Force Base.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement is voluminous, containing much substantive and pertinent data. However, a careful reading of the summary sheet together with specific data on Webb Air Force Base leads to the inescapable conclusion that the economic and social impact on the region if it is closed would be far-reaching. Surely you would agree when 7,668 individuals constituting 19.1% of Howard County's population are affected, and when the EIS report itself concludes that a minimum of 6,239 persons would leave the County -- there is a major economic and social impact! Knowledgeable and authoritative sources in Howard County believe these estimates to be on the low side. Even more alarming is the statistic in the EIS projecting an increase in the unemployment rate from 2.8% to 12.9%, well above the national average. More than 25% of the consumer spendable income of Howard County would be lost, and your Economic Impact Study says there will be an estimated decrease in the Howard County total regional output of \$49.7 million annually should Webb Air Force Base close.

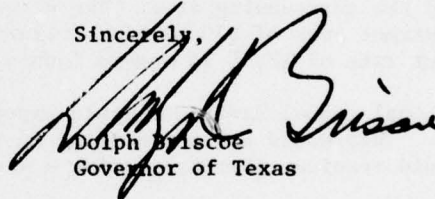
B-12

The Honorable Thomas C. Reed  
November 1, 1976  
Page 2

Equally important is the consideration of what the Air Force stands to lose. The fixed assets at Webb Air Force Base are valued at \$128 million, and replacement costs would be several times that amount. This includes a new hospital, new airmen's dining hall and new bachelor airmen's quarters for a combined cost of almost \$6 million. Weather conditions and ideal air space circumstances combine for optimum air operations, and relations between the local community and the Air Force have been outstanding.

The primary duty of the Air Force in all these matters is military preparedness, proper utilization of military bases, and efficient commitment of capital improvements and manpower. I most respectfully urge that the foregoing and all other pertinent factors be carefully considered in the public hearings and in further review consideration on this vital matter. Please keep me closely advised of all developments.

Sincerely,



Dolph Briscoe  
Governor of Texas

DB/gt

cc: Billy E. Welch, Ph.D.  
Special Assistant for Environmental Quality  
Office of the Secretary of the Air Force  
Washington, D. C. 20330

The Honorable Wade Choate, Mayor  
City of Big Spring  
Big Spring, Texas

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF MAYOR WADE CHOATE  
REPRESENTING STATE SENATOR RAY FARABEE

Colonel Smith, on behalf of Senator Farabee who could not be here today, I would like to make his statement for him for the record. It states as follows:

As a former officer in the United States Air Force Reserve and a State Senator for the 30th Senatorial District, I would like to register my opposition to any proposed closure of Webb Air Force Base in Big Spring, Texas. The twenty-nine county area comprising the 30th Senatorial District, and specifically Howard County, Texas, represents one of the best possible areas in the United States for the present training mission at Webb Air Force Base. From an environmental point of view, the training function carried out at Webb would be more adverse in other existing training bases. Removal of Webb Air Force Base would have serious environmental and economic consequences on the Big Spring area.

Specifically, Webb Air Force Base should not be closed for the following reasons:

1. Considering economic loss, the closing of Webb Air Force Base would have a serious economic impact on the City of Big Spring, Howard County, and the surrounding area. The direct loss of \$65 million dollars and the indirect loss of \$70 million dollars to the area would cause an unemployment rate of 12.9% in Howard County alone.
2. Local school districts would experience a 17% loss in student enrollment. This would cause a decline in the amount of state funds the schools would receive, thereby causing a decline in quality education.
3. Area hospitals would lose approximately 50 to 60% of their registered nurses. This, in turn, would make it difficult to meet State certification requirements.
4. Serious financial difficulties would be created by the inability of the schools, city and county to repay obligated bonds. This would cause a serious decrease of fire and police protection.
5. Webb Air Force Base ranks in the upper half of all ATC bases in its annual pilot production.
6. Webb Air Force Base has little urban encroachment. It is in one of the best positions of any ATC base should expansion be required.
7. Webb's construction cost needs for the next five years are smaller compared to two-thirds of the other bases which are candidates for closing.



8. In the area of weather, Webb Air Force Base ranked above all the other candidates with a weather loss of only 22% compared to a loss of 31% at Craig Air Force Base.

9. The closing of Webb Air Force Base would save the Air Force only \$23 million dollars while closing Columbus Air Force Base would save \$27 million dollars.

One could not disagree with the proposition that a military installation no longer benefiting the defense program should be maintained. Webb Air Force Base is benefiting the defense program and its function can be operated more efficiently in Howard County, Texas than other existing bases with similar mission. Respectfully submitted by Senator Ray Farabee.

(Letter to Secretary of the Air Force and Statement Attached)

C O P Y

November 2, 1976

The Honorable Thomas C. Reed  
Secretary of the Air Force  
Department of Defense Building  
The Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20330

Re: Possible Closure of Webb Air Force Base, Big Spring, Howard County,  
Texas.  
Public Hearing dated: November 4, 1976

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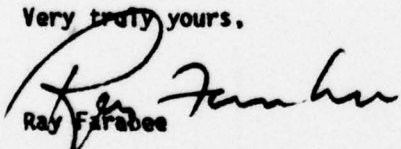
Dear Mr. Reed:

Attached hereto is my formal statement to the Air Force concerning the possible closure of Webb Air Force Base. Although I will be unable to attend the public hearing on November 4, 1976, as a former officer in the United States Air Force Reserve and the State Senator for the 30th Senatorial District, I did want to express my opposition to the possible closure of this fine military installation.

Please express these sentiments to those present at the hearing.

I should also appreciate being kept informed as to the outcome of this and other meetings.

Very truly yours,

  
Ray Farabee

RF/ss

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Thomas C. Reed  
Secretary of the Air Force  
P.O. Box 455  
Big Spring, Texas 79720

Mayor Wade Choate  
City of Big Spring  
P.O. Box 391  
Big Spring, Texas 79720

B-16

STATE SENATOR RAY FARABEE  
STATEMENT FOR PUBLIC HEARING  
ON THE POSSIBLE CLOSURE OF WEBB AIR FORCE BASE  
NOVEMBER 2, 1976

Statement:

As a former officer in the United States Air Force Reserve and a State Senator for the 30th Senatorial District, I would like to register my opposition to any proposed closure of Webb Air Force Base in Big Spring, Texas. The twenty-nine county area comprising the 30th Senatorial District, and specifically Howard County, Texas represents one of the best possible areas in the United States for the present training mission at Webb Air Force Base. From an environmental point of view, the training function carried out at Webb would be more adverse in other existing training bases. Removal of Webb Air Force Base would have serious environmental and economic consequences on the Big Spring area.

Specifically, Webb Air Force Base should not be closed for the following reasons:

1 Considering economic loss, the closing of Webb Air Force Base would have a serious economic impact on the City of Big Spring, Howard County, and the surrounding area. The direct loss of \$65 million dollars and the indirect loss of \$70 million dollars to the area would cause an unemployment rate of 12.9% in Howard County alone.

2. Local school districts would experience a 17% loss in student enrollment. This would cause a decline in the amount of state funds the schools would receive, thereby causing a decline in quality education.

3. Area hospitals would lose approximately 50 to 60% of their registered nurses. This in turn would make it difficult to meet state certification requirements.



4. Serious financial difficulties would be created by the inability of the schools, city and county to repay obligated bonds. This would cause a serious decrease of fire and police protection.

5. Webb Air Force Base ranks in the upper half of all ATC bases in its annual pilot production.

6. Webb Air Force Base has little urban encroachment. It is in one of the best positions of any ATC base should expansion be required.

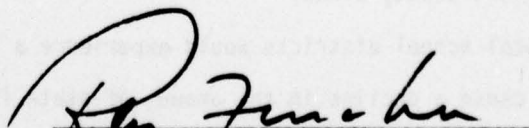
7. Webb's construction cost needs for the next five years are smaller compared to two-thirds of the other bases which are candidates for closing.

8. In the area of weather, Webb Air Force Base ranked above all the other candidates with a weather loss of only 22% compared to a loss of 31% at Craig Air Force Base.

9. The closing of Webb Air Force base would save the Air Force only \$23 million dollars while closing Columbus Air Force Base would save \$27 million dollars.

One could not disagree with the proposition that a military installation no longer benefiting the defense program should be maintained. Webb Air Force Base is benefiting the defense program and its function can be operated more efficiently in Howard County, Texas than other existing bases with similar mission.

Respectfully submitted



RAY FARABEE

B-1E

RF/ss

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF STATEMENT BY STATE REPRESENTATIVE MIKE EZZELL

Thank you, gentlemen, I appreciate your taking the time to come and to listen to the testimony that is being presented today by people interested not only in the future of Webb Air Force Base but the future of Big Spring, Howard County, and this area of West Texas. The majority of what you hear today is not a matter of opinion--it's facts. We are dealing with facts--not opinions--in regards to whether Webb should remain open or be closed, thus affecting a portion of our national defense effort. We are dealing with facts--not theory--in regards to the impact on Big Spring and the surrounding area. The facts on Webb as a candidate for closure, quote, unquote, reasons for it, are not actually even supported by the studies that the Air Force itself has conducted--few of those facts from the Environmental Impact Statement. On the basis of cost--this is one of the things as a government official and in dealing with agencies that they are concerned with--but when you look at the cost and you look at Webb you see a base that is the least costly of the six ATCs to the Air Force. Webb has the lowest cost per student pilot graduate in the entire command. Transportation cost at Webb is the lowest of any of the bases. We look at the facts in regards to Big Spring and this area, and the Senator in his statement touched on several of these, but it would result in a direct payroll loss of approximately 32.2 million dollars, 17% reduction in school enrollment, a city deficit of approximately 1.2 million dollars in fiscal year 76-77, a loss of 50 to 60 thousand dollars annually in revenue sharing funds. The decision to select Webb as a quote, unquote again, candidate to be closed, or any decision to close, cannot be made or justified on operational grounds. I would encourage a reconsideration of your facts and based on those facts remove Webb from the list of candidates and allow it to continue as an important integral part of our national defense team. Thank you very much.

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF STATEMENT OF COUNTY JUDGE JIMMY MATHIS  
MARTIN COUNTY, STANTON, TEXAS

Gentlemen, I am Jimmy Mathis; I am the County Judge of Martin County; Martin County joins Howard County to the West. I would like to read from a prepared statement.

Many of the residents of Stanton and Martin County have expressed their concern over the possible selection of Webb Air Force Base for closure by the Department of the Air Force.

Martin County is basically an agricultural center. As a result, many of our citizens are employed in Big Spring and at Webb Air Force Base. If the Department of the Air Force should decide in favor of closing Webb, our community would be directly affected. Many of our citizens would lose their jobs, our unemployment rate would rise, a decrease in population would be expected, and we would also expect a decrease in our bank deposits and mortgage values. The effect would be further compounded by a projected increase in water, telephone rates, and our tax base for our local school system.

In addition, some of our citizens are attending Howard College in Big Spring, and the UTPB and Sul Ross classes being offered on Webb Air Force Base. If the base closes, the UTPB and Sul Ross campuses on Webb would probably be eliminated, and many of the on-going programs at Howard College would probably have to be curtailed.

Many of the residents of Stanton and Martin County also take advantage of the many exceptional medical facilities in Big Spring. We understand that a base closure would deprive these fine facilities of about 50-60% of their registered nurses. This would not only impair the fine services rendered by these medical facilities, but would also make it difficult for them to meet State certification requirements.

I also understand the closure of the base would also have an effect on the nursing program at Howard College, which would make it even more difficult for these medical facilities to provide the number of registered nurses needed by their staffing requirements. If the hospitals lose their trained nurses, and the training program at Howard College is curtailed, I also feel that many of the services at the medical centers will have to be curtailed and many of our citizens will have to drive to larger cities which are further away.

Any consideration given to the above matters would be greatly appreciated by the citizens of Stanton and Martin County. That is the end of the prepared statement, but I would like to say that really all we ask for



is a good fair shake in the closure of Webb based on good, solid,  
factual, honest information. Thank you.

(Statement Attached)



JIMMY MATHIS  
COUNTY JUDGE AND  
EX-OFFICIO SUPERINTENDENT  
DAN SAUNDERS  
SHERIFF AND  
TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR  
MRS. DORIS STEPHENSON  
DIST. AND COUNTY CLERK  
KATHLEEN LEWIS  
COUNTY TREASURER  
ROY PICKETT  
COUNTY ATTORNEY

## MARTIN COUNTY

STANTON, TEXAS 79782

OFFICE OF

JIMMY MATHIS  
COUNTY JUDGE  
November 4, 1976

TROY BRADSHAW  
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 1  
MASON COGGIN  
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2  
ELDON A. WELCH  
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 3  
EARL NEWCOMER  
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 4  
M. L. GIBSON  
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

The Honorable Thomas C. Reed  
Secretary of the Air Force  
Department of Defense Building  
The Pentagon  
Washington, D. C. 20330

Dear Secretary Reed:

Many of the residents of Stanton and Martin County have expressed their concern over the possible selection of Webb Air Force Base for closure by the Department of the Air Force.

Martin County is basically an agricultural center. As a result, many of our citizens are employed in Big Spring and at Webb AFB. If the Department of the Air Force should decide in favor of closing Webb, our community would be directly effected. Many of our citizens would lose their jobs, our unemployment rate would rise, a decrease in population would be expected, and we would also expect a decrease in our bank deposits and mortgage values. The effect would be further compounded by a projected increase in water, telephone rates, and our tax base for our local school system.

In addition, some of our citizens are attending Howard College in Big Spring, and the UTPB and Sul Ross classes being offered on Webb AFB.

If the base closes, the UTPB and Sul Ross campuses on Webb would probably be eliminated, and many of the on-going programs at Howard College would probably have to be curtailed.

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Any consideration given to the above matters would be greatly appreciated by the citizens of Stanton and Martin County.

Sincerely Yours,

*Henry Mathis*  
Henry Mathis  
County Judge

JH:IL



VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF STATEMENT BY MAYOR WADE CHOATE

Colonel Smith, I would like to also enter into the record comments from three other County Judges from adjoining counties of Howard. Briefly I would like to make some comments from them that they have wished me to make.

County Judge Barbara Culver, of Midland County, states:

Since I am not sure I will be able to attend the hearing November 4 in Big Spring, I am writing my comments in letter form, which I hope will convey my sincerity, even if I am not present.

Many neighboring communities will feel the economic loss if this base is closed. Probably representatives of my city will offer data showing the impact on our community. (And they will be here later this evening.)

Of course, you encounter protests from local office holders and civic leaders whenever a step is taken to close a military facility; for it is the equivalent of moving a very large industry away from an area.

However, there are other than purely selfish "save OUR Airbase" arguments which may have some validity in this case and which may have been overlooked in all the excitement.

In this county of approximately 70,000 people, there are some 500 men and women serving in some branch of the armed services. Many of their dependents live here--wives, children, dependent parents. Many people enlist in the services now from low income and minority neighborhoods. These dependents can shop at the PX at Webb Air Force Base. They can get medical attention. It is accessible--only 40 miles away. That is not very far in West Texas. Disabled veterans and retired military personnel also get PX privileges.

It might be impractical for them to travel to the next nearest base, which I guess is located in Lubbock.

Also, it does happen that some servicemen while home on leave run out of money. It is possible for our Red Cross to give an emergency transportation to Webb and for the transportation to be arranged so the serviceman arrives at his base on time. He then repays his TR by installments withheld from his salary. This is an important service for a few men or women who face a crisis.

Perhaps by looking at a map of West Texas you could see how far it is between military bases.

The brief description I have given of these personal hardships a number of people will suffer in my county by the deactivation of Webb can be multiplied proportionately by all the counties in the area.

Perhaps this is not what is all important, but I think it is to some extent. If the PX privileges and medical attention are available to some areas, but not to the area served by Webb, it is the same as denying the privilege. Whatever savings there might be would be wiped out by the distance to and from Lubbock.

I urge you to consider the individual, personal hardships to the many families in this vast area, as well as other important negative affects all the communities of this area will suffer if Webb Air Force Base is closed.

I urge you to rescind the recommendations to close Webb Air Force Base, and that you work with us to keep it active.

This is signed by Judge Barbara G. Culver.

I also have a letter from Judge Roland L. Lowe of Sterling County-- Judge Lowe points out similar things that Judge Culver did--just for a few of the other points here:

Some of the citizens of Sterling City are employed at Webb Air Force Base in Big Spring. If the base is closed, many of these individuals would either lose their jobs or have to relocate, which would cause a higher unemployment rate, a decrease in retail sales and bank deposits, a decline in population and in mortgage values.

Many residents of Sterling City are attending Howard College in Big Spring and others are receiving treatment at the fine medical facilities in Big Spring. I feel the closure of Webb Air Force Base would curtail many of the courses at the college and services at the medical centers, which would in turn affect some of the citizens in Sterling County. /

Also we will enter into the record a statement from Judge Bill F. Carter, County Judge of Mitchell County, which relates similar incidents in his county. Thank you, Sir.

**BARBARA G. CULVER**  
COUNTY JUDGE  
MIDLAND, TEXAS 79701

MIDLAND COUNTY  
COURTHOUSE

TELEPHONE  
915 682-9481

November 2, 1976

The Honorable Thomas C. Reed  
Secretary of the Air Force  
Department of Defense Building  
The Pentagon  
Washington, D. C. 20330

Dear Secretary Reed:

Since I am not sure I will be able to attend the hearing November 4 in big Spring, I am writing my comments in letter form, which I hope will convey my sincerity, even if I am not present.

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However, there are other than purely selfish "save OUR Airbase" arguments which may have some validity in this case and which may have been overlooked in all the excitement.

In this county of approximately 70,000 people, there are some 500 men and women serving in some branch of the armed services. Many of their dependents live here - wives, children, dependent parents. Many people enlist in the services now from low income and minority neighborhoods. These dependents can shop at the PX at Webb Air Force Base. They can get medical attention. It is accessible - only 40 miles away. That is not very far in West Texas. Disabled veterans and retired military personnel also get PX privileges.

It might be impractical for them to travel to the next nearest base, which I guess is located in Lubbock.

Also, it does happen that some servicemen while home on leave run out of money. It is possible for our Red Cross to give an emergency transportation to Webb and for the transportation to be arranged so the serviceman arrives at his base on time. He then repays his TR by installments withheld from his salary. This is an important service for a few men or women who face a crisis.



Perhaps by looking at a map of West Texas you could see how far it is between military bases.

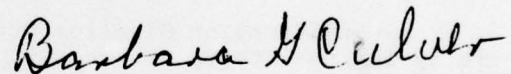
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Perhaps this is not what is all important, but I think it is to some extent. If the PX privileges and medical attention are available to some areas, but not to the area served by Webb, it is the same as denying the privilege. Whatever savings there might be would be wiped out by the distance to and from Lubbock.

I urge you to consider the individual, personal hardships to the many families in this vast area, as well as other important negative affects all the communities of this area will suffer if Webb Air Force Base is closed.

I urge you to rescind the recommendations to close Webb Air Force Base, and that you work with us to keep it active.

Very truly yours,



Barbara G. Culver

BGC:eh

xc: Mayor Wade Choate, Big Spring  
Mr. Doug Henson, Midland  
Mr. Ernie Crawford, PBRPC  
Mr. Roy Dahl, American Red Cross, Midland

ROLAND L. LOWE  
STERLING COUNTY JUDGE  
PHONE 915-378-3481  
Box 668  
STERLING CITY, TEXAS 76961

November 1, 1976

The Honorable Thomas C. Reed  
Secretary of the Air Force  
Department of Defense Building  
The Pentagon  
Washington, D. C. 20330

Dear Secretary Reed:

As an elected official, I would like to express my concern over the pending announcement by the Department of the Air Force regarding Webb Air Force Base in Big Spring.

Some of the citizens of Sterling City are employed at Webb AFB and Big Spring. If the base is closed, many of these individuals would either lose their jobs or have to relocate, which would cause a higher unemployment rate, a decrease in retail sales and bank deposits, a decline in population and in mortgage values.

In addition, Sterling City is located on highway 87 and many of the personnel assigned to Webb Air Force Base stop in our community to purchase gasoline and other items while traveling through our County.

Many residents of Sterling City are attending Howard College in Big Spring and others are receiving treatment at the fine medical facilities in Big Spring. I feel the closure of Webb AFB would curtail many of the courses at the college and services at the medical centers, which would in turn effect some of the citizen in Sterling County.

When making your final decision as to which Air Force bases to close, I would like to ask you to consider the consequences the closure of Webb Air Force Base would have on the economy of Big Spring, Howard County, and other areas such as Sterling City and Sterling County.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely yours,

*Roland L. Lowe*  
Roland L. Lowe

B-2E



BILL F. CARTER, COUNTY JUDGE  
P.O. BOX 989  
OFFICE PHONE 728-2615  
RESIDENCE PHONE 728-2576

November 1, 1976

The Honorable Thomas C. Reed  
Secretary of the Air Force  
Department of Defense Building  
The Pentagon  
Washington, D. C. 20330

Dear Secretary Reed:

On behalf of the citizens of Colorado City and Mitchell County, I would like to express our concern over the possible closure of Webb Air Force Base.

A direct effect that would be felt in Colorado City and Mitchell County by a base closure would be a loss in revenue from the Air Force for the lease of our auxiliary field, which is being used by the student pilots assigned to Webb Air Force Base.

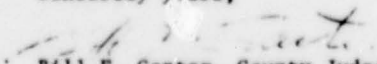
In addition, many of our citizens are currently attending Howard College in Big Spring, and the UTPB and Sul Ross Classes being taught at Webb AFB. If the base closes, the classes being offered by UTPB and Sul Ross at Webb would probably be eliminated. I also feel that many of the on-going programs at Howard College in Big Spring would either have to be cut back or cancelled all together.

One of the programs that would effect our community is the nursing program being conducted at Howard College. Colorado City, and other communities in this area of the state, are finding it difficult to recruit a sufficient number of registered nurses and have supported the nursing program at Howard College to train nurses needed by our hospitals. This program would be hurt by a reduction in the number of the nursing graduates would remain in Big Spring at one of their many hospitals to fill the large void that would be created if they lose the number of registered nurses they expect to lose as a result of a base closure.

Our community would show a loss in retail sales, bank deposits, mortgage values, and park revenue from our state park. In addition, water and telephone rates would probably have to be increased due to the termination of contracts with Webb Air Force Base.

Secretary Reed, as you can see from this brief statement, the closure of Webb AFB would have an effect on more communities than Big Spring and Howard County, and I would appreciate you taking that into account when you make your final decision on Webb Air Force Base.

Sincerely yours,

  
Bill F. Carter, County Judge  
Mitchell County, Texas

BFC/fm

B-29

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF STATEMENT BY MAYOR JOE SWINNEY, COAHOMA, TEXAS

First of all I would like to thank you very much for this opportunity that I have to come to express our views concerning the closure of Webb. As Mayor of Coahoma I would like to express the concern of the citizens of the possible closure of Webb Air Force Base. Coahoma is located in Howard County, eleven miles east of Big Spring. The closure of Webb would result in numerous job losses for our city. It would have a great effect on our school system in Coahoma where a lot of our teachers are wives of the servicemen here and this is a thing that is hard to replace--if you know how hard it is to come by school teachers in a small community. We also have a lot of our students there that attend Howard County Junior College. We feel that this would have a great effect on the Howard County Junior College. And another thing--the City of Coahoma does not have a hospital; we use the facilities in Big Spring, and we understand that this will have a great effect on the nurses of the hospitals in Big Spring--the Veterans Hospital, the State Hospital--and, in reality, there's not anything that it don't affect in a community the size of ours--whether it be real estate, teachers, students, whatever--this has a great effect on the citizens of Coahoma. Thank you.



# THE CITY of BIG SPRING

P. O. Box 391

PHONE 915: 263-8311

TEXAS 79720

October 29, 1976



Mayor Joe Swinney  
502 N. 5th  
Coahoma, Texas 79511

Dear Mayor Swinney:

An Air Force team will be in Big Spring on November 4th to give Congressman and public officials an opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the possible closure of Webb Air Force Base.

I would like to personally invite you to attend the public hearings, which will be held at the Big Spring High School Auditorium on 11th Place from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the 4th.

If you would like to furnish a written statement at that time concerning the effects a base closure would have on your area of interest, or would like to comment on the information contained in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, please address your statement to:

The Honorable Thomas C. Reed  
Secretary of the Air Force  
Department of Defense Building  
The Pentagon  
Washington, D. C. 20330

If you are unable to attend the hearings, but would like to furnish a written statement, please address your statement to Secretary Reed and mail it to me at P. O. Box 455, Big Spring, Texas 79720, and I will see that your remarks are entered into the Public Records.

I have attached a sample statement that you might wish to use. If you should decide to use the suggested statement, please retype it on your own letterhead and mail it to me.

As an elected official in this area of West Texas, I am sure you must realize that the loss of over \$100,000,000 to this area would have an adverse effect, not only on Big Spring but will also cause losses to other communities in lost retail sales, increased payments to the CRMWD and a general decline in the entire economy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Wade Choate  
Mayor

WC:db

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

B-31

Mayor Swinney, Coahoma

Dear Secretary Reed:

As the Mayor of Coahoma, I would like to express the concern of our citizens over the possible closure of Webb Air Force Base.

Coahoma is located in Howard County, along with Big Spring. As a result of our location and close proximity to Big Spring and Webb AFB, many of our citizens are employed at Webb and other business segments of Big Spring.

The closure of Webb would result in numerous job losses, a high unemployment rate, a decrease in population and retail sales, decreased bank deposits and mortgage values, increases in water and telephone rates, and our tax base for our schools would have to be increased.

In addition, many of our citizens are currently attending Howard College in Big Spring. If the base closes, I feel many of the on-going technical classes at Howard College would probably have to be either cut back or cancelled all together due to the immediate drop in enrollment.

Coahoma does not have a hospital due to the many fine medical facilities located in Big Spring. We are concerned about the possible loss of 50-60% of the registered nurses at these clinics and hospitals as a result of the base closure. This would not only impair the exceptional services rendered by these medical facilities, but would also make it difficult for them to meet state certification requirements. This same problem would also effect the Veterans Administration Hospital and the Big Spring State Hospital.

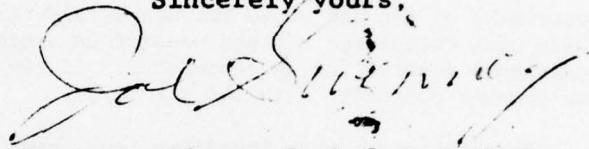
And I understand the closure of Webb would have an effect on the nursing program at Howard College, making it even more difficult to fill

-2-

the vacancies created by the closure of Webb.

Because of the drastic effects that would result from a base closure on the community of Coahoma, I would like to ask you to seriously consider the consequences the closure of Webb Air Force Base would have on the population of Coahoma, Big Spring, and neighboring communities.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. L. Sullivan".

(This is only a suggested statement. Please feel free to make any additions, changes, or alterations you would like to.)

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF STATEMENT BY MAYOR WADE CHOATE

Colonel Smith, I have also a letter from Mayor Dan Hemphill of Odessa which states:

Elected representatives of Odessa have carefully watched the announcements concerning Webb Air Force Base with a great deal of concern. We feel the closure of the viable military installation would not only weaken our nation's defense posture, but would also have an adverse effect on Odessa and Ector County.

Many of the businesses in Odessa have signed contracts with the Department of the Air Force for nearby Webb Air Force Base. The agreements with Odessa and Midland constitute approximately \$1.5 million in additional revenue for our community. If the base closes, we would lose our present contracts with the Air Force.

In addition to this immediate loss, many of the military personnel assigned to Webb shop in our community. I feel an appreciable amount of their spendable income is spent in the Odessa SMSA. This loss in retail sales would hurt many of our local retail outlets, restaurants, and entertainment facilities.

Many of the military and civilian personnel and their families, who are assigned to Webb Air Force Base utilize the airlines through Odessa-Midland. The closure of the base would cost the local airport over \$233,000 a year in lost travel revenue and 220 fewer passengers each month. With this decrease in passengers and revenue, I feel the number of flights into the local airport could be curtailed, causing inconveniences for citizens and businesses in our community as well.

I also anticipate a higher cost of water purchased through the Colorado River Municipal Water District as a result of the loss in sales to Webb Air Force Base, and feel our telephone rates might also have to be increased due to the additional revenue that would be lost as the result of a base closure and the termination of contracts with Webb.

I feel that many of our wholesale companies who sell directly to Big Spring retail outlets and many of our companies who have maintenance contracts with numerous businesses in Big Spring and Howard County would be directly affected from the loss in the business as a result of a base closure.

I also foresee a loss in bank deposits and mortgages from both individuals and businesses that would be affected if Webb closes.



Odessa is also the home of the University of Texas of the Permian Basin. Many of the residents of Big Spring and Webb Air Force Base continue their education through this campus and the campus located on Webb AFB. Many of the military assigned to the base complete their master degree work through classes either at the Odessa campus or the campus on Webb. I anticipate both a loss in students and revenue as the result of the closure of the military installation.

Secretary Reed, as you can see from this brief overview, closure of Webb AFB would have an effect on most, if not all, of the communities in the Permian Basin. I would like to ask that you take this factor into consideration when you make your final decision on the future of Webb Air Force Base. Signed, Dan Hemphill, Mayor, Odessa.

Also, a similar letter from Mayor Donald L. Tollison, the Mayor of the City of Stanton, which we will file with the record.

Colonel Smith, also at this time I received a telegram from Congressman Mahon--Mr. Burleson has already mentioned it in his discussion with him, but the telegram reads as follows:

Regret that my schedule is such that I cannot be with you at the Webb Air Force Base Hearing in Big Spring.

I shall continue to go my whole limit toward the continuation of Webb Air Force Base. I was instrumental in the establishment of the base and will do everything in my power to be of assistance and I wish to associate myself with the plea which Congressman Omar Burleson and Senator John Tower will make at the meeting today.

CITY OF  
**Odessa**



P. O. BOX 4398 411 W. 8TH ODESSA, TEXAS 79760 (915) 337-7381

November 2, 1976

The Honorable Thomas C. Reed  
Secretary of the Air Force  
Department of Defense Building  
The Pentagon  
Washington, D. C. 20330

Dear Secretary Reed:

Elected representatives of Odessa have carefully watched the announcements concerning Webb Air Force Base with a great deal of concern. We feel the closure of the viable military installation would not only weaken our nation's defense posture, but would also have an adverse effect on Odessa and Ector County.

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The Honorable Thomas C. Reed  
November 2, 1976  
page two

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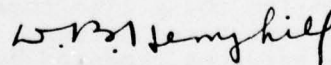
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Secretary Reed, as you can see from this brief overview, closure of Webb AFB would have an effect on most, if not all, of the communities in the Permian Basin. I would like to ask that you take this factor into consideration when you make your final decision on the future of Webb Air Force Base.

Yours very truly,



Dan Hemphill  
Mayor

DBH/dn

CITY OF STANTON

P. O. BOX 868 - PHONE 756-3341

STANTON, TEXAS 79782

November 1, 1976

The Honorable Thomas C. Reed  
Secretary of the Air Force  
Department of Defense Building  
The Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20330

Dear Secretary Reed:

Many of the residents of Stanton and Martin County have expressed their concern over the possible selection of Webb Air Force Base for closure by the Department of the Air Force.

Martin County is basically an agricultural center. As a result, many of our citizens are employed in Big Spring and at Webb AFB. If the Department of the Air Force should decide in favor of closing Webb, our community would directly effected. Many of our citizens would lose their jobs, our unemployment rate would rise, a decrease in population would be expected, and we would also expect a decrease in our bank deposits and mortgage values. The effect would be further compounded by a projected increase in water, telephone rates, and our tax base for our local school system.

In addition, some of our citizens are attending Howard College in Big Spring, and the UTPB and Sul Ross classes being offered on Webb AFB. If the base closes, the UTPB and Sul Ross campuses on Webb would probably be eliminated, and many of the on-going programs at Howard College would probably have to be curtailed.

Many of the residents of Stanton and Martin County also take advantage of the many exceptional medical facilities in Big Spring. We understand that a base closure would deprive these fine facilities of about 50-60% of their registered nurses. This would not only impair the fine services rendered by these medical facilities, but would also make it difficult for them to meet state certification requirements.

I also understand the closure of the base would also have an effect on the nursing program at Howard College, which would make it even more difficult for these medical centers to provide the number of registered nurses needed by their staffing requirements. If the hospitals lose their trained nurses, and the training program at



**CITY OF STANTON**

P. O. BOX 868 .- PHONE 756-3341  
STANTON, TEXAS 79782

Howard College is curtailed, I also feel that many of the services at the medical centers will have to be curtailed and many of our citizens will have to drive to larger cities which are further away.

Any consideration given to the above matters would be greatly appreciated by the citizens of Stanton and Martin County.

Sincerely yours,



Donald L. Tollison  
Mayor of City of Stanton

12  
04 NOVEMBER 1976  
CONGRESSMAN GEORGE MAHON'S TELEGRAM TO MAYOR WADE CHOATE

Regret that my schedule is such that I cannot  
be with you at the Webb Air Force Base Hearing in Big Spring.

I shall continue to go my whole limit toward the  
continuation of Webb Air Force Base. I was instrumental in  
the establishment of the base and will do everything in  
my power to be of assistance and I wish to associate myself  
with the plea which Congressman Omar Burleson and  
Senator John Tower will make at the meeting today.

B-40

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF STATEMENT OF MS. LEA TAYLOR  
ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE REPRESENTING CONGRESSMAN RICHARD WHITE

I have a letter from Congressman White which will be going out today to the Honorable Thomas C. Reed, Secretary of the Air Force:

Dear Mr. Secretary: It is with concern that I view the proposed closure of Webb Air Force Base in Big Spring, Texas. As you know, the City of Odessa, part of which is in my Congressional District, serves as the retail trade center for the Permian Basin area in which Webb AFB is located and will certainly suffer a severe economic loss should the base be closed.

I understand the Air Force's need for tight fiscal control and appreciate its judgments in operational training matters especially when training requirements have to be balanced over the entire Air Force. The difficulty that I currently have in reviewing the closure proposals is that it appears that the message is not going through clearly to those many people who will be adversely affected by base closure as to the weighing of the decision factors in the proposals. I believe a complete analysis, within security classification limitations, of all operational factors and socio economic impacts of all the alternative bases under consideration, and the recommendations and justifications therefore, should be made available to the public. Anything less than this, I am sure, can only foster distrust and resentment.

It is therefore requested that:

- (1) The USAF prepare a comparison of the bases proposed as alternatives for closure showing for each alternative the effect of closure on Air Force defense posture and the cost savings involved.
- (2) The USAF include in the above analysis not only a detailed operational training analysis of all alternatives but also a socio-economic impact statement of comparison of the adverse effects on communities affected by base closure in the case of all the alternative bases considered.
- (3) The same analytical information produced by the USAF together with recommendations and justification therefore which are presented to the Secretary of the Air Force be made available to the Congressional delegation from the affected area and to the public prior to any final action.

As this issue is time critical, an expeditious reply would be appreciated. With my best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Richard C. White  
Member of Congress

B-41

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF STATEMENT OF MR. HAROLD HALL  
CHAIRMAN, PERMIAN BASIN PLANNING COUNCIL

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am Harold Hall, and I am here in my official capacity as Chairman of the Board of the Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission. The Planning Commission is the council of governments representing the seventeen county area of West Texas of which Howard County is a member. The Board of Directors is made up of the county judges and representatives of the city, school and water districts, and other governmental agencies in this seventeen county area. The Regional Planning Commission is responsible for conducting the A-95 review. The staff and members of the Planning Commission have been reviewing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and assessing this document in compliance with the OMB Circular A-95, and have been reviewing the document, as we do all environmental impact statements and grant applications in this seventeen county area. As an organization with several years experience examining proposals and reports such as this Draft Environmental Impact Statement, the staff and members of the Planning Commission are very concerned about several matters that the Air Force has apparently ignored, or only partially explained in conjunction with the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Planning Commission has forwarded a letter to the Secretary of the Air Force, requesting that these problems be corrected, and at this point, we have not yet received a satisfactory answer to these questions.

Of primary importance is the precise manner and method in which the final impact statement will serve in the decision-making process. The Air Force has recited only how the final impact statement will be derived, and they have stated that only the Secretary of the Air Force, in conjunction with the Secretary of Defense, will use the impact statement in making the final decision. However, in the case of The Environmental Defense Fund versus Hardin, the Federal Court involved stated that the Environmental Impact Statement must be used in every significant step of the decision-making process. Not only has the Air Force not stated exactly how the Final Environmental Impact Statement will be used by the Secretary of the Air Force and the Secretary of Defense, but they have not given us any proof that this document will be used in the preliminary stages. They have not shown how the information contained in the Environmental Impact Statement will be digested or applied to the decision-making process. We must, therefore, assume that the Air Force does not know how this document will be used. They have not indicated which operational, environmental, social, economic, or human factors are important and which ones will be primary to the Secretary of the Air Force in making his decision. Without this information, we must assume that the Environmental Impact Statement is a pro forma document, and that the Air Force either cannot or will not tell us how it is to be used.



In comparison to other environmental impact statements we have received, we must say that the Draft EIS, even as a draft document, is incomplete and partial at best. The information contained in this document does not meet the requirements of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement, and the Planning Commission feels that a much more detailed statement must be written before proper review can be conducted.

A third very important point is the consideration of alternatives. In working with other environmental impact statements, other agencies have had to consider alternatives outside of their own agency, and have had to consider alternatives presented to them. They then have had to document with precision and accuracy why other alternatives were not chosen. The Air Force has categorically stated that there are no other alternatives outside of Air Training Command. This assertion must be proven, not just stated. Cost figures must be shown. What would it take to use Webb for alternative missions if costs and mission flexibilities are the reasons given for lack of use. It must be proven and substantiated why it is not proper to consider Webb for missions outside of ATC. Statements such as, "The only alternative outside of ATC would be to close some other base," may seem rational to the Air Force, but in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Air Force is required to provide factual information to substantiate this position. This has not been done.

The Planning Commission is also disappointed that this document was forwarded to us prior to the receipt of information from other federal agencies involved such as HUD, the President's Economic Recovery Administration, the Economic Development Administration, Texas Department of Community Affairs, and other state, local and federal agencies that would be involved. The law specifically states that any irreversible commitment of resources must be evaluated and must be included. If Webb is closed, these agencies will irretrievably have to commit resources, and yet the Air Force completely ignores this. The resources that will be provided by other federal, state, and local agencies must be specified with precision and with as much accuracy as possible prior to A-95 review on this document. In conjunction with this, the Air Force has not fully explained or examined all of the mitigating factors. They have stated that there are certain agencies involved which will mitigate the actions, but they have not shown with any detail how much of a mitigation these agencies will be able to provide. This must be done prior to the time that proper A-95 review can be conducted.

As the elected officials representing seventeen county, state, municipal, and local governments, we are also concerned that no analysis has been done on the regional impact. We realize and agree that the region of dominance should be Howard County and that this is where the primary analysis should be done, but certainly no Draft Environmental Impact Statement is complete before the secondary area of impact is analyzed and

evaluated. Because of the particular economic make-up, inter-dependence, and the relative isolation of the Permian Basin area, it is very likely that the economic impact on the secondary area will be quite severe, and certainly should be considered in this statement.

It is also our concern that many of the figures and data provided have been purposely planted to provide data which would show Howard County to have the least economic impact. Certainly the use of total economic output figures is one of these biases, since an oil refinery is one of the primary industries here, there is a high degree of economic output, but very little of this money remains in Howard County. As useful as this is, it still results in the economic impact, when computed on economic output, is biased unfavorably against Howard County. In looking at the real human impact of closing the base, it is a personal income and personal loss which must be considered; therefore, we request that the Air Force consider the percentage loss of personal income in each of the areas proposed for closure or considered as alternatives for closure. This is the only way to correctly assess how the citizens of Big Spring, and not just the businesses, are going to be affected by the proposed closing. Indeed, this should be a more appropriate measure for all the counties considered.

Ladies and gentlemen, time does not permit me to present all of the arguments, all of the factors considered, nor all of the irregularities involved in this document. Instead, I would like to present for your consideration four documents: First, are the minutes and the transcript of a public hearing held by the Regional Development Review Committee in Odessa, Texas, on October 4, 1976, for the purpose of reviewing this Draft Environmental Impact Study. These contain many considerations, questions, and interests which this committee had concerning this impact statement. Second, are the minutes from the Board meeting where the Environmental Impact Statement was considered by the Board of Directors of the Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission. You will notice that in both cases both committees gave unfavorable review to this document and requested that a proper document be provided to us for the purpose of A-95 review. I urge you to carefully consider this material, consider the questions, comments, and questions contained in this material, and respond to it in an appropriate manner.

Thirdly, I would like to present you with a list of thirty-six questions which has been developed by the members and staff of the Planning Commission. Most of these are general questions presented at the committee meeting, but because of the lack of appropriate data to evaluate the human consequences, the staff has added several questions. I do feel that these thirty-six questions given an indication of the kinds of considerations that the Planning Commission has.

The fourth document is one summarizing the twenty statements, the findings of the staff and members of the Planning Commission concerning this document.

In summary, ladies and gentlemen, it is my contention that the Air Force has not made a serious endeavor to present an objective, unbiased and factual statement of the social, economic, environmental, or operational factors involved in their proposed actions. They have not followed the intent of the National Environmental Policy Act, and have not provided regional clearinghouses, or the citizens of Howard County, responsible data which they can evaluate, or to which they can respond. As the Chairman of the Board representing county officials of seventeen counties, and nearly one-half million people, I would like to request that the Air Force consider carefully our objections to this statement, and provide the Planning Commission a document appropriate for A-95 review. It is my contention that if that is done, these facts and figures will show that the suggested action for Webb Air Force Base is not the appropriate course for the Air Force to take. Thank you.

(Minutes, Transcript, 4 Oct 76; Meeting Minutes, 13 Oct 76; Questions on Draft EIS; Findings on Webb Attached)

(REPORTER'S NOTE: 34 questions instead of 36 and 19 statements instead of 20 were submitted to the reporter as attachments)



PERMIAN BASIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE  
MINUTES

A meeting of the Regional Development Review Committee of the Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission was held on October 4, 1976, at 2:00 p.m. in the conference room of the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation, District Office, Odessa.

Members present were:

Bryan Henderson  
Glenn Toombs  
Paul Coleman, Chairman  
Vernon Chandler  
Bob Thomson  
The Honorable Charles Tompkins  
The Honorable Darrell Glover  
Col. Wilson Banks  
Kenneth Esmond  
Kenneth Fields  
John Berry  
Art Lish  
Monte Wooten

Members absent were:

C. A. Taylor  
Fred Baker  
Ed. L. Reed

Also present were:

The Honorable Marcus Crow  
Bob Block  
H. W. Nagel  
Marj Carpenter  
Dale King  
Harold Hall  
G. Ben Bancroft  
Jimmy Taylor

Mabin Armistead  
B. Winston Wrinkle  
Ralph L. Brooks  
Lt. Col. D. E. Tokar  
Maj. J. D. West

County Judge, Gaines County  
Rep. Senator Lloyd Bentsen  
City Manager, Big Spring  
Big Spring Herald  
Rep. Congressman Omar Burleson  
City Councilman, Big Spring  
Lawyer, Big Spring  
President, 1st National Bank  
Big Spring  
SDHPT, Odessa  
Rep. Mayor Wade Choate  
Lt. Col. USAF, Retired  
Webb AFB, Big Spring  
Webb AFB, Big Spring



A. R. Huber  
Lt. Col. R. F. Gadd, III  
Capt. L. H. Ingalls  
Lt. Col. Gerald T. Dantzler  
Richard Buckland  
Jim Lawson  
Lt. Col. J. A. Nugent  
Conrad Coleman  
Mark Everett  
W. L. Pettit

Gene Garrison  
Capt. Richard B. Risk, Jr.  
Chan Robinson  
Dr. Alan D. Carey  
Bob Burns  
Lea Taylor  
Ernie Crawford  
Harley Reeves  
Joyce Wein  
Sharon Elliott  
Jerry Tschauner  
Susan Turner  
W. E. Smith  
Jeanne Kaferle  
Richard Jenson  
Stanley Pruitt, Jr.  
Penny Taulman  
Richard Kleinhans

Randolph AFB, San Antonio  
Randolph AFB, San Antonio  
Randolph AFB, San Antonio  
Randolph AFB, San Antonio  
Dept. Public Safety  
Battelle Lab.  
Randolph AFB, San Antonio  
KNFM Radio, Midland  
KRIG Radio, Odessa  
Board Chairman, Chamber of  
Commerce, Odessa  
Chamber of Commerce, Odessa  
Webb AFB, Big Spring  
Texas Electric Service Company  
Univ. of Texas/Permian Basin  
TESCO  
Rep. Congressman Richard White  
Permian Basin Reg. Plan. Comm.  
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Paul Coleman, Chairman, called the meeting to order.

Motion was made by Tompkins and seconded by Henderson that the minutes of the previous meeting held July 22, 1976, be approved. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Henderson and seconded by Banks that the application from the Ector County Utility District for Water Services Development receive favorable review and comment. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion followed concerning the Draft Environmental Impact Statement prepared on Webb Air Force Base by the Department of the Air Force. Richard Jenson presented an initial statement on PBRPC staff comments. The floor was then opened for questions from committee members and audience participants directed toward representatives of the Air Force delegation. A complete copy of the transcript will be available at PBRPC offices for distribution.

Motion was made by Glover and seconded by Esmond that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement of the Department of the Air Force receive unfavorable review and comment for the following reasons:

1. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement is incomplete and inadequate.
2. The real alternatives have not been even partially explored.
3. The Air Force has not indicated how the EIS will be used in the decision-making process and has not provided adequate decision-making information.

Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Paul Coleman, Chairman, who then turned the floor over the Jerry Tschauner, Planning Director of PBRPC, for a presentation on the Ector County Utility District. He reported that the Utility District was proposing installation of a complete water supply and distribution system in the area west of Odessa, and is requesting \$1,590,570 from the Texas Water Development Board. These funds will be utilized to install some 13 miles of transmission line, 600,000 ground water storage facility, and a 300,000 overhead storage facility. Both the Ector County Commissioner's Court and the City of Odessa have approved this proposal. An environmental impact statement showed no adverse affect on the area should the system be installed, but rather that if it is not installed, the area would deteriorate because of poor water conditions. The proposal received favorable review and comment.

Jenson: In March of this past year, the Air Force did announce that Webb Air Force Base and Craig Air Force Base were candidates for closure. In keeping with a court decision in Kansas City by Richard Gabar based there on possible transfers that said the Air Force must prepare an Environmental Impact Statement of the proposed actions and what impact that those actions would have on the area around the base. The Air Force has prepared and forwarded to the Planning Commission seven documents, the Environmental Impact Analysis Process on Webb and Craig, and six supporting and background documents. The Committee has received the Environmental Impact Analysis and has the six supporting documents available to them at the Planning Commission. The documents include the environmental impact not only on Howard County and on the area in Alabama where Craig is located, but also on the other five bases, actually four bases, that currently have the same mission as undergraduate pilots training. The Environmental Impact Statement is fairly complex, and for the sake of

time, I'm not going to go into every detail of what the Air Force has found, but summarize the major social and economic impacts that the Air Force has provided to us. Most of those are found in Section 4 of the Environmental Impact Statement, beginning on page 44. Primarily this states that the level of emission, that is tons per year, of air pollutants will actually decrease in the area surrounding the proposed action because of the lack of flight sorties in the area. The primary social and environmental economic impacts which will occur are: 1) there will a population loss for Howard County of 6,239 persons; 2) there will be an increase in the unemployment rate from 2.8% to 12.9%. There will be a loss in the labor force of 9.7%. They have estimated and this begins to be a little bit complex because in doing the study, the Air Force has determined that it is necessary to have benchmark data; that is, in order to project what the economic loss is going to be for Howard County, they said there could be some hard data about what the economic situation was in Howard County at a specified point in time. The most current data that they could find was 1973 data, so all of their figures are based on 1973 statistics. Based on 1973 dollars, there will be an economic loss to Howard County of \$49.7 million. That represents 11.2% of the total economic output for Howard County. They will loose, according to the Air Force's projection \$119.2 million in retail sales, that will be 16% of the retail sales for the area, they will loose \$788,151 in state sales taxes, \$197,038 in local sales taxes, that is 30% of the sales tax revenue currently handled by Howard County, and in addition, local contributions to federal and United Way campaigns will amount to \$34,000. There will be, according to Air Force's figures, 1307 vacant homes as a result of the air base leaving and this represents an increase in the vacancy rate for sales units from 3.1% to 12% of the total units, and for rental units from 11% to 25% of the total units in the total community. There will be a loss of 1,352 students of the public school system, which represents 17%, and there will be a loss of \$371,580 in school funds from Public Law 81-74.



The Environmental Impact Statement also summarizes the same basic statistics for the other (I wonder if that's a sign of some kind) five bases that could possibly be closed. They have considered a number of alternatives, or they say they have considered a number of alternatives. The alternatives that they considered was: number one, to take no action, but because of the fact that the undergraduate pilot training requirements for the Air Force is cutting back, they said that that action is impossible because they do have to receive seasoned pilots. They said that there is a possibility of reducing undergraduate pilot training at all seven bases, but have disregarded that alternative, stating that they could not realize the economies of a fixed base cost, that is those costs associated with having a base being located, and therefore, that was not an alternative. They did say they evaluated closing only one UPT base and of course they said this alternative was considered and could be selected. However, the magnitude of the excess of pilot training capacity would not be sufficiently reduced and the Air Force would not achieve the maximum operating efficiencies and would not realize optimal resources. So they have decided not to choose that alternative for that reason, although they say it could be chosen. They considered the alternative of closing Webb Air Force Base, and said that that was not a viable alternative because, or excuse me, Williams Air Force Base because of alternative missions currently being conducted at Williams. They said that the alternatives which are remaining is to close Craig and Webb, or to close other combinations of two UPT bases. There is much, much more which could be said about this Environmental Impact Statement, but I believe that adequately summarizes the primary points of the statement.

In the review of this particular statement by the staff of the Planning Commission, the staff is concerned about a number of things. First of all, it is concerned by the lack of interface with the Air Force in conducting the Environmental

Impact Statement. In those cases such as this, there is a great deal more coordination of collection of data and discussion of the terms. Most important, the staff of the Planning Commission is concerned about the lack of assessment of the real human loss, and the problems with the environment which will be around because of the closing of the base. The general orientation of the draft Environmental Impact Statement is produced figures, most of which are limited in their explanation of how it will actually and realistically affect the life styles and the quality of life for the citizens of Big Spring or the surrounding counties. There is very little in the draft Environmental Impact Statement to address the real human loss and suffering that will occur because of the proposed action. There seems to be a total lack of concern by the Air Force for the intent of the National Environmental Policy Act. The statement is concerned with generic statements such as, and this is one which concerned the staff of the Planning Commission greatly, "the proposed action will result in commitment of labor, materials, and energy resources devoted to the relocation efforts which are considered to be irretrievably committed." But there is no specificity about how much commitment there will be of resources not only by the Air Force for such action, but particularly by other governmental agencies such as the Economic Development Administration, Economic Recovery Administration, the Department of Labor, and others. They have stated in the draft Environmental Impact Statement that there are mitigating factors; that there will be a number of governmental agencies that will be called on to try to minimize the impact of the relocation. We feel in keeping with the National Environmental (Protection) Policy Act, that it is incumbent upon the Air Force to determine precisely and exactly how much money will be irretrievably committed by these other governmental agencies should Webb close.

The second point which we are extremely concerned about, and that is how the draft Environmental Impact Statement will be utilized in the decision making process. In the case of Calvert Cliffs Coordinating Committee vs. the AEC, the Federal Judge there specified that the Environmental Impact Statement should be considered in every phase of the decision making process. Yet nowhere in the draft statement is it specified how the statement will be used in the decision making process, where it will be used, by whom it will be used, or when this decision first came about and how the statement was used in the initial statements. It is the feeling of the staff of the Planning Commission in reading along, reading the court cases, that in fact the proposed action is a violation of the law itself. The decision to possibly close two bases and then do a draft Environmental Impact Statement on that, and consider the alternatives of closing other bases, would seem to be an inappropriate use of the decision making process of the Environmental Impact Statement. Rather, it would seem appropriate that what should be done is the Environmental Impact Statement should be prepared on the possible closure of all seven bases, and the fact that there weren't any announcements of prospective closures, it should be for all seven, and not two. Deciding that two bases should be closed and doing an impact statement on it does not incorporate the environmental impact process in total in the decision making process.

Third of all, and there are a number of factors that could come up by this, there seems to be no total substantial quantification of the factors involved in the environmental impact. We are concerned about the lack of drawing the environmental impact figures out to their fullest extent. We can give many examples, but perhaps the most ludicrous of all is the statement that "residential and commercial vacancies will occur, but should be reabsorbed over time." Vacant homes in a community and the blight and problems of crime prevention, fire prevention, and the emotional problems that occur because of a large percent of vacant homes in a community

is an environmental consequence, but that statement summarizes nearly totally the Air Force's position on the fact that there will be 1307 according to their figures, vacant homes in the community. Earlier in the Environmental Impact Statement before that sentence the Air Force indicated that based on historical evidence, there is no reason to suspect that Big Spring will grow at any faster rate than it has in the past. Using the Air Force's own statements, and the Air Force's own figures, to project that out it would take 34 years unless there are extreme mitigating factors before those vacant homes will be completely reabsorbed in the housing market. We feel like not only should that impact be fully analyzed, but it should have been done in the impact statement itself. I think this is just an example of how the figures have been presented, but never drawn to the full environmental or social consequences of what will happen because of the factors that are involved here. There are number of problems, and speaking of the housing, it makes it very difficult to analyze this particular Environmental Impact Statement because they said there would be 1307 vacant homes, which represents 11% of the sales units and 25% of the rental units. If we apply those figures and reduced and subtracted out the current number of occupied homes, we come up with 1343 increase. This is again, an example of the problems that the staff of the Planning Commission has had in analyzing the impact statement. Not only are the figures not drawn out to include the excessive environmental consequences, but in many cases they are contradictory.

The fourth point that we considered that the Air Force should have addressed more fully is that of alternatives. The four alternatives I read to you are extremely limited and do not consider fully the possible alternatives the Air Force could have for the use of Webb Air Force Base. They have limited the statement totally and completely to looking only at undergraduate pilot training, and we feel like there are possible alternative missions the Air Force should have looked at.



Now surely, as indicated to us before, there may some costs involved in considering other missions. There may be some costs involved in considering other missions by other areas of the Department of Defense, but the intent, not the letter of the Environmental Policy Act, indicates that the agency making the proposed action has on them incumbent the requirement to assess "all probable alternatives". We feel like the Air Force has not done this, they have limited their statement too much, limited their alternatives, and they should go back and assess possible other alternatives, many of which have been proposed to them by congressional individuals and other representatives of Big Spring. We feel like the better consultation of all governmental agencies and organizations should certainly be carried out. It was indicative of the attitude of the Air Force we feel like, when in Washington, D. C., Congressman White asked the Air Force representatives if the Army had been contacted about possible other uses of the base and the representative said, "Well, we have only sent them a letter." We feel like a good, concise, and complete Environmental Impact Statement should specify what contacts have been made what the results have been and why precisely those alternatives should not been considered.

To summarize most of the points which we of the Planning Commission have come up, and again the details of these can be presented if necessary, we feel like the EIS, the draft Environmental Impact Statement is not considered at every stage of the decision making process. The Air Force has not used the Environmental Impact Statement in its decision making process, or at least has not specified how it will be used or where it will be used, the EIS is partial and incomplete at best. It does not evaluate the real human impact; the Air Force has not fully explained or examined the mitigating factors; they should analyze what the reduction in unemployment would result if the EDA or the Department of Labor should come in and have contact with them, the Air Force

has not explained or investigated real alternatives, and it has been very short-sighted and very narrow; the Air Force has not considered the true cost to the Air Force or to the American taxpayer for their action; and, most important, the draft Environmental Impact Statement is certainly not complete enough to make a good decision by. For that reason, the staff of the Planning Commission would urge a negative review on this particular proposal.

Coleman: Gentlemen, would you like to make a statement before we open this to the public?

Gadd: Yes, sir, I am Lt. Col. Gadd from headquarters Air Training Command and my division in the Planning Directorate has the responsibility for preparing the draft Environmental Impact Statement. In response to the questions that have been raised, I would like to make the following statement to perhaps set the record straight at this point. The statement that we submitted for review is a draft environmental statement. It is the first shot at a long and involved process. We in Air Training Command were charged with the responsibility of preparing an environmental assessment for the proposed action: the closure of two bases with four alternative actions, the closure, possible closure, of four other of the pilot training bases. We are in the pilot training business and we cannot speak at this point in regards to the environmental statement or other actions on the part of the Secretary of the Air Force. I think the major point here, sir, is the fact that this is a draft statement. Our purpose in coming to town, coming to Big Spring, this week is to validate or to upgrade, wherever possible, statistical inputs that will allow us to write a final statement which will be submitted to the Secretary of the Air Force. The Secretary of the Air Force is the gentleman who will make the ultimate decision on a proposed action, and the final environmental statement will be one of but a number of

documents and sources of information that the Secretary will use in order to make his final determination. In relation to other alternative actions, in relation to the irreversible, irretrievable actions, I can say that our draft statement has also been submitted to other governmental agencies as indicated in the front of the report; the distribution of the statements has gone to Labor, it's gone to HEW, it's gone to HUD, and they have been asked to perform assessments within their areas of responsibility. In relation to further costs to the federal government; that might be involved with the proposed action. These comments will be included in the final document that is submitted to the Secretary of the Air Force. I must emphasize that again this is a proposed action on the part of the Air Force. No final decision has as yet been made, and we are still in the process of writing the final statement. The purpose of coming to town now, as I said, was to update our information, and the purpose of the public hearings that will be held in the middle of November also will be to update, to receive information from the community; information that will be included verbatim in the final documents that are sent to the Secretary. Thank you.

?: I would like to make one clarification... and the clarification is in the use of 1973 data, Mr. Jenson. In actuality, there was a limiting factor in the utilization of the input-output model for 1973 employment data. However, current information, or as current as was available at the time, information that was put into the direct impact statement, such as the payroll, personal income in the region, as reported by BEA and a thing were used and ~~adjusted~~ adjusted to 1973 dollars, so the limiting factor and the only 1973 data that was actually used was 1973 employment data which is dependent upon county business manners and was most recent available at that time. Thank you.

We have three other committee members, I believe; Mr. ?  
Judge Coons, Kenneth Esmond, have come insince we started.  
At this time we'd be glad to hear from anyone who would like  
to make a statement.

We would ask you to identify yourself. Please, be fairly  
brief because there might be quite a number of people who'd  
like to...

Mr. Coleman, and members of the committee, my name is Winston  
Wrinkle, and I have a statement to give the committee on  
behalf of Mayor Wade Choate who is unable to attend this  
afternoon.

On March 11, of this year, the Air Force released a statement  
announcing the possible closure of two ATC bases due to  
decreasing demand for pilots. The two ATC bases selected for  
closure consideration were Craig AFB in Alabama, and Webb  
AFB, Big Spring, TX. In the Air Force statement, they gave four  
reasons for selecting Webb as a candidate for closure.  
These four reasons were: 1) closure of Webb would generate  
substantial savings; 2) Webb AFB has operational limitations  
because of having only two runways which inhibits pilot  
training production capacity; 3) that the base is faced  
with problem of increased urban encroachment; 4) that Webb  
has a high percentage of substandard facilities. However,  
the recently released Air Force draft Environmental Impact  
Statement contradicts these reasons. The information showed  
the following to be true: 1) As far as saving money,  
closures of bases other than Webb would generate more savings  
to the Air Force. For example, Columbus AFB in Mississippi  
which has a pilot capacity of only 361 pilots annually;  
closing Columbus would save the Air Force \$27 million, while  
Webb AFB has a pilot training capacity of 413, and closing  
Webb would only save \$23 million a year.



In other words, you would get more pilots trained at Webb than Columbus, and it would also cost less money, but they selected Webb as a candidate for closure and not Columbus. To look at this from the point of sound economics, it takes \$74,792.24 to produce a pilot at Columbus AFB, and only \$55,690.07 to produce a pilot at Webb AFB. In other words, the Air Force would save \$19,102.17 on every pilot they trained if they kept Webb open and closed Columbus. That is in Table I of the draft Environmental Impact Statement. In addition, it also showed that more dollars would have to be spent at Columbus AFB during the next five years on facilities than would have to be spent at Webb. So, closing Webb AFB would not generate the savings that could be realized by closing another ATC base, such as Columbus AFB. That is in Table VIII, Study 5B of the Air Force figures. Webb AFB does not have any significant operational limitations because of its two runways. Webb ranks in the upper half of all ATC bases in its annual pilot production. Craig AFB, Columbus AFB, and Vance AFB are ranked below Webb and both Columbus and Vance have three runways. That is in Table I of the Environmental Impact Statement. The Air Force says encroachment by urbanization has not been a problem and it does not appear that it will become one in the future, although it is in the draft Environmental Impact Statement as being relatively significant. The officials said that no ATC base had a problem in this area, but contended that Webb came closest to having a problem because T-38's had to fly a non-standard pattern in landing and taking off. Of course, other bases other than Webb have this non-standard flying pattern, and if you've ever been in Big Spring, you know at the end of the runways at Webb the only encroachment there is is Highway 80 to the north, and there is very little residential housing, if any housing in the runway approaches at Webb. So, we do not regard urban encroachment as a problem. Webb has a large investment in facilities. Webb ranked in the upper half of all ATC bases in dollars invested in facilities,

with Reese AFB at Lubbock and Vance AFB at Enid, Oklahoma, and Craig AFB base ranking below them. That is also in the Air Force study Table VIII, Study 5B. Along these same lines, the Air Force reviewed that number of dollars that they must spend at the six ATC bases during the next five years on facilities. Vance AFB, because of its civilian contracts, ranked first as the base needing the least dollars spent on facilities, and Webb ranked second, leaving four bases below Webb AFB as far as the investment that will need to be made during the next five years on their facilities. Again the Air Force has proven this factor to be insignificant. When asked what factors are significant, the Air Force said it was the weather. To quote from the Environmental Impact Statement study, one of the most important factors in determining the operational of the utility of an undergraduate pilot training base is its historical weather experience. Now in its report, other than Williams AFB, which is not considered as an alternate, it is located out in the desert of Arizona, Webb and Laughlin AFB were shown to have the very best weather as far as flying training. During the past ten years both Laughlin and Webb had only 22% of all sorties cancelled because of weather. On the other hand, Columbus AFB in Mississippi and Craig AFB in Alabama ranked at the bottom of the list with 29% and 31% respectively. You'll find that in Study 5A, page 6. As far as the economic impact that a base closure would have on our community, it'll be a catastrophic loss for Big Spring. The study reveals that Del Rio will be hurt the most if Laughlin AFB were to be closed. And Big Spring was ranked second as being the community that would be most affected by a base closure. Before the Air Force prepared the report, we said their information and reasons for considering Webb for closure were inaccurate. Now, after reading their draft environmental report, they seem to have surfaced with the same information that we had back in March. However, the Air Force is still considering Webb for closure even though it's one of the most cost

efficient bases in the ATC, with one of the best capacities, top flying weather and facilities that rank in the upper half of all the ATC bases. Since the Air Force has proven their first four assumptions to be in error and since the closure of Webb would hurt Big Spring more than it would four other communities where ATC bases are located, and since Webb ranks high on all other Air Force requirements for keeping a base open, I'd like for the Air Force to review their original reasons for considering Webb as a candidate for closure. I feel they need to come up with some sound reasoning. As of yet, we have not seen or heard any. Those of us in Big Spring who have considered the gravity of a base closure, we have made the following calculations: the economy of Big Spring would loose over \$65 million in direct economic loss, and over \$70 million in indirect loss caused by the loss of the base and its personnel; the banks and savings institutions would significantly loose deposits, thereby decreasing their loaning capabilities and causing economic recovery to be slow, if not impossible; the schools, including Howard College, would loose one-third of their teachers, with the best teachers being the most likely to leave. This would irreversibly affect the quality of education in Howard County. The schools, city and county will lose their ability to repay obligated bonds causing serious financial difficulties including a serious decrease in fire and police protection. And the pattern of out-migration of individuals assigned to Webb or dependents or realignment of the social structure of Big Spring will create a long term adverse social impact on our county and this area. The Air Force itself in its impact statement has said that about 7700 persons will be directly affected if Webb is closed, of which a minimum of 6239 will probably move from Big Spring and this area thus resulting in a decrease of 15.5% of our population. An addition of 1560 individuals would be unemployed, bringing the unemployment rate up to 12.9%.

They also said there would be an estimated 14% loss in county retail sales, and an estimated loss of \$788,000 in state sales taxes, and \$197,000 in local sales taxes. We discussed earlier an estimated 1307 housing units will be affected by the base closure. Of these, 653 are owner occupied, 654 renter occupied. So you can see from the facts presented, prepared by our own study, and the ones prepared by the Department of the Air Force, the closing of Webb will have a devastating effect on the economy, the citizens of Big Spring, and West Texas. It is for this reason and desire to see sound reasoning behind the closure of Webb, and I would like the Air Force to announce their reasons for considering the closure of Webb since their original reasons are no longer considered sound. After all, we are dealing in people's lives, and I feel a great more consideration should be given to this matter before we start moving them around and subjecting them to losses. Thank you.

Would anyone else care to comment?

Mr. Chairman, I am Alan Carey. I'm a Professor of Economics and Dean of the College of Management at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin. I am speaking as a personal thing rather than as a representative of the University, obviously. During the course of my career I have had occasion many, many times to undertake various projects in the field economic analysis, market research, and public opinion polling, and that sort of thing. I have appeared in court in administrative hearings as an expert witness in these same fields. In short, I have a considerable amount of experience in reading such documents as the EIS, and never in all my career have I seen a report that is as inadequate as the one that is presented by the Air Force. The social and the economic analysis portion of the study are very limited. So much so, as to be in my opinion, misleading. In fact you might say that the social analysis portion of the report is missing completely. That would be stretching it a little bit to say completely, but largely missing. The



economic analysis portion of that report is something that I think an undergraduate student in economics could do first semester. Through the years, I have had a great deal of respect for Battell, and was very surprised to learn that they had had a hand in this report. They are obviously a very fine organization, capable of doing a high quality of analytic work. I would like to recommend to this commission that you request the Air Force to conduct a full-scale, properly documented, social and economic analysis of the effect of the closing of Webb AFB not only upon Big Spring, but upon all of West Texas. The entire regional economy will in fact, in my judgement, be affected. Thank you.

Would anyone else like to make a statement? Do the committee members have any questions that they'd like to answer or any comments?

Col. Wilson Banks: I'd like to ask a couple of questions that has to do with the operational aspects of Webb. Do you recall why Webb was selected to have the T-38's in the undergraduate pilot training program in its first phase? ???

Gadd: Why Webb was selected as the first base for T-38's?

Banks: Yes.

Gadd: No, sir, I am not privy to that information.

Banks: I happen to have been stationed there at the time, and I believe that one of the considerations was the good flying weather that is associated with the area. The fact that we did have adequate air space at the time, and I don't recall, I haven't seen anything lately that this has changed in any ... regards. This was in 1960-61, and I would suggest that you would look into this and see why Webb was the first base selected for the T-38 training. You might find it interesting when you consider the operational factors as to a comparable reason for closing Webb, it just might help you somewhat in your study.

Gadd:     Alright, sir.

Banks:     The fact that Webb only has two runways did not really hamper our operation at that time either. I don't know when the three runway consideration was; so much emphasis was placed on it in the UTP program. How long has this been going on? When three runways were so important.

Gadd:     With changes in production requirements, changes in aircraft, changes in syllabus, it has been a continuing thing. All of our bases with the exception of two now have three runways.

Banks:     Why does Webb not have three runways?

Gadd:     Sir, that question I cannot answer.

Banks:     Then the decision was made sometime back, sometime back, several years passed to close Webb?

Gadd:     No, sir, I would say not; that the decision was made a good while ago before any closure action were anticipated.

Banks:     Could it have been that they didn't feel that the mission really required a third runway at Webb because of the good weather situation and other facilities available to them to carry on the pilot training program? The reason they didn't need the third runway?

Gadd:     Sir, I cannot answer that question. May I offer, Mr. Chairman, that the purpose of my team here is to evaluate and to upgrade the socio-economic analysis. We...operational and resource considerations are the decision of the Secretary of the Air Force. I am not privy to the information that goes into making those decisions. And I cannot speak for the Secretary of the Air Force. I am here to speak of the socio-economic analysis.

Banks: Col., we realize that you can't speak for the Secretary of the Air Force, but I am just pointing out some of these things that I think should be taken into consideration. You did indicate in your draft Environmental Impact Statement some operational factors, whoever did the study, and I'm was merely suggesting that some notes be taken and fed into the hopper someplace up the channel to look at these things. I've reviewed what is in here, in comparing the other UTP bases, and in my own personal experience and in reviewing these factors, it appears to me that Webb comes out way ahead in operational considerations and I would certainly like to see this, you people make a note of this and send it up the line and tell the people who make these studies to give us more information as to why Webb is being considered for closure based on the operational considerations.

Gadd: Operational considerations also will be computed, will be used in the final decision process.

Banks: Well, they definitely should be.

?: Mr. Ball asked for some of this information this morning that you are alluding to, sir, and we will make every effort to find those and get those to him.

Banks: OK.

Jenson: Will that be available so that other members of the committee or interested persons will be able to see them before, just before the decision is announced? To be able to make a comment on them?

Gadd: Yes, sir. All the information will be available before a decision is made, the final statement will be published, and that statement and all the information attached to it will become a public domain will be available. In response to the information Mr. Ball requested, some of it is classified information, and will not be readily available to the general public. It will be made available to Sen. Tower.

Banks: Col. Gadd, I'm not trying to put you on the spot. I realize your position in this matter, and I know that decisions have to be made at the highest level, even above the Secretary of the Air Force, and some of the things that I mentioned, when I was based there at Webb we had, I don't recall the figures exactly, but I believe it was in the neighborhood of some 80 T-37's and 87 or 90 T-38's, and the first year we had the 38's other than maintenance problems, we never had to; we always stayed above the time line. We never were behind the time line after we got through our maintenance problems. That was about the first year. I can tell you a lot about the history of the T-38's, I still have a few scars on my back. But, after, after we got out of that and got going, we, we never had any problems whatsoever in our operational limitations at Webb. We were ahead of the time line, as a matter of fact, in the fall 1962, Christmas and New Year's program, vacation period, we closed our program down for two weeks and gave everybody a full two weeks vacation because we were so far ahead of the time line, and as far as I know, Webb has continued to hold that position.

Gadd: Yes, sir. That's standard in the Command.

Banks: And I don't think that in preparing the operational factors, Webb still stands way up above the, most of the others, except Williams. I was stationed at Williams before I was stationed at Webb, so I know a little bit about what I'm talking about. So, I ask that you look into these things,



and let's have a deeper study on the operational facilities.

Gadd: Sir, you can rest assured that your comments will be passed forward to the Commander of ATC.

Jenson: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask Mr. Lawson a few questions, if I could, on the IO model for the economic impact. Addressing specifically at this point in time Section 3, page 14 of the Environmental Impact Statement. As I read the results of the I-O model and the simulation the economic impact on community, the second column is the total output reduction, that is the amount of dollars lost. There are a few of those that I find very, very hard to understand, specifically, if we address ourselves to natural gas, Item 18.03. You have indicated, if I read this right, let me make sure, that there will be \$155,000 total output reduction for natural gas? Is that correct?

Lawson: That's correct.

Jenson: Earlier, in the Environmental Impact Statement. In the first section of the Environmental Impact Statement, page 123, on natural gas, you indicate that on base the use of natural gas, this is strictly the base, is 213,000MCF per year at a cost of 73¢ per MCF. That calculates out to be \$155,490. Are you assuming there will not be any reduction in purchase of natural gas with 1307 vacant homes and the closed businesses? Am I misinterpreting that?

?: I think a misinterpretation, Mr. Jenson. If I could do you mind if I address while I'm sitting down? In total output reduction column, this is a reduction in produce of prices. This is also a reduction with, within that particular sector. The loss that would be accounted for by the loss of population, if you will, but it is in producer prices, not in consumer prices I think you'll find also a significant difference between the wholesale and retail sector within the input/output, as opposed to the estimation of loss in

total retail sales for the estimation of sales tax loss purposes. And the main reason for that, is the difference between producer prices versus consumer prices. One is additive or double counting, and the other is the evaluated taxes.

Jenson: Would not it more accurately reflect the environmental losses to the community if you had analyzed the reduction and the percentage reduction in personal income, and those figures associated with that, rather than this figure which includes some very, very large figures in such things as petroleum refining. Doesn't that weight the figures to the point where you don't actually assess the impact on the community in general as much?

Lawson: I don't question the, the desirability to estimate the loss in personal income as a measure. I personally have a feeling as though the loss and total output for the region is a very good indicator of changes in the economic activity.

Jenson: Changes in the economic activity, not necessarily how it affects the population?

Lawson: That is correct.

Jenson: The business community rather than the population?

Lawson: That is correct.

Jenson: Would it be possible to get the figures on how it affects the community as opposed to just the business community, in the final Environmental Impact Statement?

Lawson: That is the purpose of being in these meetings.

Jenson: I had another question on 19.01. This one just absolutely amazes me. New construction, non-farm, residential, you're projecting a 23.4% decrease in the total output there, with 2,000, over 2,000 vacant homes, and the fact the community is not growing that fast. Do you really anticipate that new construction for residences with that many vacant homes and all the associated problems that are going to be there, is going to continue be at 80% of the present level? 78%?

Lawson: I think that would have to be examined more closely before I answer that.

Jenson: I agree. I think this is the kind of thing that using a general, haven't you used here a national I-O model?

?; No, sir, it's a regionally balanced table. It's based upon national coefficients. If you have any questions, I would be glad to refer you to Dr. Fisher.

Jenson: The reason I asked that is we have used a local model developed by nine Texas universities, utilizing the Texas Industrial Commission and their good services, and the Governor's Office of Planning and Coordination, and Water Development Board. And using local coefficients, and a local I-O model, just Texas; designed for West Texas we come up with a much higher figure, and I believe Mr. Wrinkle addressed those figures to you this morning. It is our feeling that if you use more of a localized model, that these figures would almost, not quite double, but very close to it. And again, this is something because of few areas of the individual locale, and this is why we feel like that this particular Environmental Impact Statement is so general to be almost worthless in the decision making process because it would require greater detail and more of analysis for local data.

Lawson: May I ask a question in that regard, sir. What is the regional definition of the model that you had run?

Jenson: General definition of a model?

Lawson: The original definition, sir. What was, what was the geographic region?

Jenson: OK.

Lawson: The reason I ask that question, Mr. Jenson, is to put this in perspective, is this, is limited to a one county area, it is a regionally balanced table, which means that those impacts that accrue outside of the region of influence, here defined Howard County, ...

Jenson: I understand that.

Lawson: Otherwise, we'd end up with a Keynesian multiplier of 45.

Jenson: Well, this is the, the region where they're looking for the exact region. It would be what's called the South Plains Region.

Lawson: Multi-county region?

Jenson: A multi-county region.

Lawson: I can, I can then appreciate your comments here. I must add for purposes of comparison we had a few comparability across the board in all phases.

Jenson: Does that necessarily give you the best figures on each individual community that are going to be?



Lawson: I just rest upon the statement that I just answered.

Coleman: Does anyone else have questions or comments?

Banks: I just have one other comment. On Table 81 of the EI analysis process, there is a statement under "Mission Flexibility" pertaining to Webb and they say in the description "poor". I haven't seen anyplace in this study where you, where you take into consideration the alert facilities at Webb. So, would you please make a note of this?

Gadd: We did this morning, sir. May I ask in what context you would like us to...

Banks: Mission flexibilities. The possibility, the capability of using it to handle some other mission, some other type of aircraft other than the 37 or the 38.

Toombs: Well, Paul, I just, I'm sure I'm like some of these people in the audience. This is a pretty involved document, and I am sure that for all of us to understand it's a pretty impossible task. The interesting things that I wanted to say and bring to this committee. First of all, in preamble to it, I feel that as a taxpayer and an employee for local government, you certainly have to realize that times change, and I would hate to see programs go on that are not necessary, in this case in the defense of the country perhaps. However, the thing that tempers this issue which you certainly don't want cut and dry, is the fact that the government, in this case, the federal government brought this upon the City of Big Spring by first of all locating there which in effect, brought about some of these facts. For example, as I understand it 13.5% of the school enrollment in Big Spring is a result of the base. In a case such as this, it means that the school district constructed some facilities for this increase. Secondly, the projected payroll for the year 1976, again, as I understand it, is somewhere in the vicinity of \$38 million. The sales tax, \$197,000.

Some of these have already been mentioned. The only thing that I understand in this regard is this is one heck of an impact on a community not caused by private enterprise, but by the government which certainly has an obligation to all the taxpayers to cutback programs that are no longer feasible or necessary, but by the same token, as somebody indicated, we're dealing with people. Because of that, that tempers the strictly business-like approach to it. And so, my feeling is that certainly if this is not necessary to our defense, the decision should be made that is in the best interest of the entire country. However, if the government has to reach this decision, after reviewing all the facts I would hope they would make a program available that would be the less, least painful to the community of Big Spring as well as to the Permian Basin. Col. Banks, I am sorry, Wil. You don't like to be called Col. Wil has indicated a fact that interested me that Big Spring has the highest number of military personnel. No he didn't mention that, but that was one. Secondly, as a second to those flight cancellations which has come up purely layman standpoint would indicate that if you are training pilots at whatever level, would be most important. But I do feel that certainly the government ought to look at the feasibility of it. But by the same token, there has to be a phased attitude to do it in such a manner that the whole area does not suffer the traumatic unemployment.

Thompkins: Can I make a comment? According to me, the whole mission of Webb is to produce trained pilots. This is what we are all talking about. In the, in one of these studies in our book, background Study 5A, I think you said that was replaced or done away with, but these figures were available and to me were the most interesting of all. Williams AFB is number one in the pilot training of 531, now that's the capacity with the simulator. Number two is Lofflin AFB with 500. Number three is Reese AFB with 492. And this is the one we are talking about now, Webb AFB is number four with 485, and then Vance AFB was fifth with 479, and the bottom two Columbus is number six with 409, and Craig with 322.

Now we are talking about closing the fourth producer of pilots. Pilots is what this thing is all about, it looks to me like.

Coleman: Mr. Thompkins, did you finish your statement?

Thompkins: Yes, I finished.

Coleman: Anyone else care to comment?

Berly: This is pretty involved. This is pretty heavy material, and I don't pretend to understand it, all that's in here, but I'd feel a little amiss if I didn't say something about it because Big Spring happens to be my hometown. It is where I grew up and I am very close to some people there. Another member of the committee said we are talking about pilots, but my feeling is the biggest thing is that we are talking about people, talking about people, talking about hurting people, talking about dollars and cents, and these gentlemen here for their input on the social and economic aspects of this report, and two things come out to me that I have read through it and tried to study it, I don't think you can underline enough the fact that Webb having to cancel all but 22% of their training mission has just got to be one of the major points in this. I don't see any other way of analyzing all of this that it can't have, and it is certainly right in line with what you want, what you're reporting on, and has nothing to do with the organizational base. It has to do with the social and economic aspects of it. It's got to relate to money. It's got to relate to state and federal funds. The only other thing I can speak of, and Richard eluded to it, and I can't remember exactly where it is found, but stating something about the housing x number of houses will become vacant, something like 1300, if I'm not mistaken, and that in some time, this will clear up. I happened to grow up there, I grew up when Big Spring bombardier school was there. I can remember when Big Spring's bombardier school closed, and I can remember hundreds of houses which lay



vacant and went to waste, got torn up and blown away, and they didn't get alright until Webb come back. So, I hate to see you put in that report and let that particular statement go in there, in many ways. They will not be alright. It will not be alright. It didn't when Big Spring bombardier school and it won't when Webb closes, and this should be in line with what you're, this should be in this report and underlined.

Coleman: Anyone else care to make a statement? Any of the committee members?

Banks: Just one other comment, Col Gadd, I don't know if this would be part of the study or not, but as far as the other bases are concerned, and Webb, I've never, I've been, I spent 32 years in the Air Force, I might as well as say, and that's a lot of bases and I have never seen the military accepted more openly and warmly than they were or are at Big Spring in that community. This has some bearing, I think, on Webb being there, and one base being here, and whatever. I've seen other bases where there were so many people complaining about a base, the problems encountered with the military, the noise, and whatever, that moves were put forward to close the bases, vocally. I happen to know that one or two of these on here I think were some of the people in the community who had just as soon see them close as stay open. I'm just suggesting that maybe this might be a subject matter to look into, if you are going to give this further study.

Lish: This committee's purpose is a regional type to review sequence consistent with regional plans, I find several things that effect Webb that are probably not consistent with national goals and objectives, particularly the decrease in the black population of Howard County; 20 or 30 black people become unemployed as the result of the closing of Webb AFB. The unemployment rate there, which is becoming a national objective, this appears this will be the second or third greatest increase in unemployment in this race. There is



also a trend nationally toward getting people out of the central city and back into the rural areas, and this area will fall into that category, I believe probably all the other bases are resembling that, but I do find some inconsistencies in nationally stated policies in this also.

Wooten: Gentlemen, I deal in money, I'm supposed to be a banker, and the first thing I looked at when I tried to analyze the situation with the financial aspect of what this would do to the community, and I keep going back to the actual cost that this is going to be back to the government in itself. Try to run down and stop a family moving out of Big Spring, and as you know most of the homes, and lending is done by federal lending; we are backed by them and insured by them. How much of this is going to be put back on the lending institutions, this government insured loans, and stuff like that, and I keep running the thing down until I can't find an end to it so far as the actual cost, it will cost not the community, but the government of ... figure is... back many more times what it would cost to keep a base running. We want jobs, and banks for people, I personally prefer to have pilots and civilian people over there working in a base than to have them out here on some work project. I think, we live some 65 miles from Webb, but in my bank alone, I can feel, I can sense the losses through some of my business people in Odessa that goes right on into Big Spring. I just really don't think the government as a whole looked at the total cost that this possibly could cause.

Gadd: As I said, sir, that has not been expounded upon in this document. We have made application to various other federal agencies to give us input based upon the statement to include other federal budgetary expenditures. Right now, the only thing we have privy to is the Air Force budget which is voted by Congress.

Wooten: I know that, but on the other hand, the other hand will have to help feed it.

Jenson: This is something that bothers us a little bit, Col. You have made the statement about this being a draft Environmental Impact Statement, and we are to review a draft Environmental Impact Statement. We got the same information when we were in Washington concerning the fact, provide us with the input, we'll be glad to put it in there, we are waiting for the other federal agencies to respond. Interestingly enough our information from the regional agencies here, and we have the regional director of the Economic Development Administration says he hasn't even received a copy of the Environmental Impact Statement yet. This presents a problem for us. It gets more complicated because it is the responsibility of this committee and the Planning Commission to review the proposed action and the environmental consequences of the proposed action. If we are looking at something that the Air Force admits, in fact points out very strongly is only a beginning, only the draft, how is the committee going to review the final statement? In the slow chart for processing of typical environmental statements which has been provided to me by the Air Force, I see no place in there for reviewing the final statement. Are we going to be allowed to review the final statement, in this case, and to provide specific input that the Planning Commission, the members of the committee, or the local community could have on what the final results are, or are we only going to look at a partial document?

Dantzler: First of all, by law, all federal agencies are required to wait at least 30 days after filing the final impact statement before taking any proposed action. What was your other question, sir?

Jenson: Well, are we going to be able to look at the final statement? Obviously, you said here that this is just some information, it is preliminary, it is a draft, and in order for us to review this adequately, we have to take a look at the final statement to see, to make sure that it is in agreement with regional plans etc. Are we going to be afforded the opportunity to look at the final statement?

Gadd: Yes, sir. It will be filed in the CEQ the same as the draft statement will.

Crawford: Richard, I don't think that 30 days, we can spend 200 days on this statement and it wouldn't be of any use to us, and I think what our question is, there is 30 days required by A-95, our question to you is are we going to get 30 days to review the final statement, in A-95, or is this going to be our 30 days with this document you have prepared for us this morning?

Dantzler: It will be within 30 days, the way I understand the legal review process. Thirty days minimum.

?: That doesn't answer your question.

Banks: From what date, Col.?

Dantzler?: From the date that the final environmental statement is filed with the Council on Environmental Quality.

Crawford: And do you think we have 30 days from that time to review it again, since we cannot review off of this draft statement?

Nugent: All reviewing agencies will have at least 30 days after the final Environmental Impact Statement is filed.

Jenson: What will happen to our comments that go on that final impact statement?

Gadd: Into the final?

Jenson: The final.

Gadd: After the final is published?

Jenson: To review the final.

Gadd: That, sir, I cannot answer. I do not know. They will be submitted, they can be submitted to CEQ.

Jenson: To CEQ, I understand that. I didn't know whether the Air Force had any plans to release that or not. I know that CEQ and EPA can have access to that final document, and they will.

Dantzler: You mentioned that there were various regional agencies that were concerned with this draft statement. Can you give us a list of additional organizations that we can send this to?

Jenson: Yes, we talked to two or three that haven't received it yet. Send it to the regional office of the EDA, and the regional office of HUD at this point.

Crawford: The environmental section of HUD in Dallas, has not received it. They never a copy of it. Mr. Kirkland with the EDA has not received it, he is the regional director, not any of our federal agencies, I don't believe HEW's regional offices have received it. I know of no federal, regional agency has received it.

Gadd: Distribution to the federal agencies was made out of the Pentagon to the agencies in Washington. If they have not been received regionally, I suggest they call Washington, sir.



Nugent: They would have their own chain of command which that kind of thing would flow down. In other words, HUD, at the national level I assume would have to distribute copies to their regional offices. It is kind of out of our hands to distribute directly to regional offices, and bypass on the national level. Does that answer your question to some extent?

Crawford: Yes, it did.

Esmond: I just wanted to emphasize a question that has already been asked by the committee, and that would be the expounding, and if it is present in the material, I was not able to extrapolate it is present in the material, I wish you would tell me where it is. In the rationalization of the social and economic effect, or the effects of the closing, numerous things were dealt with in the material. It occurs to me, as it has already been mentioned here, that there are more far reaching effects than the material covers, such as, the home loan guarantees referred to in the material, the statement is made that the federal people have a 90% guarantee program for homes which might be lost in the process, displaced business loans, base closing, economic injury loans, antipoverty action, unemployment benefits, federal relocation assistance. There are a number of federal programs, not all of them federal, but a number of them federal programs, which may or may not lend themselves readily to estimating, but I think should be compared to the other cases in some sort of manner by estimation in order to come up with a more close look at the economic impact. For example, I don't have any idea how many loans on homes might be called upon for some sort of federal expenditure to guarantee them. I don't have any idea how many businesses might be displaced and need business displacement loans, or unemployment benefits or federal relocation assistance paid. Do you feel that there would be some effort, or is this material available or is it going to be developed in the process on a comparative basis between Webb and some of the others? In other words, there could be a tremendous expenditure of federal funds involved which has

not been spoken to into the material in the sum of dollars that I cannot find. If it is there, I wish you would correct me.

Gadd: No, sir. It is not there, and far be it from me to go ahead and place a dollar figure on it because to do so would probably cause more problems than to leave it undone. Suffice to say again, these are data that will be developed through other federal agencies who have been asked to comment on this statement.

Esmond: The request that I would like to make, Mr. Chairman, would be that this material be reflected back to us if it is in the realm of our prerogative to ask for it that indeed there might be more businesses displaced, for example, in Big Spring than in some other location. There might be more relocation assistance paid in some other cases than in Big Spring. There might be a number of these things that would drastically change from one location to another depending on the location, I would say of the base, and proximity to the city itself which supports it, the proximity of the base in relationship to economic activities or commercial activities of the city in which it might be located. You might could close a base, for example, in a location where very little business would be displaced as a result. On the other hand, some of these might suffer a drastic reduction of business in Big Spring, as an example. I don't know what the outcome would be but it is a factor I think should be spoken to.

Gadd: Yes, sir. It is essentially a part of our problem. Our pilot training bases are all for the most part located in a smaller community, and the impact is going to be significant, with one exception and that is Reese AFB. All the other bases are going to be significant. In the same serve with your comments about base-community relations, we have worked long and hard in our training command to develop good community relations and we have excellent relations with all the bases. It complicates the problem considerably.

?: Let's just close Reese and be done with it.

Chandler: Col., this information that, in following with what Mr. Esmond mentioned here, would it available to us prior to the publication of the final draft environmental statement?

Gadd: I really can't answer, sir, from the standpoint we have asked other agencies, and I don't know whether they're going to, if they will provide us with information, provide it through the Secretary.

Dantzler: Sir, I will take the question, and I will call when we get back, and I will try to give you an answer tomorrow or the next day before I leave. I am not sure I can get you an answer, but I will try. I don't know if the information from the other federal agencies will be available before our filing the final impact assessment. Is that correct?

Coleman: Yes. Is that what you meant, Ken?

Esmond; Yes, that would be desirable. In response, in a helpful question in this regard, did the unemployment estimate come from some other federal agency or were they developed as part of this?

Gadd: They were developed as a part of the study.

Esmond: I mean you crossed over so many lines here effecting other federal agencies that I am at a loss as to where you are drawing this line now that the material must come from some other federal agency when in effect, you have already crossed these lines in your own development of the report.

Lawson: As far as unemployment is concerned, we contacted the Bureau of Labor Statistics in Washington, and got the average unemployment rates and the average labor force figures for 1975, and to that we applied our projections of what would happen if the base were to close.

Esmond: Well, then the report deals with many of the items I mentioned as mitigating factors and they are dealt with the only place that I can find them was under mitigating factors. Well, if you have the persons displaced then there is a federal program to handle payments to these people while they are being displaced or relocated, relocation assistance, and so forth. This again, crossed over into this area and if you list it as a mitigating factor then it would seem it would also need to be dealt with in the context which I have asked the questions.

Gadd: I think the point here, and the primary response to your question we have talked with other federal agencies in the data gathering area. We have not attempted to cost anything within their areas of responsibility. We do not have that capability, but to gather data and to apply it to the input/output analysis, broad data, yes, sir.

Jenson: Col., we would like to ask you to do one other thing. When you gather the data, you may also want to consider when the available resources or the mitigating factors will be available to the community, we have talked to the Department of Labor, TDCA, other people in response to funds to aid in the unemployment, Manpower funds, Comprehensive Employment Training funds. It is their information to us because of the difference, because of the lifetime unemployment rates, and because of processing in house, that Big Spring and probably the other communities involved too will suffer for at least a year before they would have access to them. Will you take a look not only at the amount of dollars that will be available, but when they will be available also?

Tompkins: Sir, could I call your attention to two things that have been called to my attention here. One is in moving people from the base, you show that the cost would be some \$6 per hundred weight, and calling local agents here and checking with them, this has been found to be about \$17.



Would you check this? Would you mark this on your (unintelligible) And another place under, we have a gentleman here that's contacted the Federal Home Owners Assistant at Capp Walters. They had some \$2 million appropriated there and it cost them a little over \$5 million. This was for 486 homes in (unintell.) 1971. This is five years later, and a whole lot of dollars won't buy as much. Now, we have 668 people, and applying a little calculator to it, we come up with a figure instead of \$1,314,000, the possibility of \$10,061,000. Would you check that?

Gadd: Sir, part of that is an estimation on our part and not everybody eligible takes advantage of a home owners assistance program. As a matter of fact a very small percentage of the people actually do because it is not the best deal available in some instances.

Tompkins: I'm sure of that.

Coleman: Any other members care to comment? (unintell.)

Toombs: We've heard a lot of, felt a lot of attention drawn to areas as to why we should not close Webb. Does Webb have any plus factors? Do you have any good reasons why you don't want to close it? In other words, we're all sitting here defending the closure, and I'd just like to know if it has any plus factors.

Gadd: Sir, there are a number of plus factors, and they have been so stated. It depends upon how you look at the numbers as to what light you perceive them, as a plus or as a minus. You cannot dispute the fact that it does have a high capability for training, that it does have one of the lowest weather abort factors. There is no base across the board that has all minuses. Every base has some minuses and every base has some pluses.

Toombs: You know that in Howard County, as a county, and this whole particular area, is rich in natural minerals, resources, and the tax structure is relatively low in the area due to the fact that we have almost unlimited amounts of natural resources which makes property tax low, makes school taxes low, and probably will for some time. In other words, we live in an area where really the personal, or really property taxes are low due to the fact, and that's an advantage for your personnel due to the fact they live in this particular area and they don't have, they're not, they can utilize more of their money, so this is one plus factor. But you won't have a lot of areas like areas (unintell.) In other words, for instance, in Howard County, you have two school systems, in Howard County, I believe I'm right, you have two school systems where the budget balances. In other words, they don't even, they accept very little, if any, federal funds to operate two school systems which is an advantage to the federal government to have a base in this area because the county doesn't draw on federal funds. This is a factor that I don't see covered in there. It's an advantage where you have personnel being educated, and it's not costing the federal government a dime. Whereas, if they move to some other area, in an area where the school systems are funded by the federal dollars, it will cost, it will be it will be more costly. That's something that needs to be looked at because you do have two school systems in this county that are budget balanced, what we call budget balanced. In other words, their money comes strictly from the taxpayer and no one else. And then, of course, another factor, I noticed in there I didn't see provided you figure that the loss of registration of automobiles and things of this nature wasn't covered. I didn't see it in here anywhere. You know, in the State of Texas (unintell.)

Gadd: I'm sorry, sir, the loss of what?

Toombs: The registration of automobiles, the licensing of automobiles of people that would be moved. It's quite a bit of money into the treasury of the county and the city, of course, in property taxes.

Gadd: Yes, sir. That's a public finance aspect that we are here to hopefully upgrade our statistics.

Toombs: Then, something else. Somebody said something about simulators. I don't know what you are talking about when you are talking about simulators. If you have good weather, do you have to have them?

Gadd: A simulator is a machine that simulates flight characteristics. It is designed to take the place of flying time.

Toombs: What is the cost of it?

Gadd: It costs considerably less per hour to run a simulator than it does to fly an airplane. It is an attempt to maintain the quality of the training, and hold down the escalation in the costs of training.

Toombs: How many hours of simulator time is equivalent to one hour of inflight training time?

Gadd: I can't answer that right now, sir. We don't have the simulators. They are still in the procurement stage.

Toombs: How many bases that you know about here are going to have simulators?

Gadd: Five bases will have plus a mini-complex at the instructor training base, but five of the pilot training bases will have, are programmed for, right now.

Toombs: We are talking about seven bases here and two of them will be closed. That will be five. Is that right?

Gadd: Yes, sir.

Toombs: You've already got a program for five, so you're definitely going to close two.

Gadd: I can't say that, sir.

Toombs: Oh, I see.

Gadd: It has been proposed that we close two.

Toombs: OK, now one other thing that I noticed somebody said something about Reese awhile ago, they were talking about Reese Air Force Base, and not Jim Reese running for Congress. He's getting a lot of miles out of your simulator program, which is I won't get politics involved because you never know. At any rate, something was said about the Environmental Impact Statement talking about the whooping crane that we have. Of course, the people will be after you one of these days about the flight lines in the Reese area where the whooping crane is travelling with the sandhill crane coming down through that area where these birds are almost in extinction. I hope that it is taken into consideration when you are talking about decrease in flying time. We don't have that down here.

Jenson: I have a question. You talk about \$47 million being saved. Does that figure include or exclude the cost of the caretaker forces the increased cost of housing on other bases, the cost of purchasing housing? Does it include all those things? Is that a real cost saving? Or is that just an operational figure of the base alone?

West?: Where are you getting the number, sir?

Jenson: Out of here, I may have misquoted some...



West?: Did you use the figure \$47 million?

Jenson: That's for one base. I'm talking about both bases. That, say the \$23 million at Webb. You also said in here that there will be a 320 person caretaker force. Does that \$23 million saving subtract out the caretaker force?

West?: The \$23 million is an ultimate annual savings.

Jenson: After the caretaker force is gone, you've rehoused people at other bases, you've moved them, you've relocated, and taken care of the base, and done all of that. How long would it be before we realize that cost savings?

Gadd: We programed one year for the caretaker force, and property that is in excess turn it over to GSA for a one year period of time, the Air Force will maintain caretaker then the GSA has it.

AF?: It's a gradual process, and we have already identified the one time cost, but there is no relation between the one time cost and the ultimate recurring annual saving.

Jenson: One time cost. They have itemized this to include the caretaker force?

AF?: Yes, it is an item on the one time cost. If I may digress a minute, would you give me, please, the source of the tariff that you quoted as \$17 per hundred weight, please?

Tompkins: We quoted Merchants.

?: I would like to give one example of moving cost, if I could. I have a friend in the moving business in Big Spring who had approximately 100 civil service employees due to the instability of the situation of Webb being named as a candidate who had already sought civil service jobs in other places.

This is the savings that the Air Force says we'll have. One mover told me that he had a move to Alaska to a federal installation in the last month, and the cost of the move alone was \$6000, and that's just one example of the tremendous cost that the government is going to have, the Air Force is going to have of moving personnel, if they close Webb. And if you multiply that, if you've got 300 or 400 civil service employees out of the some 600 job slots and they all move 3 or \$4,000 moving costs and they stay in a first class hotel and they get their families there at government expense, it's going to add up to a lot of expense. I don't see the savings there.

West?: Let me continue. That \$6 rate now. That is not moving household goods, that is moving base materials. Those materials have already been packed and crated, and that \$6 (unintell.) The household is a separate item in this, household goods is figured in the Air Force's average. So, that is a we think a reasonable figure. Certainly, it costs \$8,000 to move someone to the other side of the world, we are going to move them if we close the base or not. But on the other hand, it is costing \$1200 to move the same family. That is an actual experience rate that we used and I feel that it is a valid one. The Air Force knows how much it costs to move them and they know how many they move. So, here we're talking about simple arithmetic.

?: Let me call your attention to this. Either this figure is wrong, or you need to include...

AF?: It is wrong.

Gadd: It is a standard factor that is mentioned there, sir.

?: There are two factors. One is at the rate that you've quoted us to move base equipment that has already been

packed and ready for shipment on rail, or the cheapest carrier. And then there is another factor in there for household as per unit. And we will check this, by the way. I just to make the distinction between the two.

Banks: Col. Gadd, there is one place in the statement mentions that the Permian Basin region economic base is relevant in the discussion of Webb. I didn't see it mentioned on the discussion of any of the other bases where the region per se, was relevant such as the South Plains or Lubbock. So, I just make mention of this. I don't know how this was used in the statement to be favorable to the closure of Webb or unfavorable. It mentioned the region's economy has a much broader base than, of course, Howard County or Big Spring and with the production of oil and gas a dominant factor, I don't know. I couldn't find out how this was used.

Gadd: What page are you on, sir?

Banks: I'm in this Environmental Impact Analysis process I-2E. I don't know what the broader base of this Permian Basin region would have to do readily with the subject at hand, and I couldn't figure out just how you used this draft statement.

Gadd: It's in the overall process of identification within the region. By this stated that region of influence in the study is restricted to Howard County, sir.

Banks: Will we have any opportunity to talk to any of the people at the decision-making level before the decision is finally made?

Gadd: Yes, sir. I'm sure the 23rd of November anybody can submit data.

Banks: Oh, they come out here. Will they visit Webb AFB, Reese and some of the others, the people who will be making these decisions?

Gadd: That I cannot answer, sir. The Asst. Secretary of the Air Force has been here, if I am not mistaken, just a short while ago. Other than that, I don't know. You can submit data directly to him. The address is on the first page of the study, and any time and/or through the vehicle of the public hearing which we will hold in November.

Berry: (unintell,) I understand that our whole purpose is to try to supply you with some influx for the final draft. Does any of you gentleman have written down in notes any suggestions we've given you?

Gadd: Yes, sir, and we've got it on tape.

Berry: OK.

Lish: I just had one comment on the regional basis. Our water system is made up of Snyder, Big Spring, Odessa, and Midland as a customer. The Webb usage there would appear to me to be somewhere between 2.5 and 5% of the total daily usage within the region. I say 2.5 to 5, somewhere in there.

AF?: I don't have that information. I'm sorry, sir.

Lish: So, that's the cost that would have to be borne by the other cities that are involved in this water system which would have to be amortized out of those other cities because it was bonded indebtedness and so forth with this system.

Gadd: I understand.

Lish: That's not just Big Spring alone, but the entire water district department.



Thomson: Just one question. It may be academic, it may make all of these things that we have been discussing useless because at one point pilots weren't necessary because there were no planes, and not being a technician my question is in the back burner somewhere in the experimental rooms of the Air Force, or whatever, does anyone foresee not needing pilots?

Gadd: No.

Thompson: That's on tape. My question is really, again I go back to not promoting useless programs. That's what somebody said about airplanes at one point.

Gadd: Sir, in the foreseeable future as far as we in the Air Force are concerned with the programs buys on new aircraft, we are going to need pilots.

Toombs: You need airspace to fly it in, too, don't you.

Gadd: Certainly do.

Toombs: I guarantee we got more space out here...

?: That would be a question in my mind, are the runways there capable of being used for say fighter bombers, or something like that, as opposed (unintell.) They are limited?

Banks: Well, they had 102's and 104's before, and I don't know if they have deteriorated to such an extent that they can't be used now for fighter bombers, but that is something we can find out from the record. It would be my guess that they could be.

Block: My name is Bob Block, and I'm from Senator Lloyd Bentsen's office, and I'd like to ask Col. Gadd a couple of questions, if I might. A little earlier you indicated that Will Ball had asked for some additional information from the operational

standpoint, and you indicated that would be provided to Sen. Tower assuming that all data classified and declassified would be provided for the delegation and the Board of Directors?

Tokar?: As much as we can. We will make effort to see that he gets that information, sir, and I would guess that yes, sir, your request would be equally honored.

Block: Secondly, there are quite a few questions that have come up over the background study 5B. It is my understanding that you folks are not in a position to discuss this. Is that, could we go into some of the details on this? Is that correct? Do you have somebody here who wrote this or where did this come from? It has ATC on it. I'd like to know where it came from.

Gadd: Yes, sir. Our primary purpose is to discuss socio-economic, not operational resource, but we'll attempt to answer some of your questions if we can.

Block: When will somebody be available to answer all of them? Made available to this committee because they are supposed to be passing on the entire document?

AF?: What is the specific question on the document?

Block: Let me also introduce, if I may, Dale King from Cong. Burleson's office, and he and I, unfortunately this document was not provided to us with the Environmental Impact Statement when it first came down. I only came across this document last Friday and spent the better part of this morning having a chance to go over this particular document. A couple of the questions that came up, there were a couple concerning other bases and some questions about other bases as it pertained to encroachment and so on. There was one major error in the statement I think it was made in the main package where it said that the encroachment at Webb was relatively significant, and minor and minimal at all the other bases. And yet I look at the statement made on Craig

Air Force Base, which is listed under RC3-1, and it says here Craig is the most severely constrained base of the six being considered. I guess, I continue on with this statement for closure with respect to expansion, not only is the physical strength not available current electrical distribution system would need alteration and/or conversion. Is this encroachment a reason? And if so, why is this one considered in the background study to be the worst, and yet it's listed here...

Gadd: No, sir, it does not say that it is the worst.

Block: As worse instead of relatively significant? It seems to me that that would be vitally significant in the case of say Craig AFB as opposed to Webb.

Gadd: I believe that it doesn't say that encroachment is worse, it says capability of expansion.

Block: Well, let's get our terms.

Gadd: In other words, we can operate with the runways we have right now without encroachment dangers, but we cannot lengthen the runways without moving sufficiently close to populated areas to increase the encroachment problem.

Tokar: By encroachment we are talking about the offbase limitations which would affect the flying operation. By expansion we are talking capability to build additional facilities or to accomodate additional missions on the base.

Block: OK, well let me ask you this then. What are the factors that make it relatively significant at Webb that make it minor and minimal at all the other bases?

Gadd: That was one of the things that was discussed this morning, and we have agreed that in a preparation of a final statement that is perhaps too strong a statement in relation to Webb.

Block: Well, I also noticed that we take another base here, we take Reese AFB, I note that under the MCP you have listed some additional land acquisition out there.

Gadd: We have, we are in the process under AICUZ on all the bases...

Block: No, sir, this is not listed as an AICUZ factor at a Reese AFB. I think that it was not Reese just then, I think it must have been Columbus, but that was the other one that I was looking at.

AF?: The expanded clears for Columbus are not listed as an MCP item. They are a minor land acquisition and the acquisition has been virtually completed under the Minor Land Acquisition program.

Block: This is one that is listed for 1980 as one of the installations. And I'll find it here in just a moment. I apologize for not having it marked already. I am wondering why there is going to have to be additional land acquired at some other base so we can keep it open, but we have expansion room at Webb and it can be closed?

?: While he is looking at that, the only experiences we are about to have are basically forewarned and that was before the base was confined as an impact problem, so what we've done in that field, we did (unintell.) people. Based on that experience, I look over here at your table on page 4, Table 8-2 of your one time closure cost, reoccurring annual cost, these figures just don't jive with what experiences I feel like is available for this type thing. I personally feel like that this committee and certainly the public officials need a breakdown on these items and a lot more in detail than we have on the previous page it talks about financial impact and one time closures and so forth. I'm not saying that there is any effort to distort some of them, but I'm saying that...



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Gadd: Now, where did these numbers come from? They came from 5B that you have right there?

?: Yes, but they are very inadequate here, for example, they have a shipment of material and supplies for \$330,000, and back in preparation which is \$42,000 which is identical on every dang one of them. This to me does not indicate that there has been a detailed study of each individual situation, and this is sufficient at this stage of development since you are redoing the preparation study. I simply would point out that we centralized, centralized your focus on two bases, for example, Webb and Craig, but now you can specifically compute these figures including housing or (unintell.) or what have you. And further when you have the consumation of the proposed closing, which I understand Vance was the other one of the base closures where these first steps would be done. You can document this within \$50, am I right?

Gadd: In so far as the moving of personnel, no, sir, we don't know specifically where they will go.

?: Well, the program itself, do you know where it will go?

Gadd: They will, the majority, there are two categories of personnel who will be moved, if you will. One category will stay within Air Training Command and be distributed among the five remaining bases to support the increased student load that also will be distributed among the five gaining bases. Other personnel will be put back into the Air Force as a whole, or into the Department of the Air Force civilian work force as a whole, will not stay in the Training Command, and this depends upon the individual job that's available at a particular time and space at a place and the person who is qualified here or there wherever the base may be to fill that job, and we can estimate, which we have attempted to do, but we cannot get it down to specifics until such time that a decision is made.

?: Alright, then if they go without out the Training Command, let's say whatever a man's speciality is, then this would not be within your capability at all, am I right?

Gadd: It will be a later time, and we continually have a turnover in personnel. We have people who retire, people who quit, people who are injured, people who are riffed, and it depends upon what the requirements are for specific job specialities at the time a base is closed...

?: I'm talking about the projection, if it goes outside the Training Command, will it be within your capability within this study?

Gadd: No, sir.

?: That's what I wanted to say. So, we've got to dig that out of somewhere else is what I'm saying.

Gadd: We can cost it on the basis of average figures, right? Which essentially is what we've done. We have attempted for your packing and crating, all the bases essentially are the same size, have the same mission, same equipment. Rather than list every nut and bolt, we have attempted to take a standard average figure to apply in this aspect. Now, there are a few differences. There are different numbers of aircraft at the bases, and in accordance with the different numbers of aircraft they have a few differences in the support equipment, in the supply accounts, etc. We attempt to compute on the basis throughout the command the total assets and how much it would cost to move them. And we don't know, if Craig were closed, for instance, we can't say arbitrarily that everything from Selma, Alabama would have to be moved to Phoenix, Arizona. Some of it might go to Columbus, some of it might go to Webb, some of it might go Lofflin. So, instead of trying to cost it all the way, we are trying to take an average value, move half of it half way, or all of it half way.

Block: I found that figure and it is pertaining to Columbus AFB, and there is a \$200,000 in FY-81 for a land fee purchase. I'm looking on page RB14.

Tokar: I can't give you what it's for, but we'll get you that.

Block: Additionally, I do have a question here about Columbus, I'm looking at RB31 on this particular thing, I'm referring specifically to (unintell.) where it says the NW portion of the base is subject to flooding? The condition generally exists once or twice each spring. Is there plans to spend money to upgrade this facility to bring that above flooding level, or are we going to continue to keep Columbus open and use fewer days per year so that we can have flooded land?

(Unintelligible)

Gadd: For the most part, sir, for the most part on that flooding, there has only been one occassion after a series of torrential downpours that there was flooding on the runways or taxiway. The rest of the time, that base property is not in the contonement area. It is land that is not normally used other than to be within the base perimeter.

Dantzler: The main constraint there is a portion of the land which the Air Force owns within Columbus AFB can not be used for expansion or additional construction, and when we have an unusually bad flood, well, then, of course, we have damage to that navigation (unintell.), and things like that.

Block: How much excess property do we have there?

AF?: It can't be used for operational procedure.

Block: How many acres are we talking about?

AF?: I'll have to get you that information.



Block: Also, how long have we had it? If we are sitting on a bunch of property we can't use, why are we keeping it in the federal inventory?

Banks: That's another operational point I was going to make. I thought you over emphasized the importance of the runways in the SAC complex at Columbus. There has many a SAC base closed, not many, several around the country, I can name quite a few, that had a much larger expenditure for some of these than Columbus does, and I won't get back on operational questions, but this I think is one you've over emphasized as far as Columbus is concerned.

Jenson: I think we need to have a commitment on something at this point in time. Mr. Crawford just pointed out to me that the review process after the publication of the final EIS, I don't think we've completely settled that. He's pointed out to me that we will need as an additional 30 days, not the programed 30 days, for review of the final EIS. Was it your intention to indicate that we would have that, or was it only the programed 30 days that we were going to have? And it was not your intention to give us that extra 30 days, what do we have to do to get it?

Gadd: You mean 30 days beyond the 30 days?

Jenson: Yes, sir.

Gadd: That's a decision that only the Secretary of the Air Force can make, sir. I cannot make a commitment.

(Unintelligible)

Crawford: I think we are disregarding this 30 days. That's what we are asking for, since we can't act on this statement as it's prepared, we're asking for 30 days to review this Environmental Impact Statement once it's finished disregarding this 30 days, because it's is evident that we can't do

anything with the statement, with the document in the shape that it's in. What we are asking is that the review process start, the 30 days review process start upon our receipt of the final document that you are going to prepare.

AF?: Sir, I'll address that.

Jenson: Second of all I think we would like to know, again not clear, is the final Environmental Impact Statement going to address the real human loss? Are you going to talk about the real losses in health care, in education, the blight of the community because of housing, and is it going to provide comparable data on that real human and environmental loss between bases? In other words, is it going to extend the housing figures like to how many years it will take to reabsorb, is it take what at lost medical facilities there are going to be, and not just a number figure?

Tokar: Sir, you are asking us to estimate that and it is obvious that it would be a gross estimation on our part, and I don't see anyway that we could possibly...

Jenson: I don't see any way under the full compliance aspect of the NEPA that you could not do that at full disclosure. I think if you review the court cases, other agencies have had to do essentially the same thing especially the ADC in the Calvert Cliff's case despite of the fact that at first they didn't see how they could do it either.

Gadd: There are two opposing sets of court rulings.

Jenson: I'm aware of that, too. I think those are our primary concerns right now.

Coleman: Is the committee to act on this?

?: Paul, let me read one thing. Of course, when you speak of production, it means the training of pilots, graduating pilots.

Gadd: Yes, sir.

?: This is read from the manual here, "Webb has a relatively high production capacity, but is limited in that it has only two runways." In that same paragraph, "Craig and Columbus Air Force Base's have the lowest production capacity and the poorest weather."

Esmond: Mr. Chairman, let me ask a question. I missed the significance of an earlier statement that you made about operational factors, but referring to Table 8-1, if you know it by that name, is your assessment of this encroachment matter at Webb. Do you have knowledge, if it is not classified, what is the nature of this encroachment matter that's been discussed here already. I fly and I observe from the air, and I observe from the ground. I fail to detect some encroachment factor, I'm familiar with the base over there. Do you know what it is? Has it been spoken to or defined? Does somebody know, or is it classified?

AF?: No, there's nothing classified at all. What we are talking about is that the City of Big Spring is relatively close to the base, therefore to avoid the noise impact upon the City, as well as accident potential, they have had to alter to flight pattern to avoid the most populated area of the City.

Esmond: Are you speaking of the take-off and landing approaches?

AF?: Negative. That would be for what we commonly refer to as the outside down DFR rangin pattern. Opposed to the standard rectangular pattern that is normally flown, and it flown at all the other UPT bases, the T-38's are required to



fly an irregular pattern that circumnavigates the city itself. This would go into reasons for hospitals and such to avoid primarily noise impacts to a certain extent.

Esmond: You would fly a closer pattern, if you had a choice at Webb? I doubt that your aircraft could maneuver.

AF?: It may be somewhat closer. It would certainly be a rectangular pattern as opposed to an irregular shaped pattern. It requires a little more, not sophistication, a little more involvement of the student who typically is concerned with learning how to fly an aircraft, now is confronted with some somewhat non-standard procedures that complicates his learning process.

Esmond: Well, as a pilot with a little bit of knowledge, would you say what the non-standard procedure is? I see them doing this all the time. It doesn't look like it's that non-standard to me.

Gadd: Sir, you are running three simultaneous runways, we have a number of different traffic patterns. When you are running DFR patterns with T-37's, DFR patterns with T-38's, IFR patterns with T-38's, IFR patterns with T-37's, we have 500' altitude separations and we have various ground tracks that try to intermesh all of this going on at the same time. The encroachment, for the most part, has to do here with the fact that the town is built up right to the base. We overfly the town with the increased accident potential of a flame-out, or some other malfunction, pilot error, what have you, of putting an airplane into the town. The chances here at Webb are much greater than any of the other bases. We attempt to, some of our patterns are non-standard here, but we have non-standard patterns at all the other bases, too, to varying degrees. So, I think the most significant point is that they're a built up area adjacent immediately to the base. More so than any of our other bases.



Esmond: Then, in the southerly approaches, my observation would be that there has been very little change in the southerly approaches over the past 15 or 20 years, and because of the nature of the terrain, there has been very little development in the northerly approaches, and you only have northerly and southerly approaches. So, the action as I understand must be a pattern, a flight pattern action or something of this nature, that I'm not familiar with. Did I miss it?

AF?: No, you approach the runway, but in a typical UTP environment where multiple approaches are made, you then have to go back around and make an approach again.

Esmond: A missed approach?

AF?: Well, it's just multiple approach.

Gadd: They are (unintell.), a touch and go, there are different patterns...

Esmond: And you are making approaches that are not necessarily in line with the runway? You'd be making a cross-runway approach, of some kind, just for practice?

AF?: Coming back for a subsequent approach. Do you follow that, sir?

Esmond; No, sir, I don't. Do you make approaches to Webb from the north or the south?

AF?: OK, say you were flying...

Gadd: If you take off from the north, you gotta get back around to the south to make another approach, and there are a number of ways to do this. If you are flying a GCA pattern,

you are flying a large box pattern. You're going to go around under radar control. If you are flying a visual pattern, you can pitch out and stay, and close in downwind, land in a touch and go, pull up in closed pattern on a closed downwind, come in and land. Again, touch and go. Or you can take off, break out of traffic. That means you've got to climb up an extra 500,000 feet in order to keep out of the way of people who are remaining within the closed pattern. Or you break out and reenter the VFR entry point, there's another pattern that goes out. At the same time, you've got some other student who's got a problem, an engine problem, and he's come back in from the area, but he's too low on fuel to land, so he's in a high traffic pattern. He's 500 feet above. The next guy below him is just driving around in a box waiting until he burns down fuel sufficiently so he can come in and land. There are a myriad of number of different traffic patterns, all of them potentially going simultaneously that have to be controlled and have to be separated. But at the same time, we attempt to be satisfy requirements of safety on the base and off the base, and noise on the base and off the base.

Esmond: I understand. I understand essentially what you have said here. In observing your aircraft operations over there on numerous flyby's almost on a weekly basis, if not more often, it would appear that the patterns you are observing in your training missions over there take you clear of the populated areas, and very nicely.

Jenson: May we expedite this just a little bit. I think it's interesting to note that when we talked to the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, Billy Weldon, when we were in Washington, his indication was that this particular item would probably not appear in the final EIS because it really is not that significant.

Banks: It's never presented a problem, or it didn't while I was there.

Carpenter: Do they have consecutive figures, comparative consecutive figures of the base?

AF?: Just a statement...

Carpenter: Do they have more crashes or anything at Webb?

?: They have less, don't they?

AF?: We've looked at this, and there's no real pattern, ma'am.

Carpenter: You know they keep them on the wall for the whole, every year, and I think this past year or two it must have been very low on that. There is a pattern. Some of them are higher.

Gadd: There are no significant differences between the bases in accidents.

Jenson: We are safe to assume that will not be in the final EIS, fairly safe, the fact that it is a significant factor for Webb?

AF?: Yes.

Jenson: OK.

Gadd: I said that we would (unintell.) Did you complete your question?

Coleman: Does the committee have any other questions?

?: I was just going to make a statement, Paul, and that was that there's 1563 people potentially unemployed at this, and this is sort of directed to men with our congressional representatives. That's about \$15,000. The closing of this base is going to save the government about \$23 million a year, that's about \$15,000 per person. That seems to be pretty competitive with Humphrey-Hawkins to me.

Jenson: Speaking of congressional representatives, I want to introduce Lea Taylor of Congressman White's office is here. I appreciate your coming, Lea.

Coleman: Judge Glover has indicated that he has a motion to make in regard to this matter. Is the committee ready to consider the question?

Glover: I'd like to move that (1) because the draft Environmental Impact Statement is incomplete and in part inadequate; (2) because the real alternatives have not been even partially explored; (3) because the Air Force has not indicated how the EIS will be used in the decision making and has not provided adequate decision making information that the committee make a negative comment on the proposed action.

Esmond: Second the motion.

Coleman: The motion seconded by Mr. Esmond. All in favor of the motion, please raise your right hand. All opposed? The motion passes, Susan, unanimously. Gentlemen, the Air Force representatives, we certainly appreciate your being here. We're certainly not mad at you individually, and would like to have you on our side. I can sympathize with the position you're in, and we know that it is difficult, and we do appreciate your being here and I hope that you'll come back. This meeting is adjourned.



PERMIAN BASIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
October 13, 1976

The Board of Directors of the Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission met at 1:30 p.m. in the conference room of Air Terminal Office Building. Acting Chairman, Barbara Culver, called the meeting to order.

Board members present were:

Barbara Culver, Acting Chairman  
Chester Taggart  
Marcus Crow  
Roy Bennett  
Leslie Pratt  
Norbon Sikes  
Peggy Garner  
Jimmy Mathis  
D. Leon Nutt  
Charles Stavley

Board members absent were:

Harold Hall, Chairman  
Darrell Glover, Vice-Chairman  
Bill Tune  
Gene Day  
Joe Connally  
Jim Burkett  
D. W. Parker  
Ruby Nell Greenhaw  
Walter Buenger  
Martin Neill  
Edwin Dwyer

Others present were Ernie Crawford, Executive Director; Susan Cobb, Administrative Assistant; Jerry Tschanuner, Director of Planning; Richard Jenson, Data Systems Analysts; Richard Kleinhans, Criminal Justice Coordinator; Susan Turner, Human Resources Coordinator; Vic Rhoads, Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Coordinator; Wilbur Ray, Dawson County Probation Officer; Janet Everheart, West Texas Opportunities, Inc.; John McDonald, Texas Commission on Alcoholism; Shelton Stogner, Drug Abuse Prevention Division of TDCA; Cope Routh, Odessa Council on Alcoholism; Lynn Stoner, Midland Council on Alcoholism; Bob Dickson, MH-MR; Iva Fields, Odessa Junior Service League; and members of the news media.

Board of Directors  
October 13, 1976  
Page 2

Chairman Culver opened the meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were considered and approved as circulated.

Motion was made by Crow and seconded by Nutt that the Board pass a resolution accepting the unfavorable review and comment of the Regional Development Review Committee on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed closure of Webb Air Force Base. Motion carried unanimously. (Resolution 76-81)

Motion was made by Crow and seconded by Bennett that the Board pass a resolution accepting the review and comment of the Regional Development Review Committee on the application of the Ector County Utility District for a low interest loan from the Texas Water Development Board. Motion carried unanimously. (Resolution 76-82)

Motion was made by Bennett and seconded by Garner that the Board pass a resolution accepting the review and comment of the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee on the application of Andrews County titled "Juvenile Probation Project." Motion carried with Crow opposing. (Resolution 76-83)

Motion was made by Pratt and seconded by Taggart that the Board pass a resolution accepting the review and comment of the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee on the application of Dawson County Juvenile Probation Department titled "Group Therapy for Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency." Motion carried unanimously. (Resolution 76-84)

Motion was made by Mathis and seconded by Stavley that the Board of Directors pass a resolution accepting the review and comment of the Human Resources Advisory Committee on the application of West Texas Opportunities, Inc. titled "Head Start." Motion carried unanimously. (Resolution 76-85)

Motion was made by Garner and seconded by Pratt that the Board pass a resolution accepting the review and comment of the Human Resources Advisory Committee on the application of West Texas Opportunities, Inc. titled "General Services." Motion carried unanimously. (Resolution 76-86)

Discussion followed concerning expansion of the Human Resources Advisory Committee to include representatives from the small population counties and persons not representing an agency or a local government. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to County Judges requesting further nominations to this committee.

Motion was made by Crow and seconded by Bennett that the proposal for an Alcohol/Drug Abuse Prevention Demonstration Project be removed from the table. Motion carried unanimously. Presentations were then made by John McDonald, representing the Texas Commission on Alcoholism, and Shelton Stogner, representing the Drug Abuse Prevention Division of TDCA, which were designed to answer questions posed by Board members at the September meeting. Motion was then made by Garner and seconded by Sikes that the

B-107

Board of Directors  
October 13, 1976  
Page 3

Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission pursue funding of the project.  
Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

B-108

QUESTIONS ON DRAFT EIS  
Primarily from Committee A-95 Review

1. How will the EIS be used in the decision-making process? B-1
2. Why wasn't the EIS completed before two bases were selected as candidates for closure? B-2
3. Exactly how many homes will be vacant in Big Spring? Your relative frequency (percent) figures do not correspond to the absolute frequency numbers. B-3
4. Why weren't alternatives other than UPT alternatives considered? B-4
5. Why are there no discussions of the Human Environmental effects of the closure included in the statement? B-5
6. What is the actual cost savings to the Air Force, by year, for the first five years after closure? B-6
7. How long will it be before the vacant homes will be absorbed into the Big Spring community? B-7
8. If the decision is made to close Webb, the Air Force is committed to an expenditure of funds in several areas, including a caretaker force for at least one year, moving costs of personnel, possible new construction for housing on other bases. Why were these irretrievable commitments of resources not included in the DEIS? B-8
9. Why did the Air Force fail to consider the irretrievably committed resources by other federal agencies if Webb is closed? B-9
10. Why did the Air Force fail to consider in the DEIS the effect of losing one-third of the teachers in the Howard County school system? B-10
11. Why was Webb selected to have the T-38's in the UPT program in its first phase? B-11
12. When did it occur that three runways were so important to UPT bases? B-12
13. Why does Webb not have three runways? B-13
14. Who actually wrote the final copy of the DEIS? B-14
15. What operational considerations have been taken to suggest Webb as a candidate for closure? B-15
16. Why is it that the I-O model used is not based on local considerations? B-16
17. Why was local data not gathered for the DEIS, rather than nationally based data? B-17

*attached*

B-109



- B-18 18. How is the I-O model localized to Howard County?
- B-19. If the EIS is truly written for the lay people, are the lay people in a position to make the Air Force's decision? Does this fit full disclosure as required by the NEPA if it is to be used in this format?
- B-20. Does the I-O model used have a track record, and if so, what is the reliability coefficient? Is that coefficient based upon use in a single or multi-county basis?
- B-21. What were the multipliers, and how were they derived for the I-O model?
- B-22. What is the average number of days per year each of the seven bases was behind schedule for the past five years?
- B-23. Why does the DEIS fail to estimate the effect the changes in economic activity have on the community, as opposed to just the business community?
- B-24. The I-O model projects only a 22.4% decrease in new construction if Webb is closed. How can this realistically be relied upon?
- B-25. What is the possibility of Webb handling some other type of mission other than the T-37's and T-38's?
- B-26. Has the Air Force distributed the DEIS to the regional offices of EOA, ERA, DOL, HUD, etc.? What comments have you received thus far from other agencies concerning the DEIS?
- B-27. Why has the Air Force not obtained, instead of merely requested this information specified in question 26?
- B-28. When will funds from the other government agencies be available for use in Big Spring? (i.e., DOL, EDA, ERA) That is, how long after the base is closed before the mitigating factors take effect?
- B-29. Historically, what percentage of those eligible take advantage of the home owners assistance program?
- B-30. Because the DEIS emphasizes those negative points about Webb, what are the "plus" factors, if any, about Webb?
- B-31. Why did the Air Force fail to consider the impact upon the city and county government budgets and ability to continue providing the services in Howard County?
- B-32. Is the Air Force programmed to have only five Air Force bases with IMF's?
- B-33. Give a precise definition of "reasonably available alternatives."
- B-34. What is the definition of "economic activity"? What is included and excluded?

#### FINDINGS ON WEBB AIR FORCE BASE

1. The Air Force has failed to provide the Planning Commission with the necessary information to conduct a responsible A-95 review of the draft Environmental Impact Statement process; whether the EIS were for or against closing Webb. Negative action has been taken.
2. The Air Force has failed to fully consider the alternatives of closing Webb Air Force Base.
3. The Air Force has only gone through the motions of satisfying the National Environmental Policy Act. Nowhere in its draft Environmental Impact Statement, or any other documents we have seen has the Air Force substantiated its reasons for the closure of Webb Air Force Base. As a matter of fact, the draft Environmental Impact Statement prepared by the Air Force gives overwhelming support to the continuation of Webb's operations in terms of operations capabilities and costs, and the environmental impact to be borne by Howard County and the Permian Basin in comparison to other UPT bases.
4. The Air Force has given no information as to how, when, or by whom the draft Environmental Impact Statement will be used in the decision-making process.
5. The draft Environmental Impact Statement limits the region of influence to Howard County only and does not address the impact to be felt by other counties in the Permian Basin.

6. The DEIS uses 1973 as its dollar base, and thus does not reflect the real impact to be felt. These figures should be inflated to 1976 dollars.
7. The Air Force failed to realize the adverse effect upon the City of Big Spring if Webb closed. However, the additional costs of fire and police protection for vacant units would put the City of Big Spring at an estimated deficit budget of \$1,281,526.
8. The Air Force made no mention of the emotional or mental stress which will be caused by the closing of Webb. As difficult as this is, it must be done.
9. The Air Force failed to analyze the impact on financial institutions by the closing of Webb and the resulting loss of the population.
10. The Air Force has apparently failed to accurately list the number of housing units to be vacated, or to address the real consequences as Table 4-32 lists a total of 1307 units affected while Table 4-33 calculates to a total of 1343; a difference of 36. This indicated the poor quality control of the entire process.
11. Since the operational considerations will play a great part in the final decision-making process, further analysis and/or explanation should be given to that area.
12. The costs to the federal government for helping with the vacant homes should be analyzed, including Home Loan Guarantees, Displaced Business Loans, Base Closing Economic Injury Loans,



Anti-poverty action unemployment benefits, and Federal relocation assistance to name a few.

13. The DEIS does not consider the possible expenditure of state funds because of the closure of Webb.

14. No alterantives were considered except those within the Air Training Command, and these alternatives would have been considered prior to selecting Webb and Craig as "candidates" for closure.

15. The impact on the Big Spring area is grossly understated. Direct and indirect impact was estimated at \$50 million, but it in fact will be more like \$134 million. The Air Force has previously said that the direct impact would be \$65 million. Our reasearch can demonstrate that secondary impact will add another \$84 million. The Air Force also did not consider impact upon the Midland-Odessa area.

16. No mention is made that Webb last year had the highest number of flying hours in the Air Training Command and by far the lowest cost per pilot. Webb also had the lowest cost per flying hour and the lowest maintenance cost per flying hour.

17. The Air Force's impact statement fails to mention that it previously told Big Spring that there was no need for a third runway because Webb already was training more pilots than three-runway bases because of its good weather.



18. The reason given for the base closing is economics. Yet the Air Force can save less money by closing Webb than any other base considered (except Vance which has the civilian contractor program). Closing Columbus would save \$27 million a year and cost a loss in pilot capacity of only 361, where closing Webb would save only \$24 million and lose a capacity of 413 pilots per year.

19. The Air Force did not consider the overall cost of closing Webb to the taxpayers, only the narrow scope of the Air Force budget. In reality, the closing of Webb would cost taxpayers money when costs of welfare, economic assistance, and other factors are considered.

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF THE STATEMENT BY SENATOR JOHN G. TOWER

Thank you, Colonel Smith--I appear here today, not just as the senior Senator from Texas, but as a member of the Tactical Air Subcommittee of the Armed Services Committee of the United States Senate and as the ranking minority member of the Military Construction Subcommittee of the Armed Services Committee, and, of course, as a member of the Armed Services Committee itself. I appreciate the opportunity to participate in this hearing today. I regard it an extremely important hearing, and it remains my opinion, as I commented at a meeting last September 16th in Washington, that there are numerous shortcomings in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the published background studies that have been prepared by the Air Training Command. I will be outlining here today a few of my comments on these documents. I will attempt to confine my remarks to some of the fundamental assumptions on which the draft statement is based and with which I take very sharp exception indeed.

But before proceeding with a summation of my views, I want to take the opportunity to commend the citizens of this community and the surrounding area for their dedicated efforts and unrelenting energy in pulling together a very strong case in opposition to the proposal to close this very fine facility. Mayor Choate and his fellow community leaders have certainly put forth an enormous effort to insure that Webb is given the type of straight-forward, objective review that it deserves in light of its exceptional record in the Training Command.

Now the first point I want to make on the Draft EIS concerns the total absence of any convincing evidence that the United States Air Force can still be adequately prepared and combat ready with the limited capacity for pilot training that will result from closing two undergraduate pilot training bases. Senior Air Force officials have acknowledged that retaining only five pilot training bases severely limits our surge capacity to train increased numbers of pilots were a national emergency to arise. The figures show that the current projections for our pilot training requirements in fiscal year 1981 will use up 93% of the training capacity of the proposed five base structure. If my arithmetic is correct, this leaves only a 7% margin to accommodate errors in this projection and most significantly to provide for what could be a critically needed surge capability.

Now I recognize that some increased pilot production could be forced through the five bases by expanding operations to seven days a week and by conducting more training at night, but I think history shows us that even considering this limited amount of internal expansion capability, a 93% utilization rate is simply cutting it too close.

Now in response to some of my previous questions, the Air Force has admitted that pilot requirements are difficult to predict because they are affected by such a wide range of factors. Some of these variables can indeed be controlled and monitored at least partially by those who put together long range Air Force training plans. Such factors would include the number of aircraft to be operated, the planned force structure to meet certain contingencies, and the desired air crew manning levels. But there are several major variables, such as our foreign policy concerning aircraft sales to other nations, the retention rate among existing pilots, changes to weapons procurement plans, personnel policies, and even national fiscal and economic influences.

In that area of foreign sales alone, it has become increasingly apparent that the nations of the free world are taking a more active interest in strengthening the quality and readiness of their respective tactical air forces. As a member of the Armed Services Committee, I have been pleased to note the testimony given by the Department of Defense concerning the initiatives of other nations in striving to share in the tasks of defending freedom. I know that just as the U.S. will play a major role in providing aircraft--such as the multi-national F-16 which is built here in Texas--to many nations around the world so will the U.S. Air Force play an expanding role in the training of foreign pilots. Now this is but one factor the effects of which I feel have been seriously underestimated by the Air Training Command.

Another factor which the Air Force does not control is the health of the domestic economy. Good times and prosperity normally generate a significant drain on the supply of trained Air Force pilots as increased numbers are recruited by the airlines. This is an effect which I believe can be expected to generate a higher pilot training requirement than is now cited as the outlook for the airlines industry continues to improve over the next few years.

There are, in short, many factors which greatly affect Air Force pilot training which the Air Force cannot control. Such unpredictable factors, one must assume, are largely the cause for inaccurate projections of pilot training needs in recent years. For instance, in 1974, the Air Force told Congress that it planned to train 3,134 pilots in 1978, a projection of four years into the future. However, now the Air Force estimates its 1978 pilot training requirement to be only 1,548, an error of over 50% from the projection made two years ago. In the opposite direction, I think it serves a purpose to note that from fiscal year 1968 to fiscal year 1972, again a stretch of four years during the Vietnam buildup, the overall U.S. Air Force pilot training rate increased by over 200%.

It is because of these and other unforeseeable changes in our pilot requirements that I consider plans to utilize a reduced training base structure at 93% of capacity as an example of cutting too close to the bone.



Such reductions may permit the budget cutters to point to savings in a relatively small portion of our defense expenditures, but they do so at the expense of inhibiting the preparedness of our forces. And preparedness, I must emphasize, is much, much more than having the fastest jets, the most accurate missiles, and the most sophisticated bomber in the world. Preparedness is first and foremost having people--people--who are capably trained to do the job our nation requires them to do. Now while the personnel and training budgets may be easier targets to the budget cutter than some of the more exotic weapons and aircraft systems we are buying today, I firmly believe that we can ill afford to give a second priority to the necessity for capable, well-trained people. As one member of the U.S. Senate, I shall insist that our hardware procurement, research and development efforts, and manpower and training programs be evenly supported in a proper and logical balance. Any excessive spending in one category at the expense of our needs in another will, in the long run, be most costly. And while some of our training programs may not be as visible or impressive as are our new airplanes and weapons systems, it is essential that we take care to adequately support our training establishment so that we will have the people that our armed forces must rely on each day.

There are other areas in this report which I would like to reserve the right to comment on at a later date. I have yet to receive some information I requested of the Air Force--I requested it last week--and I intend to go over this material carefully before offering my final comments.

There is, of course, much to be said on the appraisal of the economic and social impacts of closing Webb. There are many operational matters that need to be carefully examined. I understand that citizens of this community will be offering detailed statements on both of these aspects of the Draft EIS, and I look forward to taking note of their views. The matter of alternative Air Force missions for Webb is one that I shall want to discuss further in Washington. I shall only state today--as I did in September--that the narrow range of alternatives identified in the report is in my view totally inadequate. The absence of any consideration of reasonable alternatives existing outside of the Air Training Command is a serious omission. I shall have more to say later on this aspect of the planning evidenced by this report and the effects of recent Air Force announcements concerning some newly proposed aircraft realignments.

Again, I appreciate having the opportunity to be here today. I leave you with the assurance that I will not relent in my efforts to persuade the Department of Defense to keep Webb Air Force Base in operation. With its solid record of accomplishments and efficiency in pilot training and a level of public support here in this community that is unmatched anywhere in the world--and I might add I have visited major Air Force installations all over the world and I say that it is unmatched anywhere. Webb Air Force Base and the people of Big Spring, in my view, have every reason to be proud. While no cost analyst can put a dollar sign on such



values as pride, a sense of purpose, or a spirit of cooperation, it is incumbent on all who weigh the very serious issues before us here today to recognize these very real attributes as critical, if intangible, assets that lend strength to the very core of our security as a free nation. Thank you, Colonel Smith.

B-118

STATEMENT BY  
SENATOR JOHN G. TOWER (R., TEXAS)  
ON THE  
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
CONCERNING  
WEBB AIR FORCE BASE

NOVEMBER 4, 1976

FRIENDS AND CITIZENS OF BIG SPRING AND THE ENTIRE PERMIAN BASIN AREA, I DEEPLY APPRECIATE HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE WITH YOU TODAY AND PARTICIPATE IN THIS IMPORTANT PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE FUTURE OF WEBB AIR FORCE BASE. IT REMAINS MY OPINION, AS I COMMENTED AT A MEETING LAST SEPTEMBER 16 IN WASHINGTON, THAT THERE ARE NUMEROUS SHORTCOMINGS IN THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND THE PUBLISHED BACKGROUND STUDIES THAT HAVE BEEN PREPARED BY THE AIR TRAINING COMMAND. I WILL BE OUTLINING HERE TODAY A FEW OF MY COMMENTS ON THESE DOCUMENTS. I WILL ATTEMPT TO CONFINE MY REMARKS TO SOME OF THE FUNDAMENTAL ASSUMPTIONS ON WHICH THE DRAFT STATEMENT IS BASED AND WITH WHICH I TAKE SHARP EXCEPTION.

BUT BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH A SUMMATION OF MY VIEWS, LET ME TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO COMMEND THE CITIZENS OF THIS COMMUNITY AND THE SURROUNDING AREA FOR THEIR DEDICATED EFFORTS AND UNRELENTING ENERGY IN PULLING TOGETHER A VERY STRONG CASE IN OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSAL TO CLOSE THIS FINE BASE. MAYOR CHOATE AND HIS FELLOW COMMUNITY LEADERS HAVE CERTAINLY PUT FORTH AN ENORMOUS EFFORT TO INSURE THAT WEBB IS GIVEN THE TYPE OF STRAIGHT FORWARD, OBJECTIVE REVIEW THAT IT DESERVES IN LIGHT OF ITS EXCEPTIONAL RECORD IN THE TRAINING COMMAND.

THE FIRST POINT I WANT TO MAKE ON THE DRAFT EIS CONCERNS THE TOTAL ABSENCE OF ANY CONVINCING EVIDENCE THAT THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE CAN STILL BE ADEQUATELY PREPARED AND COMBAT READY WITH THE LIMITED CAPACITY FOR PILOT TRAINING THAT WILL RESULT FROM CLOSING TWO UNDERGRADUATE PILOT TRAINING BASES. SENIOR AIR FORCE OFFICIALS HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT RETAINING ONLY FIVE PILOT TRAINING BASES SEVERELY LIMITS OUR SURGE CAPACITY TO TRAIN INCREASED NUMBERS OF PILOTS WERE A NATIONAL EMERGENCY TO ARISE. THE FIGURES SHOW THAT CURRENT PROJECTIONS FOR OUR PILOT TRAINING REQUIREMENTS IN FISCAL YEAR 1981 WILL USE UP 93% OF THE TRAINING CAPACITY OF THE PROPOSED FIVE BASE STRUCTURE. IF MY ARITHMETIC IS CORRECT, THIS LEAVES ONLY A 7% MARGIN TO ACCOMMODATE ERRORS IN THIS PROJECTION AND MOST SIGNIFICANTLY, TO PROVIDE FOR WHAT COULD BE A CRITICALLY NEEDED SURGE CAPABILITY.

NOW I RECOGNIZE THAT SOME INCREASED PILOT PRODUCTION COULD BE FORCED THROUGH THE FIVE BASES BY EXPANDING OPERATIONS TO SEVEN DAYS-A-WEEK AND BY CONDUCTING MORE TRAINING AT NIGHT. BUT I THINK HISTORY SHOWS US THAT EVEN CONSIDERING THIS LIMITED AMOUNT OF INTERNAL EXPANSION CAPABILITY, A 93% UTILIZATION RATE IS SIMPLY CUTTING IT TOO CLOSE.

IN RESPONSE TO SOME OF MY PREVIOUS QUESTIONS, THE AIR FORCE HAS ADMITTED THAT PILOT REQUIREMENTS ARE DIFFICULT TO PREDICT BECAUSE THEY ARE AFFECTED BY SUCH A WIDE RANGE OF FACTORS. SOME OF THESE VARIABLES CAN INDEED BE CONTROLLED AND MONITORED AT LEAST PARTIALLY BY THOSE WHO PUT TOGETHER LONG-RANGE AIR FORCE TRAINING PLANS. SUCH FACTORS WOULD INCLUDE THE NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT TO BE OPERATED, THE PLANNED FORCE STRUCTURE TO MEET CERTAIN CONTINGENCIES,

AND THE DESIRED AIR CREW MANNING LEVELS. BUT THERE ARE SEVERAL MAJOR VARIABLES, SUCH AS OUR FOREIGN POLICY CONCERNING AIRCRAFT SALES TO OTHER NATIONS, THE RETENTION RATE AMONG EXISTING PILOTS, CHANGES TO WEAPONS PROCUREMENT PLANS, PERSONNEL POLICIES, AND EVEN NATIONAL FISCAL AND ECONOMIC INFLUENCES.

IN THE AREA OF FOREIGN SALES ALONE, IT HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY APPARENT THAT THE NATIONS OF THE FREE WORLD ARE TAKING A MORE ACTIVE INTEREST IN STRENGTHENING THE QUALITY AND READINESS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE TACTICAL AIR FORCES. AS A MEMBER OF THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE, I HAVE BEEN PLEASED TO NOTE THE TESTIMONY GIVEN BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CONCERNING THE INITIATIVES OF OTHER NATIONS IN STRIVING TO SHARE IN THE TASKS OF DEFENDING FREEDOM. I KNOW THAT JUST AS THE U.S. WILL PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN PROVIDING AIRCRAFT--SUCH AS THE MULTI-NATIONAL F-16 BUILT HERE IN TEXAS--TO MANY NATIONS AROUND THE WORLD, SO WILL THE U.S. AIR FORCE PLAY AN EXPANDING ROLE IN THE TRAINING OF FOREIGN PILOTS. THIS IS BUT ONE FACTOR THE EFFECTS OF WHICH I FEEL HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY UNDERESTIMATED BY THE AIR TRAINING COMMAND.

ANOTHER FACTOR WHICH THE AIR FORCE DOES NOT CONTROL IS THE HEALTH OF THE DOMESTIC ECONOMY. GOOD TIMES AND PROSPERITY NORMALLY GENERATE A SIGNIFICANT DRAIN ON THE SUPPLY OF TRAINED AIR FORCE PILOTS AS INCREASED NUMBERS ARE RECRUITED BY THE AIRLINES. THIS IS AN EFFECT WHICH I BELIEVE CAN BE EXPECTED TO GENERATE A HIGHER PILOT TRAINING REQUIREMENT THAN IS NOW CITED AS THE OUTLOOK FOR THE AIRLINES INDUSTRY CONTINUES TO IMPROVE OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

THERE ARE, IN SHORT, MANY FACTORS WHICH GREATLY AFFECT AIR FORCE PILOT TRAINING WHICH THE AIR FORCE CANNOT CONTROL. SUCH UNPREDICTABLE FACTORS, ONE MUST ASSUME, ARE LARGELY THE CAUSE FOR INACCURATE PROJECTIONS OF PILOT TRAINING NEEDS IN RECENT YEARS. FOR INSTANCE, IN 1974 THE AIR FORCE TOLD CONGRESS THAT IT PLANNED TO TRAINING 3,134 PILOTS IN 1978, A PROJECTION OF FOUR YEARS INTO THE FUTURE. HOWEVER, NOW THE AIR FORCE ESTIMATES ITS 1978 PILOT TRAINING REQUIREMENT TO BE ONLY 1,548, AN ERROR OF OVER 50% FROM THE PROJECTION MADE TWO YEARS AGO. IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION, I THINK IT SERVES A PURPOSE TO NOTE THAT FROM FISCAL YEAR 1968 TO FISCAL YEAR 1972, AGAIN A STRETCH OF FOUR YEARS DURING THE VIETNAM BUILDUP, THE OVERALL USAF PILOT TRAINING RATE INCREASED BY OVER 200%.

IT IS BECAUSE OF THESE AND OTHER UNFORESEEABLE CHANGES IN OUR PILOT REQUIREMENTS THAT I CONSIDER PLANS TO UTILIZE A REDUCED TRAINING BASE STRUCTURE AT 93% OF CAPACITY AS AN EXAMPLE OF CUTTING TOO CLOSE TO THE BONE. SUCH REDUCTIONS MAY PERMIT THE BUDGET CUTTERS TO POINT TO SAVINGS IN A RELATIVELY SMALL PORTION OF OUR DEFENSE EXPENDITURES, BUT THEY DO SO AT THE EXPENSE OF INHIBITING THE PREPAREDNESS OF OUR FORCES. AND PREPAREDNESS, I MUST EMPHASIZE, IS MUCH, MUCH MORE THAN HAVING THE FASTEST JETS, THE MOST ACCURATE MISSILES, AND THE MOST SOPHISTICATED BOMBER IN THE WORLD. PREPAREDNESS IS FIRST AND FOREMOST HAVING PEOPLE WHO ARE CAPABLY TRAINED TO DO THE JOB OUR NATION REQUIRES THEM TO DO. WHILE THE PERSONNEL AND TRAINING



BUDGETS MAY BE EASIER TARGETS TO THE BUDGET CUTTER THAN SOME OF THE MORE EXOTIC WEAPONS AND AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS WE ARE BUYING TODAY, I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT WE CAN ILL AFFORD TO GIVE A SECOND PRIORITY TO THE NECESSITY FOR CAPABLE, WELL-TRAINED PEOPLE. AS ONE MEMBER OF THE U.S. SENATE, I SHALL INSIST THAT OUR HARDWARE PROCUREMENT, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS, AND MANPOWER AND TRAINING PROGRAMS BE EVENLY SUPPORTED IN A PROPER AND LOGICAL BALANCE. ANY EXCESSIVE SPENDING IN ONE CATEGORY AT THE EXPENSE OF OUR NEEDS IN ANOTHER WILL, IN THE LONG-RUN, BE MOST COSTLY. AND WHILE SOME OF OUR TRAINING PROGRAMS MAY NOT BE AS VISIBLE OR IMPRESSIVE AS ARE OUR NEW AIRPLANES AND WEAPONS SYSTEMS, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE TAKE CARE TO ADEQUATELY SUPPORT OUR TRAINING ESTABLISHMENT SO THAT WE WILL HAVE THE PEOPLE THAT OUR ARMED FORCES MUST RELY ON EVERY DAY.

THERE ARE OTHER AREAS IN THIS REPORT WHICH I WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE THE RIGHT TO COMMENT ON AT A LATER DATE. I HAVE YET TO RECEIVE SOME INFORMATION I REQUESTED OF THE AIR FORCE LAST WEEK, AND I INTEND TO GO OVER THIS MATERIAL CAREFULLY BEFORE OFFERING MY FINAL COMMENTS.

THERE IS, OF COURSE, MUCH TO BE SAID ON THE APPRAISAL OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACTS OF CLOSING WEBB. THERE ARE MANY OPERATIONAL MATTERS THAT NEED TO BE CAREFULLY EXAMINED. I UNDERSTAND THAT CITIZENS OF THIS COMMUNITY WILL BE OFFERING DETAILED STATEMENTS ON BOTH OF THESE ASPECTS OF THE DRAFT EIS, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO TAKING NOTE OF THEIR VIEWS. THE MATTER OF ALTERNATIVE AIR FORCE MISSIONS FOR WEBB IS ONE THAT I SHALL WANT TO DISCUSS FURTHER IN WASHINGTON. I SHALL ONLY STATE TODAY--AS I DID IN SEPTEMBER--THAT THE NARROW RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES IDENTIFIED IN THE REPORT IS IN MY VIEW TOTALLY INADEQUATE. THE ABSENCE OF ANY CONSIDERATION OF REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES EXISTING OUTSIDE OF THE AIR TRAINING COMMAND IS A SERIOUS OMISSION. I SHALL HAVE MORE TO SAY LATER ON THIS ASPECT OF THE PLANNING EVIDENCED BY THIS REPORT AND THE EFFECTS OF RECENT AIR FORCE ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING SOME NEWLY PROPOSED AIRCRAFT REALIGNMENTS.

AGAIN, I APPRECIATE HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE HERE TODAY. I LEAVE YOU WITH THE ASSURANCE THAT I WILL NOT RELENT IN MY EFFORTS TO PERSUADE THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO KEEP WEBB AIR FORCE BASE IN OPERATION. WITH ITS SOLID RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND EFFICIENCY IN PILOT TRAINING AND A LEVEL OF PUBLIC SUPPORT HERE IN THIS COMMUNITY THAT IS UNMATCHED ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, WEBB AIR FORCE BASE AND THE PEOPLE OF BIG SPRING HAVE EVERY REASON TO BE PROUD. WHILE NO COST ANALYST CAN PUT A DOLLAR SIGN ON SUCH VALUES AS PRIDE, A SENSE OF PURPOSE, OR A SPIRIT OF COOPERATION, IT IS INCUMBENT ON ALL WHO WEIGH THE VERY SERIOUS ISSUES BEFORE US HERE TODAY TO RECOGNIZE THESE VERY REAL ATTRIBUTES AS CRITICAL, IF INTANGIBLE, ASSETS THAT LEND STRENGTH TO THE VERY CORE OF OUR SECURITY AS A FREE NATION.

THANK YOU.

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF STATEMENT BY COUNTY JUDGE BILL TUNE  
HOWARD COUNTY, BIG SPRING, TEXAS

Thank you, Sir--it is a great honor to get to follow a Senator, Congressman, Representatives, Mayors, and Judges from all over the community. They have pretty well spoken our community's views of it--there's some mixed emotions in my mind of how Webb Air Force Base could be on the top as far as performance and on the top for economy, and the consideration for this base to be closed with the efficiency that we have at Webb. People of Howard County would be affected greatly--not only Howard County and Big Spring--but our surrounding neighbors as has already been presented to this committee. I wish to file this statement with Mr. Reed and thank you for having this opportunity to come up and speak to you.

(Statement Attached)

THE COUNTY OF HOWARD

P. O. BOX 808

263-7132

BIG SPRING, TEXAS 79720



BILL TUNE  
COUNTY JUDGE

November 1, 1976

Honorable Thomas C. Reed  
Secretary of the Air Force  
Department of Defense Building  
Washington, D.C. 20330

Dear Mr. Reed:

Enclosed are statements of the projected loss of income to Howard County which would result from the closure of Webb Air Force Base.

We feel this is a conservative estimate of projected losses and since our services benefit all residents of Howard County we feel everyone would be affected by any curtailment brought about from loss of income to the county.

Because of the severe economic impact to our community and county we respectfully ask that you reconsider your decision to close Webb Air Force Base.

Yours very truly,

Bill Tune  
County Judge

BT/jso

B-124

HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS

The following is the projected loss of income for Howard County which would result from the closure of Webb Air Force Base. This is a conservative estimate and the area of Revenue Sharing is included on a most conservative basis since there is no formula to use in making this projection.

<u>REVENUES</u>	<u>Proposed Budget 1976-1977</u>	<u>Projected Loss</u>	<u>Reduced Budget</u>
Ad Valorem Taxes - current (This includes real and personal property, such as, mobil homes and business inventories)	\$ 976,968.00	\$ 97,696.00	
Ad Valorem Taxes - Delinquent	6,450.00	645.00	
Fines - County	12,000.00	1,200.00	
- Justices of the Peace	95,000.00	9,500.00	
Fees - Tax Collector-			
Certificates of Title	3,334.75	333.47	
Motor Vehicle Tax	46,489.88	4,648.98	
Motor Vehicle License Fees	23,875.83	2,387.58	
Fees of Tax Collections	57,593.21	5,759.30	
Fees - County Clerk	42,369.96	4,236.99	
Revenue Sharing	<u>220,000.00</u>	<u>22,000.00</u>	
TOTAL	\$1,484,643.83	\$148,407.32	\$1,336,236.51

At the end of 1975 we had \$92,419.87 delinquent taxes. If our collections drop on current taxes this amount would increase considerably. The major portion of our operating expenses comes from the collection of taxes.

We do not feel our services could be cut in any way, but if our revenue drops it would necessitate a cut in the number of employees needed to render these services. Our present budget for welfare is \$66,947.00, these funds must come from tax collections. If unemployment rises the number of people receiving welfare assistance will increase.

The police protection provided by our sheriff's department also has a large budget, \$186,258. This will also remain stationery.

Our present budgeted expenditures for the 1976-1977 budget amount to \$1,958,252.42. This includes our bonued indebtedness which also comes from tax revenue.

With the above mentioned loss in revenue we are facing a deficit of approximately \$470,000.00 in our budget.

B-125



HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS

Tax rate, rate of assessment and tax levies for all taxing agencies in Howard County

<u>Name</u>	<u>Tax Rate</u>	<u>Rate of Assessment</u>	<u>Tax Levies</u>
Howard County	25% on \$100	\$ .95	\$1,009,140
Howard College	25% on \$100	.70	737,297
Big Spring Independent			
School District	75% on \$100	1.70	2,992,325
City of Big Spring	60% on \$100	1.60	1,108,724
City of Forsan	75% on \$100	.90	7,745
Forsan Independent			
School District	60% on \$100	1.65	996,006
City of Coahoma	40% on \$100	1.50	25,973
Coahoma Independent			
School District	60% on \$100	1.75	854,167
Howard County Water			
Control & Improvement			
District # 1	50% on \$100	.55	28,493

Percentage of taxes collected from various properties (Howard County Only)

Real property	32.80%
Personal property	6.65%
Oil, minerals, utilities, bank	
stock, railroads, etc.	60.55%

Welfare:

Before announcement of Webb Air Base closure calls for assistance averaged approximately 200 per month. Assistance being payment of rent, utilities and groceries. Shortly after the announcement calls almost doubled to approximately 400 per month. The largest portion of the requests now being received are for payment of rent.

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF STATEMENT BY MAYOR WADE CHOATE

Colonel Smith, we have formed in this community some three years back what we refer to as the Legislative Action Committee that is an arm of the Big Spring Century Club and I will begin and make an introduction to our comments that we wish to give to you for the record and then I will call on other members of sub-committees to give their reports and back-up materials.

The Legislative Action Committee of the Big Spring Century Club and concerned citizens have compiled data to respond to the information contained in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement prepared by the Air Training Command and the Department of the Air Force. It is our intent to prove to the Department of the Air Force, the Air Training Command, elected officials, and private citizens that the merits of Webb Air Force Base require additional consideration. We feel our reports will show you, as easily and as clearly as they have shown us, that the selection of Webb Air Force Base as a candidate for possible closure by the Air Force was made from facts that were incomplete, inaccurate, and out of date.

Those of us in Big Spring are trying to believe the Department of the Air Force as they continue to say that no final decision concerning Webb Air Force Base has been made. If this is true, and the Air Force is sincerely interested, as it claims, then we feel the Air Force cannot justify the closure of Webb Air Force Base. We base our opinions on the operational history and the socio-economical information that is presently available and which will be presented in part during these hearings.

We feel the Air Force has failed to make its case to close Webb Air Force Base. And the impact statement supports what some Air Force officials have privately admitted: That the decision to close Webb Air Force Base is a "toss up."

The Air Force has said that Secretary Reed will take all factors into consideration before making his final decision. Secretary Reed also made a similar commitment to me personally during my first trip to Washington after the March announcement.

If we are given our fair hearing, and all factors are weighed fairly, I feel that Webb Air Force Base will remain open. I base my opinion on the following information:

Savings to the Air Force: (1) Closure of bases other than Webb would generate more savings to the Air Force. For example, Columbus Air Force Base in Mississippi, which has a pilot capacity of 361, could save the Air Force \$27 million a year. While Webb Air Force Base has a pilot capacity of 413 and could save the Air Force only \$23 million a year. To look at this from the point of sound economics, it takes \$74,792.44, base overhead cost per

pilot, to produce a pilot at Columbus Air Force Base and \$55,690.07 to produce a pilot at Webb Air Force Base. This is derived from figures by dividing the pilot capacity of the two ATC bases into the cost of operation of each base annually (Table 1, EIS).

In addition, the Environmental Impact Statement prepared by the Air Force showed that more dollars would have to be spent at Columbus Air Force Base during the next five years on facilities than at Webb. So, closing Webb would not generate the savings that could be realized by closing another ATC base, such as Columbus. (Table H, Study 5B)

Two Runways: Another factor cited by the Air Force for including Webb as a candidate for possible closure was the fact that Webb has only two runways, while all other ATC bases--with the notable exception of Craig--have three runways.

I feel it is important to point out at this time that a third runway for Webb has been approved--or was approved--in the 1969 Military Construction Program and funding was authorized. (FY'69 MCP Item 111-116) The site investigation and design conference was held 22 April 1968 and a construction directive was issued on 1 November 1971. However, on 12 May 1969, the Air Training Command notified Webb Air Force Base officials by phone that the Air Force had sent a letter which stated, and I quote, "The Webb Parallel Runway (third runway) had been deleted from the FY-69 MCP, as not required to accomplish the approved training loads. Design and construction should be terminated in the best interest of the government." A letter, dated 29 April 1969, deleted the third runway from the FY-69 MCP and terminated all design and construction directives.

Concerned citizens, who made a special trip to Washington to ask the Air Force for the third runway, inquired as to why the additional runway had been deleted from the budget. At that time, they were told that Webb had such fine weather that it could train more pilots with two runways than most bases can with three. Therefore, a third runway was unnecessary. They also cited the fact that the third runway would cost \$2.3 million and would require approximately \$500,000 a year to maintain. Now I heard briefly this morning in discussions--I believe Colonel Hines mentioned that it cost \$37,000 a year to maintain a runway, but I think when you talk about every five years there has to be an overlay--you take that cost plus your cost for maintaining and it would work out somewhere around \$500,000 a year over a five year span.

The next time the third runway was mentioned was in the March 11th announcement by the Department of the Air Force which stated that Webb was a candidate for closure because of having only two runways. Citizens of Big Spring were shocked to see the Air Force reverse its earlier decision by citing two runways as a reason for closing Webb after the Air Force had previously stated that Webb did not need the additional runways and could save on annual maintenance by utilizing the two that currently existed.



The two runways versus three runways has not been a significant factor in student pilot production. Of the six bases being considered for possible closure, the Air Force has shown that only two other bases have a higher pilot capacity than Webb.

Even if we consider the theoretical computer model prepared by the Air Force, we still find that Webb Air Force Base operates in the upper middle with three other bases below it in total student capacity. Again proving that Webb can train as many pilots as bases with three runways, while saving the Air Force the annual maintenance costs of a third runway.

Now to the urban encroachment--another factor cited by the Air Force for closing Webb was urban encroachment, even though Air Force officials admitted in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement that there was no significant problem with urban encroachment at any of the ATC bases. However, it was stated in the Draft EIS that urban encroachment was "relatively significant" at Webb Air Force Base. Lieutenant Colonel Gadd, of ATC, said during an October 4th meeting in Big Spring that, and I quote, "Had I delt this briefing, it would not have said what it said about Webb in the area of encroachment. On these slides, these were prepared by the Air Staff and I was given these previously and they said give the briefing. Had I prepared these slides, I would not have said that because our report does not indicate that."

At that time it was requested that the term be changed to read "minimal," and I believe it was Lieutenant Colonel Nugent, also of ATC, said, "I understand that--I will see if I can address the possible deletion."

The request by local citizens to change the wording was based on the fact that the City of Big Spring and Webb Air Force Base have been in exactly the same position with each other since the base was opened as the Big Spring Bombardier School during World War II. There has been no construction in the approach path.

A non-standard pattern is being flown at Webb Air Force Base, as with most other ATC bases. The deviation from the standard approach pattern is not significant at Webb when compared to its counterparts in the command. Webb actually has the best fuel consumption per flying hour in the Air Training Command.

Webb Air Force Base has so little urban encroachment, in fact, that it is in one of the best positions of any ATC base should expansion be required. The base could easily be enlarged to either the South or to the West.

The question of urban encroachment at Webb has never been raised in a negative way prior to the announcement by the Air Force of the possible closure of Webb. Just the opposite has proven to be the case.



For example, Congress was told, in the preparation of the Department of the Air Force Military Construction Program for Fiscal Year 1974 (Page 361, Tuesday, May 29, 1973), that there was no encroachment at Webb. When an Air Force spokesman, Colonel Reed, was asked, "How do you rate Webb according to your criteria for UPT bases," as he testified on the 1974 Military Construction Program which included \$3.2 million in projects for Webb, Colonel Reed replied, and I quote, "Webb has an excellent location from the standpoint of no encroachment, good airspace, and is a base on which we project continued requirements."

Even the Draft Environmental Impact Statement's remarks on encroachment are inconsistent, ranging from almost none in some background study information to "relatively significant" at the conclusion. The statement notes that the town is growing on the opposite side from the base. Most of us in Big Spring feel the citing of urban encroachment by the Air Force as a reason for closing Webb is unfounded and unfair, to say the least. Many of our local builders and investors have been informed by Air Force officials that programs at Webb would not continue to grow if the local community was not able to provide the military with additional off-base accommodations. As a result, many of these investors and builders have put their necks out to help meet the demands listed by the Air Force. However, none of this new construction would constitute urban encroachment.

Substandard Facilities: Substandard facilities at Webb have also been cited as a reason for closing Webb. Yet, Webb ranks in the upper half of all ATC bases in the dollars invested in facilities, with Reese Air Force Base, Vance and Craig ranking below them. (Table H, Study 5B)

Along these same lines, the Air Force reviewed the number of dollars that must be spent at the six ATC bases during the next five years on facilities. Vance, because of its civilian contracts, ranked first as the base needing the least dollars spent on facilities, and Webb ranked second--leaving four bases below Webb as far as the investments that will have to be made during the next five years on these facilities.

I feel this is another area of the report that has presented a biased picture of Webb. In Background Study Number 5B, you made note of the fact that only Vance and Laughlin had more Code 3 facilities--requiring replacement--than Webb. Yet, you failed to mention that Craig, Laughlin and Vance have fewer Code 1 facilities--adequate--than Webb. And you also failed to note that Webb also has fewer Code 2 facilities--requiring upgrade or modification--than Reese, Vance or Columbus. If you are going to compare bases in your report, I feel you should compare the bases on all three categories and not on Code 3 alone.

I feel it is ironic that the Air Force announcement came at a time when the federal government had finished spending almost \$6 million at Webb, is in the process of completing a new \$2.9 million bachelor airman's quarters, and had another \$3.9 million worth of construction on the drawing boards. The federal government was still letting contracts for construction only days before the announcement was made.

To put it another way, the Air Force has just invested millions in construction at Webb, making it the second most adequate base in terms of needed construction, only to turn around and consider the base for possible closure. I don't see the economics behind this decision and feel the Air Force has again made an error in their consideration of relevant data.

We have also been told that building floor space in square feet is a factor that the Air Force takes into account in their study of ATC bases and that Webb was the second lowest in the number of square feet space, with only Vance being lower than Webb. Yet, I fail to fully comprehend what the relationship of existing footage had to do with proven pilot production history and base capabilities. The Air Force has already said that the base needs less repairs on existing facilities than four other ATC bases, and that Webb has a higher percentage of adequate facilities than most other command bases.

Now on the economic losses--our interest in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, and the losses throughout our community that could result from Webb's closure had intensified as we have found that the catastrophic figures presented by the Air Force in their statement are even lower than the actual losses that would occur.

The closure of the base would have an adverse economic impact on such major areas as population, unemployment, housing, school enrollment, loss in revenue sources, and numerous other areas.

Even the Air Force admits that 7,700 people would move, Big Spring would lose 14% of its retail sales, and at least 1,307 homes would be vacated.

In addition, 3,100 jobs would be directly affected by the base closure with an annual payroll loss in excess of \$34 million, and these figures do not even take into account the severe secondary job losses.

Unemployment would be caused by secondary job losses of approximately 1,065, plus about 252 federal civilian employees would not be placed in other jobs. And our figures show that the statistics prepared by the Air Force are conservative.

I feel the Air Force has forgotten that we're talking about more than just numbers. We're talking about people. People who will suffer needless hardships and losses because of the Air Force's proposed action on Webb. And this becomes even more inconceivable when you consider the fact that Webb has provided the United States with more pilots at less cost than any other base in the nation. With this type of history of past performance, it's very hard to justify imposing these drastic hardships without any foundation for the decision.

We have been informed that the reason for changing Webb's mission to completely SATP training was to "level the load" between ATC bases. Webb was training more than its share of students, we were told, and the Command was only trying to even things up.

If that was the case, the Command has failed miserably in its goal. The gaps between the number of student pilots assigned to the various ATC bases and the number of flying hours being performed at each have not been leveled in any sense of the word.

The Air Force has said that flying hours were the only really valid basis for comparison between bases since programs varied for pilots with SATP flying more hours and UPT flying less.

But again, this doesn't hold up. The programmed flying hours for September show Webb to be near the bottom of the list. Webb dropped from 6,500 in March, the highest in the Command, to 4,800 in September, the second lowest in the Command. Craig, with its low capacity, remained on or near the bottom.

In spite of these facts, the Air Force has continued to say that this change-over at Webb has evened the load. If this were true, it is hard to understand why Laughlin Air Force Base, which already had a UPT mission of some size, has grown from 48 SATP student pilots in March to 118 in September. Meanwhile, Webb has dropped from 174 SATP pilots in March down to only 137 in September, and Webb is supposed to have the primary mission of training SATP pilots.

I think Secretary Reed needs to examine what is happening to the mission at Webb. He needs to get personally involved to make sure that his promise to those of us in Big Spring is kept.

The law requires that no draw down of a base can occur until the final decision is made, which is expected early next year as far as Webb is concerned.

However, we continue to receive discouraging signs that have been coming up lately which indicate that Webb has indeed been drawn down over the past six months. So much so, that if the reduction should continue at its current pace for another six months, the base would be operating at a greatly reduced level.

It has been found that Webb has lost 450 persons, 15% of its March strength, and the Air Force is unable to account for all of these losses. In addition, there are 37 fewer SATP pilots at Webb.

We have been told that the reduction resulted from the change in mission and the redistribution of the training load. We have also been informed that Lieutenant General John Roberts, Commander of ATC, decided to change Webb's mission around Christmas 1975, at least one month after the decision by the Air Training Command to list Webb and Craig at the top



of the list in their priority of candidates for closure. The official announcement of the mission change was released at Webb during the first part of January, 1976.

We now know that Webb fell from near the top of the prioritized ATC bases to next to the bottom in early 1975. This happened when the flight simulator, which was approved for the FY'77 MCP budget on 17 January 1975, was cancelled without any explanation. Again indicating to us that Webb had already been considered as a possible candidate for closure as far back as early 1975.

We know that the decision to make Webb a candidate for closure was made in November 1975 when the Air Training Command prioritized their bases in the order of closure candidates.

This statement can be reinforced by the fact that the simulator, which was just mentioned, disappeared from the Air Force budget. The FY'77 MCP "included only Chapel Annex--Flight Simulator was not included." This fact was reported in a letter to the Air Training Command on 16 May 1975.

The question arises--is the final decision on Webb still not made, as the Air Force contends, and as the law requires? Or is the Air Force simply going through the motions required by law before carrying out a decision obviously made one and one-half years ago?

Senator John Stennis of Mississippi has told his constituents that he had "been assured by the Air Force that there is no plan whatsoever to close Columbus AFB. I do not expect any such plan to develop involving Columbus AFB." This was in spite of the fact that the impact statement figures clearly showed Columbus as the base that should be closed over Webb. But Senator Stennis put their fears to rest by saying that it was only a matter of fulfilling the law.

The Commercial Dispatch, of Columbus, Mississippi, on September 16, 1976, went on to quote Washington observers as saying flatly, "Nothing is going to happen to Columbus. Period."

Is the decision being made on the merits of the bases? Or is it being made because Senator Stennis chairs the Armed Services Committee in the Senate?

The Air Force has continually failed to make its case as to why Webb should be closed. The only alternative we can see at this time is to request that the Air Force close only one ATC base at this time. And we do not feel that base should be Webb.

We believe, from ATC and Air Force figures, that there will be an upswing of ATC pilot requirements in the years ahead--as Senator Tower has mentioned. If this is the case, as has been projected, the Air Force



would barely get the two bases closed before they would have to reopen one.

Webb has continued to show up well on the Air Force's charts. I don't see how they could justify the selection of Webb as a candidate for closure based on its past training record.

Lieutenant Colonel Gadd, of the Air Training Command, said the decision to consider the closure of Webb and Craig was made because, in effect, the Air Force had a capability of training more pilots than it currently needs. This may be true at the present time. However, in the past, the Air Force tends to draw down in peace time only to reopen during a crisis. And the cost of reopening bases has been considerable. I feel we should stop and consider the costs of reactivating an ATC base, since this could easily become the case if the Air Force's and the Air Training Command's projections continue to be in error as they have in recent years. Saying this another way, the Air Force may need to reopen a base due to their errors in predictions alone, without even becoming involved in a crisis, and I feel we need to address this fact.

For example, the Air Force projected 3,154 student pilots for FY'78 in FY'74. We now see that only 1,548 student pilots are projected for FY'78. In FY'74, the ATC projected 300 SATP students for FY'75 and FY'76. We now see this to be 637--which does not include the German students at Sheppard. If the Air Force cannot make any better projections than this in such a relatively short period, then how can they accurately make a drastic decision such as closing two ATC bases with this past history of vast projection errors? These inaccuracies in projections become even more crucial to the student pilot training mission when you consider the fact that the five remaining ATC bases, that are being considered, would have to operate at 92% of the ATC projected capacity during the years ahead. Again, this assumes their projections are 100% accurate and that there will not be any more demands on student pilot training than already predicted.

We also need to examine the capacity of the ATC bases that would remain if both Webb and Craig are closed. The current capacity of ATC bases is 2,760 pilots graduated per year. The Air Force has told us that the demand for pilots was going to fall to a low of 1,548 in 1978. Obviously, the ATC has a higher training capacity than needed. This is why the Air Force suggested the closure of two ATC bases, which would reduce the pilot training capacity at the remaining bases by 704 to 2,056 pilots per year. What the Air Force hasn't said before, though, was that the demand for pilots in 1981 will be 2,246 and the same in 1982.

If all the simulators are in place by 1981, the remaining five ATC bases will have a capacity of about 2,400 pilots per year. This means that the bases would have to operate at 94% of their capacity at all times.

*B-134*

In these dangerous times for our nation, I think this margin is too close to their projected capacity. Not much would have to happen in this world in terms of crisis to put our need for pilots greater than our theoretical capacity.

Considering the new sale of aircraft to various segments of the world, we feel that in 1981, the Air Force will be asking for another Air Training Command base. As opposed to this additional cost to our taxpayers, we would like to ask the Department of the Air Force to seriously consider their own projections, their own capacities, and consider the advantages of closing only one Air Training Command base at this time.

With all of this confusion of facts by the Air Force as to what is important and why Webb was even selected for possible closure, the Big Spring delegation was told that weather was certainly significant. Quoting from Page 6, Background Study 5A, the Air Force says, "One of the most important factors in determining the operational utility of a UPT base is its historical weather experience. A base with generally good weather for conducting UPT operations is capable of higher production than a base where flying training must be suspended frequently because of inclement weather. With the advent of simulated instrument training, weather will have an even greater impact on the flying portion of UPT because proportionately more missions will require good weather."

Of the six UPT bases being considered, Webb and Laughlin are in the best shape with only 22% of their sorties being cancelled due to weather. The average for the six bases being considered is 25%, placing Webb below the average in the percentage of sorties cancelled due to weather.

Webb also represents the third highest investment by the Air Force, would constitute the second lowest construction cost avoidance, and has the second lowest recurring annual cost avoidance.

A twelve man ATC Standardization-Evaluation team, headed by Colonel Wilbur L. Mehaffey, conducted a formal evaluation earlier this year, primarily of the Wing's flying operations. They reported that Webb has no substantive problems, despite the diversity of our mission, and went on to indicate this was the only wing inspected this year with no marginal areas.

The question still remains--why was Webb every considered for closure with its proven record of efficiency, pilot production, and cost avoidance?

We have been told by ATC representatives that mission flexibility was the reason Columbus was kept off the list. But we have been advised by informed sources that Webb also has numerous mission capabilities that have not even been considered by the Air Force. At the time of the October meeting with ATC representatives, we asked them to review our capabilities and include them in the final report.

I think we should also look at Columbus' mission flexibility. Columbus was scheduled to be closed six years ago but was saved by politicians who forced the uneconomical base into the Air Training Command. Now Columbus has become permanent, even though it does not fit into an ATC mission and the U.S. doesn't need another stand-by heavy bomber base; the Air Force has already closed--proposed to close Kincheloe in Michigan and drawn down Loring in Maine, and is still overbased for B-52's. I feel the mission flexibility of Columbus has been overrated and the mission flexibility at Webb has not been taken into consideration.

We feel the decision to close two ATC bases at this time is not practical. Today the nation's defense status is as important as it ever was. The threat from those who would destroy us is as great as ever. And I do not feel the Department of the Air Force or the Air Training Command can adequately gauge future world situations to the extent they are contemplating with the possible closure of two ATC bases. Thank you, Sir.

(Statement Attached)

MAYOR WADE CHOATE'S STATEMENT  
AT THE PUBLIC HEARING ON WEBB AFB  
NOVEMBER 4, 1976  
BIG SPRING HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM  
BIG SPRING, TEXAS 79720



## MAYOR WADE CHOATE'S STATEMENT

### INTRODUCTION

THE LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE OF THE BIG SPRING CENTURY CLUB AND CONCERNED CITIZENS HAVE COMPILED DATA TO RESPOND TO THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT PREPARED BY THE AIR TRAINING COMMAND AND THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE. IT IS OUR INTENT TO PROVE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE, THE AIR TRAINING COMMAND, ELECTED OFFICIALS, AND PRIVATE CITIZENS THAT THE MERITS OF WEBB AFB REQUIRE ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION. WE FEEL OUR REPORTS WILL SHOW YOU, AS EASILY AND AS CLEARLY AS THEY HAVE SHOWN US, THAT THE SELECTION OF WEBB AFB AS A CANDIDATE FOR POSSIBLE CLOSURE BY THE AIR FORCE WAS MADE FROM FACTS THAT WERE INCOMPLETE, INACCURATE, AND OUT OF DATE.

THOSE OF US IN BIG SPRING ARE TRYING TO BELIEVE THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE AS THEY CONTINUE TO SAY THAT NO FINAL DECISION CONCERNING WEBB AFB HAS BEEN MADE. IF THIS IS TRUE, AND THE AIR FORCE IS SINCERELY INTERESTED, AS IT CLAIMS, THEN WE FEEL THE AIR FORCE CANNOT JUSTIFY THE CLOSURE OF WEBB AFB. WE BASE OUR OPINIONS ON THE OPERATIONAL HISTORY AND THE SOCIO-ECONOMICAL INFORMATION THAT IS PRESENTLY AVAILABLE AND WHICH WILL BE PRESENTED IN PART DURING THESE HEARINGS.

WE KNOW THE AIR FORCE HAS FAILED TO MAKE ITS CASE TO CLOSE WEBB AFB. AND THE IMPACT STATEMENT SUPPORTS WHAT SOME AIR FORCE OFFICIALS HAVE PRIVATELY ADMITTED: THAT THE DECISION TO CLOSE WEBB AFB IS A "TOSS UP."

THE AIR FORCE HAS SAID THAT SECRETARY REED WILL TAKE ALL FACTORS INTO CONSIDERATION BEFORE MAKING HIS FINAL DECISION.

SECRETARY REED ALSO MADE A SIMILAR COMMITMENT TO ME PERSONALLY DURING MY FIRST TRIP TO WASHINGTON AFTER THE MARCH ANNOUNCEMENT.

IF WE ARE GIVEN OUR FAIR HEARING, AND ALL FACTORS ARE WEIGHED FAIRLY, I FEEL THAT WEBB AFB WILL REMAIN OPEN. I BASE MY OPINION ON THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

SAVINGS TO THE AIR FORCE

1.) CLOSURE OF BASES OTHER THAN WEBB WOULD GENERATE MORE SAVINGS TO THE AIR FORCE. FOR EXAMPLE, COLUMBUS AFB IN MISSISSIPPI, WHICH HAS A PILOT CAPACITY OF ONLY 361, COULD SAVE THE AIR FORCE \$27 MILLION A YEAR. WHILE WEBB AFB HAS A PILOT CAPACITY OF 413 AND COULD SAVE THE AIR FORCE ONLY \$23 MILLION A YEAR. TO LOOK AT THIS FROM THE POINT OF SOUND ECONOMICS, IT TAKES \$74,792.44\* (BASE OVERHEAD COST PER PILOT) TO PRODUCE A PILOT AT COLUMBUS AFB AND ONLY \$55,690.07\* TO PRODUCE A PILOT AT WEBB AFB. IN OTHER WORDS, THE AIR FORCE WOULD SAVE \$19,102.17 ON BASE OVERHEAD COST FOR EVERY PILOT THEY TRAINED IF THEY KEEP WEBB AFB OPEN AND CLOSED COLUMBUS. (TABLE 1, EIS)

IN ADDITION, THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT PREPARED BY THE AIR FORCE SHOWED THAT MORE DOLLARS WOULD HAVE TO BE SPENT AT COLUMBUS AFB DURING THE NEXT FIVE YEARS ON FACILITIES THAN AT WEBB. SO, CLOSING WEBB AFB WOULD NOT GENERATE THE SAVINGS THAT COULD BE REALIZED BY CLOSING ANOTHER ATC BASE, SUCH AS COLUMBUS AFB. (TABLE H, STUDY 5B)

\* FIGURES ARRIVED AT BY DIVIDING THE PILOT CAPACITY OF THE TWO ATC BASES INTO THE COST TO OPERATE EACH BASE ANNUALLY.

TWO RUNWAYS

2.) ANOTHER FACTOR CITED BY THE AIR FORCE FOR INCLUDING WEBB AFB AS A CANDIDATE FOR POSSIBLE CLOSURE WAS THE FACT THAT WEBB AFB HAS ONLY TWO RUNWAYS, WHILE ALL OTHER ATC BASES - WITH THE NOTABLE EXCEPTION OF CRAIG AFB - HAVE THREE RUNWAYS.

I FEEL IT IS IMPORTANT TO POINT OUT AT THIS TIME THAT A THIRD RUNWAY FOR WEBB HAD BEEN APPROVED IN THE 1969 MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM AND FUNDING WAS AUTHORIZED. (FY'69 MCP ITEM 111-116) THE SITE INVESTIGATION AND DESIGN CONFERENCE WAS HELD 22 APRIL 1968 AND A CONSTRUCTION DIRECTIVE WAS ISSUED ON 1 NOVEMBER 1971. HOWEVER, ON 12 MAY 1969, THE AIR TRAINING COMMAND NOTIFIED WEBB AFB OFFICIALS BY PHONE THAT THE AIR FORCE HAD SENT A LETTER WHICH STATED:

"THE WEBB PARALLEL RUNWAY (3RD RW) HAD BEEN DELETED FROM THE FY-69 MCP, AS NOT REQUIRED TO ACCOMPLISH THE APPROVED TRAINING LOADS. DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION SHOULD BE TERMINATED IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE GOVERNMENT."

A LETTER DATED 29 APRIL 1969 DELETED THE THIRD RUNWAY FROM THE FY-69 MCP AND TERMINATED ALL DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION DIRECTIVES.

CONCERNED CITIZENS, WHO HAD MADE A SPECIAL TRIP TO WASHINGTON TO ASK THE AIR FORCE FOR THE THIRD RUNWAY, INQUIRED AS TO WHY THE ADDITIONAL RUNWAY HAD BEEN DELETED FROM THE BUDGET. AT THAT TIME, THEY WERE TOLD THAT WEBB HAD SUCH FINE WEATHER THAT IT COULD TRAIN MORE PILOTS WITH TWO RUNWAYS THAN MOST BASES CAN WITH THREE. THEREFORE, A THIRD RUNWAY WAS UNNECESSARY. THEY ALSO CITED THE FACT THAT THE THIRD RUNWAY WOULD COST \$2.3 MILLION AND WOULD REQUIRE APPROXIMATELY \$500,000 A YEAR TO MAINTAIN.



THE NEXT TIME THE THIRD RUNWAY WAS MENTIONED WAS IN THE MARCH 11TH ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE WHICH STATED THAT WEBB WAS A CANDIDATE FOR CLOSURE BECAUSE OF HAVING ONLY TWO RUNWAYS. CITIZENS OF BIG SPRING WERE SHOCKED TO SEE THE AIR FORCE REVERSE IT'S EARLIER DECISION BY CITING TWO RUNWAYS AS A REASON FOR CLOSING WEBB AFTER THE AIR FORCE HAD PREVIOUSLY STATED THAT WEBB DID NOT NEED THE ADDITIONAL RUNWAYS AND COULD SAVE ON ANNUAL MAINTENANCE BY UTILIZING THE TWO THAT CURRENTLY EXISTED.

THE TWO RUNWAYS VERSUS THREE RUNWAYS HAS NOT BEEN A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN STUDENT PILOT PRODUCTION. OF THE SIX BASES BEING CONSIDERED FOR POSSIBLE CLOSURE, THE AIR FORCE HAS SHOWN THAT ONLY TWO OTHER BASES HAVE A HIGHER PILOT CAPACITY THAN WEBB.

EVEN IF WE CONSIDER THE THEORETICAL COMPUTER MODEL PREPARED BY THE AIR FORCE, WE STILL FIND THAT WEBB AFB OPERATES IN THE UPPER MIDDLE WITH THREE OTHER BASES BELOW IT IN TOTAL STUDENT CAPACITY. AGAIN PROVING THAT WEBB CAN TRAIN AS MANY PILOTS AS BASES WITH THREE RUNWAYS, WHILE SAVING THE AIR FORCE THE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE COSTS OF A THIRD RUNWAY.

#### URBAN ENCROACHMENT

3.) ANOTHER FACTOR CITED BY THE AIR FORCE FOR CLOSING WEBB AFB WAS URBAN ENCROACHMENT; EVEN THOUGH AIR FORCE OFFICIALS ADMITTED IN THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT THAT THERE WAS NO SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM WITH URBAN ENCROACHMENT AT ANY OF THE ATC BASES.

HOWEVER, IT WAS STATED IN THE DRAFT EIS THAT URBAN ENCROACHMENT WAS "RELATIVELY SIGNIFICANT" AT WEBB AFB. LT. COL. GADD, OF ATC, SAID DURING AN OCTOBER 4TH MEETING IN BIG SPRING, THAT "HAD I DELT THIS BRIEFING, IT WOULD ~~NOT~~ HAVE SAID WHAT IS SAID ABOUT WEBB



IN THE AREA OF ENCROACHMENT. ON THESE SLIDES, THESE WERE PREPARED BY THE AIR STAFF AND I WAS GIVEN THESE PREVIOUSLY AND THEY SAID GIVE THE BRIEFING. HAD I PREPARED THESE SLIDES, I WOULD NOT HAVE SAID THAT BECAUSE OUR REPORT DOES NOT INDICATE THAT."

AT THAT TIME, IT WAS REQUESTED THAT THE TERM BE CHANGED TO READ "MINIMAL", AND LT. COL. NUGENT, ALSO OF ATC, SAID "I UNDERSTAND THAT, I WILL SEE IF I CAN ADDRESS THE POSSIBLE DELETION."

THE REQUEST BY LOCAL CITIZENS TO CHANGE THE WORDING WAS BASED ON THE FACT THAT THE CITY OF BIG SPRING AND WEBB AFB HAVE BEEN IN EXACTLY THE SAME POSITION WITH EACH OTHER SINCE THE BASE WAS OPENED AS THE BIG SPRING BOMBARDIER SCHOOL DURING WORLD WAR II. THERE HAS BEEN NO CONSTRUCTION IN THE APPROACH PATH.

A NON-STANDARD PATTERN IS BEING FLOWN AT WEBB AFB, AS WITH MOST OTHER ATC BASES. THE DEVIATION FROM THE STANDARD APPROACH PATTERN IS NOT SIGNIFICANT AT WEBB WHEN COMPARED TO ITS COUNTERPARTS IN THE COMMAND. WEBB ACTUALLY HAS THE BEST FUEL CONSUMPTION PER FLYING HOUR IN THE AIR TRAINING COMMAND.

WEBB AFB HAS SO LITTLE URBAN ENCROACHMENT, IN FACT, THAT IT IS IN ONE OF THE BEST POSITIONS OF ANY ATC BASE SHOULD EXPANSION BE REQUIRED. THE BASE COULD EASILY BE ENLARGED TO EITHER THE SOUTH OR THE WEST.

THE QUESTION OF URBAN ENCROACHMENT AT WEBB AFB HAS NEVER BEEN RAISED IN A NEGATIVE WAY PRIOR TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE AIR FORCE OF THE POSSIBLE CLOSURE OF WEBB. JUST THE OPPOSITE HAS PROVEN TO BE THE CASE.

FOR EXAMPLE, CONGRESS WAS TOLD, IN THE PREPARATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 1974

(PAGE 361, TUESDAY, MAY 29, 1973), THAT THERE WAS NO ENCROACHMENT AT WEBB AFB. WHEN AN AIR FORCE SPOKESMAN (COLONEL REED) WAS ASKED "HOW DO YOU RATE WEBB ACCORDING TO YOUR CRITERIA FOR UPT BASES," AS HE TESTIFIED ON THE 1974 MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM WHICH INCLUDED \$3.2 MILLION IN PROJECTS FOR WEBB, COLONEL REED REPLIED:

"WEBB HAS AN EXCELLENT LOCATION FROM THE STANDPOINT OF NO ENCROACHMENT, GOOD AIRSPACE, AND IS A BASE ON WHICH WE PROJECT CONTINUED REQUIREMENTS."

EVEN THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT'S REMARKS ON ENCROACHMENT ARE INCONSISTENT, RANGING FROM ALMOST NONE IN SOME BACKGROUND STUDY INFORMATION TO "RELATIVELY SIGNIFICANT" AT THE CONCLUSION. THE STATEMENT NOTES THAT THE TOWN IS GROWING ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE FROM THE BASE.

MOST OF US IN BIG SPRING FEEL THE CITING OF URBAN ENCROACHMENT BY THE AIR FORCE AS A REASON FOR CLOSING WEBB AFB IS UNFOUNDED AND AND UNFAIR, TO SAY THE LEAST. MANY OF OUR LOCAL BUILDERS AND INVESTORS HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY AIR FORCE OFFICIALS THAT PROGRAMS AT WEBB AFB WOULD NOT CONTINUE TO GROW IF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY WAS NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE THE MILITARY WITH ADDITIONAL OFF-BASE ACCOMMODATIONS. AS A RESULT, MANY OF THESE INVESTORS AND BUILDERS HAVE PUT THEIR NECKS OUT TO HELP MEET THE DEMANDS LISTED BY THE AIR FORCE. HOWEVER, NONE OF THIS NEW CONSTRUCTION WOULD CONSTITUTE URBAN ENCROACHMENT.

#### SUBSTANDARD FACILITIES

4.) SUBSTANDARD FACILITIES AT WEBB HAVE ALSO BEEN CITED AS A REASON FOR CLOSING WEBB. YET, WEBB RANKS IN THE UPPER HALF OF ALL ATC BASES IN THE DOLLARS INVESTED IN FACILITIES, WITH REESE AFB, VANCE AFB, AND CRAIG AFB RANKING BELOW THEM. (TABLE H, STUDY 5B)

ALONG THESE SAME LINES, THE AIR FORCE REVIEWED THE NUMBER OF DOLLARS THAT MUST BE SPENT AT THE SIX ATC BASES DURING THE NEXT FIVE YEARS ON FACILITIES. VANCE AFB, BECAUSE OF ITS CIVILIAN CONTRACTS, RANKED FIRST AS THE BASE NEEDING THE LEAST DOLLARS SPENT ON FACILITIES, AND WEBB AFB RANKED SECOND...LEAVING FOUR BASES BELOW WEBB AFB AS FAR AS THE INVESTMENTS THAT WILL HAVE TO BE MADE DURING THE NEXT FIVE YEARS ON THESE FACILITIES.

I FEEL THIS IS ANOTHER AREA OF THE REPORT THAT HAS PRESENTED A BIASED PICTURE OF WEBB AFB. IN BACKGROUND STUDY NUMBER 5B, YOU MADE NOTE OF THE FACT THAT ONLY VANCE AFB AND LAUGHLIN AFB HAD MORE CODE 3 FACILITIES (REQUIRING REPLACEMENT) THAN WEBB. YET, YOU FAILED TO MENTION THAT CRAIG AFB, LAUGHLIN AFB, AND VANCE AFB HAVE FEWER CODE 1 FACILITIES (ADEQUATE) THAN WEBB AFB. AND YOU ALSO FAILED TO NOTE THAT WEBB ALSO HAS FEWER CODE 2 FACILITIES (REQUIRING UPGRADE OR MODIFICATION) THAN REESE AFB, VANCE AFB, OR COLUMBUS AFB. IF YOU ARE GOING TO COMPARE BASES IN YOUR REPORT, I FEEL YOU SHOULD COMPARE THE BASES ON ALL THREE CATEGORIES AND NOT ON CODE 3 ALONE.

I FEEL IT IS IRONIC THAT THE AIR FORCE ANNOUNCEMENT CAME AT A TIME WHEN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD FINISHED SPENDING ALMOST \$6 MILLION AT WEBB, IS IN THE PROCESS OF COMPLETING A NEW \$2.9 MILLION BACHELOR AIRMAN'S QUARTERS, AND HAD ANOTHER \$3.9 MILLION WORTH OF CONSTRUCTION ON THE DRAWING BOARDS. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WAS STILL LETTING CONTRACTS FOR CONSTRUCTION ONLY DAYS BEFORE THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE.

TO PUT IT ANOTHER WAY, THE AIR FORCE HAS JUST INVESTED MILLIONS IN CONSTRUCTION AT WEBB, MAKING IT THE SECOND MOST ADEQUATE BASE IN TERMS OF NEEDED CONSTRUCTION, ONLY TO TURN AROUND AND CONSIDER THE BASE FOR POSSIBLE CLOSURE. I DON'T SEE THE ECONOMICS BEHIND THIS



DECISION AND FEEL THE AIR FORCE HAS AGAIN MADE AN ERROR IN THEIR CONSIDERATION OF RELEVANT DATA.

WE HAVE ALSO BEEN TOLD THAT BUILDING FLOOR SPACE IN SQUARE FEET IS A FACTOR THAT THE AIR FORCE TAKES INTO ACCOUNT IN THEIR STUDY OF ATC BASES AND THAT WEBB WAS THE SECOND LOWEST IN THE NUMBER OF SQUARE FEET SPACE, WITH ONLY VANCE AFB BEING LOWER THAN WEBB. YET, I FAIL TO FULLY COMPREHEND WHAT THE RELATIONSHIP OF EXISTING FOOTAGE HAD TO DO WITH PROVEN PILOT PRODUCTION HISTORY AND BASE CAPABILITIES. THE AIR FORCE HAS ALREADY SAID THAT THE BASE NEEDS LESS REPAIRS ON EXISTING FACILITIES THAN FOUR OTHER ATC BASES, AND THAT WEBB HAS A HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF ADEQUATE FACILITIES THAN MOST OTHER COMMAND BASES.

#### SOCIO-ECONOMIC LOSSES

OUR INTEREST IN THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, AND THE LOSSES WITHOUT OUR COMMUNITY THAT COULD RESULT FROM WEBB AFB'S CLOSURE, HAD INTENSIFIED AS WE HAVE FOUND THAT THE CATASTROPHIC FIGURES PRESENTED BY THE AIR FORCE IN THEIR STATEMENT ARE EVEN LOWER THAN THE ACTUAL LOSSES THAT WOULD OCCUR.

THE CLOSURE OF THE BASE WOULD HAVE AN ADVERSE SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SUCH MAJOR AREAS AS POPULATION, UNEMPLOYMENT, HOUSING, SCHOOL ENROLLMENT, LOSS IN REVENUE SOURCES, AND NUMEROUS OTHER AREAS.

EVEN THE AIR FORCE ADMITS THAT 7,700 PEOPLE WOULD MOVE, BIG SPRING WOULD LOSE 14 PERCENT OF ITS RETAIL SALES, AND AT LEAST 1,307 HOMES WOULD BE VACATED.

IN ADDITION, 3,100 JOBS WOULD BE DIRECTLY EFFECTED BY THE BASE CLOSURE WITH AN ANNUAL PAYROLL LOSS IN EXCESS OF \$34 MILLION, AND



THESE FIGURES DO NOT EVEN TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE SEVER SECONDARY JOB LOSES.

UNEMPLOYMENT WOULD BE CAUSED BY SECONDARY JOB LOSES OF APPROXIMATELY 1,065, PLUS ABOUT 252 FEDERAL CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES WOULD NOT BE PLACED IN OTHER JOBS. AND OUR FIGURES SHOW THAT THE STATISTICS PREPARED BY THE AIR FORCE ARE CONSERVATIVE.

I FEEL THE AIR FORCE HAS FORGOTTEN THAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT MORE THAN JUST NUMBERS. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT PEOPLE. PEOPLE WHO WILL SUFFER NEEDLESS HARDSHIPS AND LOSES BECAUSE OF THE AIR FORCE'S PROPOSED ACTION ON WEBB. AND THIS BECOMES EVEN MORE INCONCEIVABLE WHEN YOU CONSIDER THE FACT THAT WEBB AFB HAS PROVIDED THE UNITED STATES WITH MORE PILOTS AT LESS COST THAN ANY OTHER BASE IN THE NATION. WITH THIS TYPE OF HISTORY OF PAST PERFORMANCE, IT'S VERY HARD TO JUSTIFY IMPOSING THESE DRASTIC HARDSHIPS WITHOUT ANY FOUNDATION FOR THE DECISION.

#### CHANGE OF MISSION TO SATP

WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THE REASON FOR CHANGING WEBB'S MISSION TO COMPLETELY SATP TRAINING WAS TO "LEVEL THE LOAD" BETWEEN ATC BASES. WEBB WAS TRAINING MORE THAN ITS SHARE OF STUDENTS, WE WERE TOLD, AND THE COMMAND WAS ONLY TRYING TO EVEN THINGS UP.

IF THAT WAS THE CASE, THE COMMAND HAS FAILED MISERABLY IN ITS GOAL. THE GAPS BETWEEN THE NUMBER OF STUDENT PILOTS ASSIGNED TO THE VARIOUS ATC BASES AND THE NUMBER OF FLYING HOURS BEING PERFORMED AT EACH HAVE NOT BEEN LEVELED IN ANY SENSE OF THE WORD.

THE AIR FORCE HAS SAID THAT FLYING HOURS WERE THE ONLY REALLY VALID BASIS FOR COMPARISON BETWEEN BASES SINCE PROGRAMS VARIED FOR PILOTS WITH SATP FLYING MORE HOURS AND UPT FLYING LESS.

BUT AGAIN, THIS DOESN'T HOLD UP. THE PROGRAMMED FLYING HOURS FOR SEPTEMBER SHOW WEBB TO BE NEAR THE BOTTOM OF THE LIST. WEBB DROPPED FROM 6,500 IN MARCH, THE HIGHEST IN THE COMMAND, TO 4,800 IN SEPTEMBER, THE SECOND LOWEST IN THE COMMAND. CRAIG, WITH ITS LOW CAPACITY, REMAINED ON OR NEAR THE BOTTOM.

IN SPITE OF THESE FACTS, THE AIR FORCE HAS CONTINUED TO SAY THAT THIS CHANGE-OVER AT WEBB HAS EVENED THE LOAD. IF THIS WERE TRUE, IT IS HARD TO UNDERSTAND WHY LAUGHLIN AFB, WHICH ALREADY HAD A UPT MISSION OF SOME SIZE, HAS GROWN FROM 48 SATP STUDENT PILOTS IN MARCH TO 118 IN SEPTEMBER. MEANWHILE, WEBB AFB HAS DROPPED FROM 174 SATP PILOTS IN MARCH DOWN TO ONLY 137 IN SEPTEMBER, AND WEBB IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE THE PRIMARY MISSION OF TRAINING SATP PILOTS.

I THINK SECRETARY REED NEEDS TO EXAMINE WHAT IS HAPPENING TO THE MISSION AT WEBB AFB. HE NEEDS TO GET PERSONALLY INVOLVED TO MAKE SURE THAT HIS PROMISE TO THOSE OF US IN BIG SPRING IS KEPT.

#### DRAW DOWN

THE LAW STATES THAT NO DRAW DOWN OF A BASE CAN OCCUR UNTIL THE FINAL DECISION IS MADE, WHICH IS EXPECTED EARLY NEXT YEAR AS FAR AS WEBB AFB IS CONCERNED.

HOWEVER, WE CONTINUE TO RECEIVE DISCOURAGING SIGNS THAT HAVE BEEN COMING UP LATELY WHICH INDICATE THAT WEBB AFB HAS INDEED BEEN DRAWN DOWN OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS. SO MUCH SO, THAT IF THE REDUCTION SHOULD CONTINUE AT ITS CURRENT PACE FOR ANOTHER SIX MONTHS, THE BASE WOULD BE OPERATING AT A GREATLY REDUCED LEVEL IF AT ALL.

IT HAS BEEN FOUND THAT WEBB AFB HAS LOST 450 PERSONS, 15 PERCENT OF ITS MARCH STRENGTH, AND THE AIR FORCE IS UNABLE TO ACCOUNT FOR ALL OF THESE LOSSES. IN ADDITION, THERE ARE 37 FEWER SATP PILOTS AT WEBB.

WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THE REDUCTION RESULTED FROM THE CHANGE IN MISSION AND THE REDISTRIBUTION OF THE TRAINING LOAD. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN INFORMED THAT LT. GEN. JOHN ROBERTS, COMMANDER OF THE ATC, DECIDED TO CHANGE WEBB'S MISSION AT CHRISTMAS 1975, AT LEAST ONE MONTH AFTER THE DECISION BY THE AIR TRAINING COMMAND TO LIST WEBB AFB AND CRAIG AFB AT THE TOP OF THE LIST IN THEIR PRIORITY OF CANDIDATES FOR CLOSURE. THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE MISSION CHANGE WAS RELEASED AT WEBB DURING THE FIRST PART OF JANUARY, 1976.

WE NOW KNOW THAT WEBB AFB FELL FROM NEAR THE TOP OF THE PRIORITIZED ATC BASES TO NEXT TO THE BOTTOM IN EARLY 1975. THIS HAPPENED WHEN THE FLIGHT SIMULATOR, WHICH WAS APPROVED FOR THE FY'77 MCP BUDGET ON 17 JANUARY 1975, WAS CANCELLED WITHOUT ANY EXPLANATION. AGAIN INDICATING TO US THAT WEBB AFB HAD ALREADY BEEN CONSIDERED AS A POSSIBLE CANDIDATE FOR CLOSURE AT FAR BACK AS EARLY 1975.

#### EARLIER DECISION TO CLOSE WEBB

WE KNOW THAT THE DECISION TO MAKE WEBB A CANDIDATE FOR CLOSURE WAS MADE IN NOVEMBER 1975, WHEN THE AIR TRAINING COMMAND PRIORITIZED THEIR BASES IN THE ORDER OF CLOSURE CANDIDATES.

THIS STATEMENT CAN BE REINFORMED BY THE FACT THAT THE SIMULATOR, WHICH WAS JUST MENTIONED, DISAPPEARED FROM THE AIR FORCE BUDGET. THE FY'77 MCP "INCLUDED ONLY CHAPEL ANNEX - FLIGHT SIMULATOR WAS



INCLUDED." THIS FACT WAS REPORTED IN A LETTER TO THE AIR TRAINING COMMAND ON 16 MAY 1975.

THE QUESTION ARISES, IS THE FINAL DECISION ON WEBB AFB STILL NOT MADE, AS THE AIR FORCE CONTENDS, AND AS THE LAW REQUIRES? OR IS THE AIR FORCE SIMPLY GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS REQUIRED BY LAW BEFORE CARRYING OUT A DECISION OBVIOUSLY MADE ONE AND ONE-HALF YEARS AGO?

SENATOR JOHN STENNIS OF MISSISSIPPI HAS TOLD HIS CONSTITUENTS THAT HE HAD "BEEN ASSURED BY THE AIR FORCE THAT THERE IS NO PLAN WHATSOEVER TO CLOSE COLUMBUS AFB. I DO NOT EXPECT ANY SUCH PLAN TO DEVELOP INVOLVING COLUMBUS AFB." THIS WAS IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT THE IMPACT STATEMENT FIGURES CLEARLY SHOWED COLUMBUS AS THE BASE THAT SHOULD BE CLOSED OVER WEBB.

BUT SENATOR STENNIS PUT THEIR FEARS TO REST BY SAYING THAT IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF FULFILLING THE LAW.

THE COMMERCIAL DISPATCH, OF COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI, ON SEPTEMBER 16, 1976, WENT ON TO QUOTE WASHINGTON OBSERVERS AS SAYING FLATLY: "NOTHING IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO COLUMBUS. PERIOD."

IS THE DECISION BEING MADE ON THE MERITS OF THE BASES? OR IS IT BEING MADE BECAUSE SENATOR STENNIS CHAIRS THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE IN THE SENATE?

#### CLOSE ONLY ONE BASE

THE AIR FORCE HAS CONTINUALLY FAILED TO MAKE ITS CASE AS TO WHY WEBB AFB SHOULD BE CLOSED. THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE WE CAN SEE AT THIS TIME IS TO REQUEST THAT THE AIR FORCE CLOSE ONLY ONE ATC BASE AT THIS TIME. AND WE DO NOT FEEL THAT BASE SHOULD BE WEBB AFB.

WE BELIEVE, FROM ATC AND AIR FORCE FIGURES, THAT THERE WILL BE



AN UPSWING OF ATC PILOT REQUIREMENTS IN THE YEARS AHEAD. IF THIS IS THE CASE, AS HAS BEEN PROJECTED, THE AIR FORCE WOULD BARELY GET THE TWO BASES CLOSED BEFORE THEY WOULD HAVE TO REOPEN ONE.

WEBB HAS CONTINUED TO SHOW UP WELL ON THE AIR FORCE'S CHARTS. I DON'T SEE HOW THEY COULD JUSTIFY THE SELECTION OF WEBB AFB AS A CANDIDATE FOR CLOSURE BASED ON ITS PAST TRAINING RECORD.

LT. COL. GADD OF THE AIR TRAINING COMMAND SAID THE DECISION TO CONSIDER THE CLOSURE OF WEBB AND CRAIG WAS MADE, BECAUSE, IN EFFECT, THE AIR FORCE HAD A CAPABILITY OF TRAINING MORE PILOTS THAN IT CURRENTLY NEEDS.

THIS MAY BE TRUE AT THE PRESENT TIME. HOWEVER, IN THE PAST, THE AIR FORCE TENDS TO DRAW DOWN IN PEACE TIME ONLY TO REOPEN DURING A CRISIS. AND THE COST OF REOPENING BASES HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE. I FEEL WE SHOULD STOP AND CONSIDER THE COSTS OF REACTIVATING AN ATc BASE, SINCE THIS COULD EASILY BECOME THE CASE IF THE AIR FORCE'S AND THE AIR TRAINING COMMAND'S PROJECTIONS CONTINUE TO BE IN ERROR AS THEY HAVE IN RECENT YEARS. SAYING THIS ANOTHER WAY, THE AIR FORCE MAY NEED TO REOPEN A BASE DUE TO THEIR ERRORS IN PREDICTIONS ALONE, WITHOUT EVEN BECOMING INVOLVED IN A CRISIS, AND I FEEL WE NEED TO ADDRESS THIS FACT.

FOR EXAMPLE, THE AIR FORCE PROJECTED 3,154 STUDENT PILOTS FOR FY'78 IN FY'74. WE NOW SEE THAT ONLY 1,548 STUDENT PILOTS ARE PROJECTED FOR FY'78. IN FY'74, THE ATC PROJECTED 300 SATP STUDENTS FOR FY'75 AND FY'76. WE NOW SEE THIS TO BE 637 - WHICH DOES NOT INCLUDE THE GERMAN STUDENTS AT SHEPPARD. IF THE AIR FORCE CANNOT MAKE ANY BETTER PROJECTIONS THAN THIS IN SUCH A RELATIVELY SHORT PERIOD, THEN HOW CAN THEY ACCURATELY MAKE A DRASTIC DECISION SUCH AS CLOSING TWO ATC BASES WITH THIS PAST HISTORY OF VAST PROJECTION ERRORS?

THESE INACCURACIES IN PROJECTIONS BECOME EVEN MORE CRUCIAL TO THE STUDENT PILOT TRAINING MISSION WHEN YOU CONSIDER THE FACT THAT THE FIVE REMAINING ATC BASES, THAT ARE BEING CONSIDERED, WOULD HAVE TO OPERATE AT 92% OF THE ATC PROJECTED CAPACITY DURING THE YEARS AHEAD. AGAIN, THIS ASSUMES THEIR PROJECTIONS ARE 100% ACCURATE AND THAT THERE WILL NOT BE ANY MORE DEMANDS ON STUDENT PILOT TRAINING THAN ALREADY PREDICTED.

WE ALSO NEED TO EXAMINE THE CAPACITY OF THE ATC BASES THAT WOULD REMAIN IF BOTH WEBB AND CRAIG ARE CLOSED. THE CURRENT CAPACITY OF ATC BASES IS 2,760 PILOTS GRADUATED PER YEAR. THE AIR FORCE HAS TOLD US THAT THE DEMAND FOR PILOTS WAS GOING TO FALL TO A LOW OF 1,548 IN 1978. OBVIOUSLY, THE ATC HAS A HIGHER TRAINING CAPACITY THEN NEEDED. THIS IS WHY THE AIR FORCE SUGGESTED THE CLOSURE OF TWO ATC BASES, WHICH WOULD REDUCE THE PILOT TRAINING CAPACITY AT THE REMAINING BASES BY 704 TO 2,056 PILOTS PER YEAR.

WHAT THE AIR FORCE HASN'T SAID BEFORE, THOUGH, WAS THAT THE DEMAND FOR PILOTS IN 1981 WILL BE 2,246 AND THE SAME IN 1982.

IF ALL THE SIMULATORS ARE IN PLACE BY 1981, THE REMAINING FIVE ATC BASES WILL HAVE A CAPACITY OF ABOUT 2,400 PILOTS PER YEAR. THIS MEANS THAT THE BASES WOULD HAVE TO OPERATE AT 94% OF THEIR CAPACITY AT ALL TIMES.

IN THESE DANGEROUS TIMES FOR OUR NATION, I THINK THIS MARGIN IS TOO CLOSE TO THEIR PROJECTED CAPACITY. NOT MUCH WOULD HAVE TO HAPPEN IN THIS WORLD IN TERMS OF CRISIS TO PUT OUR NEED FOR PILOTS GREATER THAN OUR THEORETICAL CAPACITY.

CONSIDERING THE NEW SALE OF AIRCRAFT TO VARIOUS SEGMENTS OF THE WORLD, WE FEEL THAT IN 1981, THE AIR FORCE WILL BE ASKING FOR

ANOTHER AIR TRAINING COMMAND BASE. AS OPPOSED TO THIS ADDITIONAL COST TO OUR TAXPAYERS, WE WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER THEIR OWN PROJECTIONS, THEIR OWN CAPACITIES, AND CONSIDER THE ADVANTAGES OF CLOSING ONLY ONE AIR TRAINING COMMAND BASE AT THIS TIME.

#### SUMMATION

WITH ALL OF THIS CONFUSION OF FACTS BY THE AIR FORCE AS TO WHAT IS IMPORTANT AND WHY WEBB WAS EVEN SELECTED FOR POSSIBLE CLOSURE, THE BIG SPRING DELEGATION WAS TOLD THAT WEATHER WAS CERTAINLY SIGNIFICANT. QUOTING FROM PAGE 6, BACKGROUND STUDY 5A, THE AIR FORCE SAYS:

"ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTORS IN DETERMINING THE OPERATIONAL UTILITY OF A UPT BASE IS ITS HISTORICAL WEATHER EXPERIENCE. A BASE WITH GENERALLY GOOD WEATHER FOR CONDUCTING UPT OPERATIONS IS CAPABLE OF HIGHER PRODUCTION THAN A BASE WHERE FLYING TRAINING MUST BE SUSPENDED FREQUENTLY BECAUSE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER. WITH THE ADVENT OF SIMULATED INSTRUMENT TRAINING, WEATHER WILL HAVE AN EVEN GREATER IMPACT ON THE FLYING PORTION OF UPT BECAUSE PROPORTIONATELY MORE MISSIONS WILL REQUIRE GOOD WEATHER."

OF THE SIX UPT BASES BEING CONSIDERED, WEBB AND LAUGHLIN ARE IN THE BEST SHAPE WITH ONLY 22% OF THEIR SORTIES BEING CANCELLED DUE TO WEATHER. THE AVERAGE FOR THE SIX BASES BEING CONSIDERED IS 25%, PLACING WEBB BELOW THE AVERAGE IN THE PERCENTAGE OF SORTIES CANCELLED DUE TO WEATHER.

WEBB AFB ALSO REPRESENTS THE THIRD HIGHEST INVESTMENT BY THE AIR FORCE, WOULD CONSTITUTE THE SECOND LOWEST CONSTRUCTION COST AVOIDANCE, AND HAS THE SECOND LOWEST RECURRING ANNUAL COST AVOIDANCE.



A 12-MAN ATC STANDARIZATION-EVALUATION TEAM, HEADED BY COL. WILBUR L. MEHAFFEY, CONDUCTED A FORMAL EVALUATION EARLIER THIS YEAR PRIMARILY OF THE WING'S FLYING OPERATIONS. THEY REPORTED THAT WEBB AFB HAS NO SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEMS, DESPITE THE DIVERSITY OF OUR MISSION, AND WENT ON TO INDICATE THIS WAS THE ONLY WING INSPECTED THIS YEAR WITH NO MARGINAL AREAS.

THE QUESTION STILL REMAINS, WHY WAS WEBB AFB EVER CONSIDERED FOR CLOSURE WITH ITS PROVEN RECORD OF EFFICIENCY, PILOT PRODUCTION, AND COST AVOIDANCE?

WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY ATC REPRESENTATIVES THAT MISSION FLEXIBILITY WAS THE REASON COLUMBUS WAS KEPT OFF THE LIST. BUT WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED BY INFORMED SOURCES THAT WEBB ALSO HAS NUMEROUS MISSION CAPABILITIES THAT HAVE NOT EVEN BEEN CONSIDERED BY THE AIR FORCE. AT THE TIME OF THE OCTOBER MEETING WITH ATC REPRESENTATIVES, WE ASKED THEM TO REVIEW OUR CAPABILITES AND INCLUDE THEM IN THE FINAL REPORT.

I THINK WE SHOULD ALSO LOOK AT COLUMBUS AFB'S MISSION FLEXIBILITY. COLUMBUS WAS SCHEDULED TO BE CLOSED SIX YEARS AGO BUT WAS SAVED BY POLITICIANS WHO FORCED THE UNECONOMICAL BASE INTO THE AIR TRAINING COMMAND. NOW, COLUMBUS HAS BECOME PERMANENT, EVEN THOUGH IT DOES NOT FIT INTO AN ATC MISSION AND THE U.S. DOESN'T NEED ANOTHER STAND-BY HEAVY BOMBER BASE; THE AIR FORCE HAS ALREADY CLOSED KINCHELOE AFB IN MICHIGAN AND DRAWN DOWN LORING AFB IN MAINE, AND IS STILL OVER BASED FOR B-52'S. I FEEL THE MISSION FLEXIBILITY OF COLUMBUS AFB HAS BEEN OVERRATED AND THE MISSION FLEXIBILITY AT WEBB AFB HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION.

WE FEEL THE DECISION TO CLOSE TWO ATC BASES AT THIS TIME IS NOT PRACTICAL. TODAY, THE NATION'S DEFENSE STATUS IS AS IMPORTANT AS



IT EVER WAS. THE THREAT FROM THOSE WHO WOULD DESTROY US IS AS GREAT AS EVER. AND I DO NOT FEEL THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE OR THE AIR TRAINING COMMAND CAN ADEQUATELY GAGE FUTURE WORLD SITUATIONS TO THE EXTENT THEY ARE CONTEMPLATING WITH THE POSSIBLE CLOSURE OF TWO ATC BASES.

Chamber of Commerce  
Big Spring, Texas

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, Capt. Elisha Mack Chapter at Big Spring, Texas, would lose three members due to base closing.

DAR has called on base speakers as we are a patriotic organization. It would be difficult to replace the fine spirit Webb Air Force Base has represented in this year of 1976 and other years. It is a shame that the principles our forefathers fought for are being ignored because of politics. Webb has continued to serve us and the community and we are proud of them.

Many organizations at Webb have volunteered services. Lt. Wilson's beautiful Flag talk was the highlight of our 200th anniversary celebration.

The base closing would severely limit our potential speakers. Also the loss of so many fine and dedicated young people; it seems that again Big Spring is killing off more limbs on an aging tree, to allow this to happen.

Our organization is based on service; regular attendance of volunteers at the V.A. hospital is mandatory.

At short notice, this is all I can determine. I for one came here 16 years ago with my husband and family and am now the only one remaining. Had thought to remain here to occupy the burial plot but plan on moving also, possibly losing property value to a great extent.

Dear Wade:

I'm sorry but the B. & P. W. Club has no members from Webb — an occasional visitor only. So, we have no contact with anyone there.

Edith Gay, Pres.  
B. & P. W. Club

#### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDY: Motels

In preparation of this summary, the various motels were called on. In reviewing and discussing the records and information available, we came to these conclusions.

1. A loss of 10 to 15% of normal cash flow.
2. A reduction of the labor force of a minimum of 10% or 20 persons and possibly as high as 15% or 26 persons.

We hope the figures don't run that high, but like any industry, the number of employees hired or layed off depends on the amount of business we do.



**A FAMILY INSTITUTION  
SIC CREDIT COMPANY**

**RONNIE REEVES  
Vice-President  
Branch Manager**

**October 22, 1976**

**Harry Nagle  
Chamber of Commerce  
Big Spring, TX 79720**

**Dear Mr. Nagle:**

Here are the figures that you requested in regards to the closing of Webb AFB as it relates to the Finance companies of Big Spring, TX. The initial loss would, of course, be the loss in number of accounts and total dollar amounts. These are \$275,000 in outstanding receivables and 300 accounts. This represents approximately 8% in loss of receivables to these firms. We, of course, have no idea what the indirect results may eventually come to. Hopefully, this will lend some to the input locally.

Sincerely,

**Ronnie Reeves  
Vice-President  
SIC Credit Co.**

**RR/ls**

**B-157**



WEBB IMPACT  
HOSPITALS

November 1, 1976

There are six hospitals in the City of Big Spring. A list of all of them can be found on page I-21 of the Environmental Impact Analysis.

With the loss of Webb Air Force Base, all hospitals would realize some loss of patients and revenue. However, the greatest loss and most severe impact would be the loss of professionally trained personnel to staff the hospitals.

Table I reveals the total number of employees by classification in four of the six hospitals. Additionally, Table I shows the number of employees that would be lost and the percent of loss in each classification.

Table II reveals the percent of loss by classification in each of the four participating hospitals.

The most critical loss is the Registered Nurse and Liscensed Vocational Nurses. All hospitals are required to maintain certain ratios of Registered and Liscensed Nurses to meet the Conditions of Participation in the Medicare and Medicaid programs. They are barely meeting those requirements at the present time and these losses could seriously impair their ability to meet the Conditions of Participation.

Because of extreme competition among the six hospitals for the same personnel from a very limited labor market, these will be very difficult positions to refill. It is virtually impossible to recruit from outside the area because most nurses are married women and go where their husband decide to locate. Additionally, it is very difficult to recruit young single nurses to small rural communities for social reasons.

It is very difficult for the hospitals to estimate the loss of patients and revenue which might result from the closing of Webb AFB. At the present time, the Malone-Hogan Hospital is taking care of a large percent of the military dependents with the largest percent being maternity care. This in addition to Civil Service employees who are employed at the base along with their dependents will account for approximately 10% of the Malone-Hogan Hospital total volume. This could mean a loss of revenue to the hospital of approximately \$500,000 per year.

The other hospitals indicated that military personnel and military dependents accounted for a very small percent of their business, but that the loss of base connected Civil Service personnel and dependents would have a definate affect. They were not able to give an estimate of loss revenues expected.

WEBB IMPACT

TABLE I

<u>CLASSIFICATION</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>LOSS</u>	<u>%</u>
Registered Nurses	73	17	23.3
LVN's	135	16	11.9
Other Nurses	295	14	4.7
Technicians:			
Registered X-Ray	9	1	11.0
Other X-Ray	10	1	10.0
Registered Lab	9	0	0
Other Lab	7	0	0
Registered Resp. Ther.	3	0	0
Other Resp. Ther.	7	1	14.3
Other Registered Techs	5	0	0
All other Employees	<u>633</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>5.0</u>
TOTAL	1186	83	6.9

WEBB IMPACT

TABLE II

CLASSIFICATION	MALONE- HOGAN	BIG SPRING STATE HOS.	COWPER	HALL- BENNETT
Registered Nurses	26.8%	10.0%	40.0%	28.0%
LVN's	13.9	2.6	25.0	11.0
Other Nurses	8.3	3.8	11.0	4.0
Technicians:				
Registered X-Ray	16.7	0	0	0
Other X-Ray	16.7	0	0	0
Registered Lab	0	0	0	0
Other Lab	0	0	0	0
Registered Resp. Ther.	0	0	0	0
Other Resp. Therapy	14.3	0	0	0
Other Registered Techs	0	0.	0	0
All Other Employees	8.9	3.1	25.0	10.0

K H E M



1270 KC

1000 WATTS

AREA CODE 915 267-2523

BOX 750

BIG SPRING, TEXAS 79720

OWNED BY THE COBRA CORP.

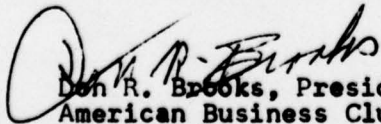
November 2, 1976

Mayor Wade Choate  
Big Spring, Texas

The American Business Culb is one of the oldest and leading civic clubs in Big Spring. We have a present membership of 85 men. Down through the years we have had many members from Webb Air Force Base. At the present time we have no military members. Those that belong were transfered about four months ago. We have always worked with Webb on all of our major projects. Our main projects are supporting clinics, nation wide for crippled children. Awarding scholarships to deserving college students studying physical education. We give a minimum of one thousand dollars annually to our own local Dora Roberts Rehab Center. To raise money for these projects the American Business Club operates concessions at our annula Howard Fair. It takes many people giving of their time to operate those concessions. Many of our members are business sponsored members. Doing advance research among the business of Big Spring we find our membership will be curtailed about one third if Webb closes. As a direct result of business have to cancel out much of their operating overhead, and to further report another fifteen percent loss of military and civil service members as a result of people out of a job or moving from this area. If we don't have the membership to operate our concessions our main projects will suffer.

Our slogan would suffer nation wide....."A man never stands so high as when he stoops to help a crippled child". We would love to continue to do just that.

Yours in AMBUCS

  
Don R. Brooks, President  
American Business Club  
Box 214  
Big Spring, Texas 79720

B-161





THE CITY OF BIG SPRING, TEXAS  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

The members of the Legislative Action Committee of the Century Club and other interested individuals are in the process of completing our final input into the Environmental Impact Statement.

However, as of yet, we do not have any information concerning the impact on volunteer organizations in Big Spring. In order for us to present a comprehensive picture to the Air Force of the socio-economic impact a base closure would have on Big Spring, we need information on the following:

1. The number of base personnel and base related personnel who are currently volunteering their services to your organization.
2. The approximate number of hours these individuals spend helping your organization and the people it serves.
3. Also include a narrative of any additional information which you feel is pertinent and would create hardships on your organization as the result of a base closure.

Once you have this information, please send the original to Lt. Col. Tokar and a copy to myself (envelopes are enclosed for your convenience).

Since we are working on a tight time schedule, I would appreciate receiving this information as soon as possible.

Thank you for your time and cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Wade Choate  
Mayor

WC:db

ENC



Big Spring Chapter

4110 Parkway Rd.  
Big Spring, Texas  
October 24, 1976

Lt. Colonel Don Tokar  
United States Air Force  
c/o Big Spring Chamber of Commerce  
Big Spring, Texas, 79720

Dear Colonel Tokar:

The American GI Forum has been greatly concerned about the closure of Webb Air Force Base since this proposed action was initially announced. We are concerned not only because of the adverse impact that such action will have on this organization, but also, on the socio-economic impact it will have on the Mexican-American community in general.

As an organization we will be affected as follows:

- a. Loss of membership. Approximately 20% of our members are base-related either by employment, military service, retired military, and/or dependents of same. Most of these persons have expressed that they will definitely relocate themselves if Webb closes.
- b. Loss of revenue. The economic structure of this organization is geared to that of our community. Any adversities suffered by our community will also affect us. We anticipate that our projects involving educational assistance to the underprivileged, charitable actions, and other related functions will have to be greatly curtailed, and in some instances, completely discontinued.

The effect that the base-closure will have on the Mexican-American community will be catastrophic in view of the following:

- a. As the largest minority group in this area we have the misfortune of having the largest unemployment rate and the largest number of people on the state and county welfare rolls. The majority of our people presently employed are fortunate if they are able to extract a bare existence from their meager earnings. Most of our senior citizens, especially those incapacitated or beyond working age, are struggling to survive on their social security and old-age pensions. How will these people overcome the financial adversities that a base-closure will generate by increased taxation, utilities costs, and an increase in unemployment?

- b. Owners of Mexican-American operated businesses were contacted and most of them anticipate up to 50% loss of business if the base closes. This estimation is base on initial impact of population loss and the subsequent reversals that are sure to follow. Most of these individuals have stated that they would be forced to a drastic reduction in their business operations in order to adjust to the local economy. They have further stated that their

B-163

anticipated primary action will be to reduce their present work force in accordance with loss of business volume, an action that will further aggravate an already deplorable unemployment situation.

The American GI Forum is most apprehensive about this matter. Further, we find it difficult to understand how a government that is constantly giving away billions of dollars in foreign aid for the assistance of underprivileged countries can be so calloused as to completely ignore the plight of the underprivileged at home.

The American GI Forum of Big Spring, speaking for itself and the Mexican-American community, strongly urges the United States Air Force and all governmental agencies concerned with the closure of Webb Air Force Base to fully explore all avenues of possibility of keeping this fine facility on an active status.

Sincerely yours,

*Noah Leyva*  
NOAH LEYVA  
Chairman

cc: Chamber of Commerce

#### NORTH SIDE IMPACT STUDY

The North side is a section of the city that will experience economical, socioeconomic, and other hardship if Webb Air Force Base is closed. However, some of these impacts will be direct, other will be indirect, but it is impossible for the Black community to escape any hardship due to the base closure. The study was made from some groups which makes up the community; churches, business, school, retiree and etc. The base closure will have a dire consequent on the total community.

The churches are an intricate part or make up of any community life. Our study reveals that the largest black church would experience a decrease of 3 to 5 % in membership, other would have a smaller percentage loss. The income lost would be about 6 to 10% of the contribution to keep these institutions solvent, or operating in the black.

One of the largest black businessman on the north side states that he would lose a very large contract at the base. Therefore, he would experience about 60% loss in business. This loss would mean the termination of 40 employees jobs at the base. This would have a dire economical impact on the black community. Other businessmen would not experience such great loss.

The schools especially, the head start program would show about 8 % decrease in pupils. This decrease in pupils or ADA would mean a decrease in the number of teachers needed. A decrease in the ADA would mean a decrease in the amount of state aid to operate the program.

There are many retired people living in the community. Many of these retirees are air force people who chose to live here would suffer undue hardship from a base closure. Medical treatment for them and dependents would require driving to the nearest base for treatment. The commissary where grocery and other items can be purchased cheaper than from down town grocery stores would be terminated here. The Four Seasons where tools and other supplies are purchase at low cost would be terminated. The recreation clubs, movies, bowling ally, and other privileges would be lost with a base closure. This segment of the community would suffer a great loss from a closure.

The north side would suffer like any other section of the city from a base closure. Directly or indirectly we being a part of the city would feel the economical impact and hardship the same as other section of the city. We would all lose from any base closure now or in the future.



**ECONOMIC IMPACT OF WEBB CLOSURE**

**ON**

**Big Spring Wholesale Beer Distributors**

**\$692,000.00 less in annual sales.**

**Five distributors--two might go out of business.**

**RETAIL BEER DISTRIBUTORS**

**128 Retail outlets**

**12 Will go out of business.**

**48 People will lose jobs.**

**\$1,016,000 loss in annual sales.**

Effect on Pharmacy due to Webb Closure:

Since the meeting several weeks ago, I have talked to some of the "old-timers" in the Pharmacy business. Each one had his own ideas on how bad it might be. It is impossible to accurately determine this since we do not have an example that would come close to our situation. Listed below is a statement from each of the Pharmacies that wished to do so.

- Store A: Based on the Webb closure facts we would have in Big Spring a surplus of 2 pharmacies. Big Spring would have a surplus of 3 to 4 registered pharmacists and a surplus of 3 to 4 para-pharmacy employees. He states that from this reduction, the City of Big Spring will lose from sales tax, property tax, retail sales and many other intrinsic benefits. Store A will suffer approx. 15-20% loss in sales.
- Store B: The closure of Webb AFB would result in a 20% loss in sales. No employees will be let go.
- Store C: The direct effect will be a reduction in the total number of prescriptions due to the loss in civil service personnel. Also, the large front-end inventory which has a good Webb AFB following will suffer. 2 employees will have to be let go with the loss that is expected. Indirectly, it just cannot be estimated how many in addition to the 7700 people that the city will lose. The total decrease in sales will be in the 20-25% range.
- Store D: The Webb closure would be a great loss to the community of Big Spring. It would personally be a loss to me, not only in my business, but also my friends at Webb. I would probably have to let at least one employee go and reschedule my others work times. I worked in Amarillo the year after they closed their base and they suffered a lot for several years. They are now on the grow like never before. I think we need to look at the service we are providing at Webb, teaching foreign students to fight. I do not personally approve of this since they could at any time turn against us. We are to be getting paid for this service, but I suspect we do not collect near what we should be. This would be a bad time for me for the base to close, but I think we should look at this from other stand-points other than personal gain. If our Chamber of Commerce knew the base would be gone Jan. 1 1977, they could already have a commitment from a company that could do us more good than Webb. A company the size of General Dyn. or Texas Instruments would produce more revenue for all of us than Webb can. I would expect an 18% decrease in business immediately and nobody needs that.
- Store E: This could result in the loss of \$75,000 annual gross revenue to our Pharmacy. It would result in the elimination of 3 employees. We would attempt not to eliminate any registered pharmacist position on our staff.
- Store F: We would expect a 15 to 20 % decrease.
- Store G: This would decrease our total sales approximately 20%. This would mean a reduction of one and possibly two persons out of a job.

This is the report from the pharmacies that wish to state how the closure would effect their pharmacies. As I stated above, it is hard to arrive at the desired accurate figure. I hope this will be of help so that the City of Big Spring can keep the Air Force in our city.

*Jimmy Anderson*

B-167



**CONTINENTAL AIRLINES**

P.O. BOX 6356  
AIR TERMINAL STATION  
MIDLAND, TEXAS 79701

October 14, 1976

Mr. Bill Ragsdale  
Skipper Travel Agency  
110 West 3rd Street  
Big Spring, Texas 79720

Dear Bill:

As you requested, Bill, we have reviewed our Webb Air Force Base business and we estimate we are presently enplaning an average of 220 passengers a month. This number consists of both military and dependent personnel who's travel we attribute solely to the existence of Webb Air Force Base.

Any decrease in our enplanements has some affect on our overall scheduling and staffing; however, these figures indicate the total impact in this regard would be slight according to our estimates, since this is about 1.5% of our total enplanements.

Yours very truly,

C. R. Logue  
Regional Director

CRL/rm



**SKIPPER TRAVEL, INC.**  
**The Complete Travel Agency**

110 West Third Street • Phone 915-363-7637 • Big Spring, Texas 79720  
W. C. RAGSDALE, Skipper KERRY W. O'BRIEN, 1st Mate

October 15 1976

Our gross revenue for the past fiscal year amounted to some\$ 670,000.00.

Military personnel proper including families thereof, by conservative estimate, accounted for 33 1/3 percent of the above figure, or approximately \$ 223333.00.

If we include the Webb related entities, such as the Webb Credit Union, I feel that that our air base in Big Spring accounts for forty percent of our gross total.

It is not difficult to imagine what this loss to us will do for our community's economy.

Further, we presently employ three full time persons, all heads of families. Two of these families have children in school. Two others are part time employees.

I see no way to keep from furloughing at least one full time employee and one part time employee.

*W.C. Ragdale*  
W.C. Ragdale, President



BUSINESS OFFICE  
401 W. 3RD  
PHONE AM 4-4781

NEW CARS FOR RENT

DISPATCHING OFFICE  
GREYHOUND BUS STATION  
PHONE AM 4-2541

## YELLOW CAB COMPANY

*"The Thinking Yellow Calls A Yellow"*

- PHONE AM 4-2541 -

*Big Spring, Texas*

14 October 1976

It is our estimate that should Webb Air Force Base be closed, that our annual revenue will decrease \$15000.00 to \$ 20000.00. This based on our 1975 figures.

Likewise, this would probably cause us to have to eliminate at least two taxis, or three or four jobs.

George Russell

*George Russell (partner)*

Yellow Cab - Checker Cab - Northside Cab - Yellow Cab U-Drive-It

*B-170*

BEST AVAILABLE COPY



Greyhound Lines, Inc.

Western Division

Big Spring, Texas

Oct. 1976

Re: Webb AFB

We estimate a net drop in revenue  
in package service approximately \$1,200.00

Passenger revenue per month about  
\$1,800.00

These are estimates based on 1975 sales  
related to Webb Air Force generated revenues

These combined figures total approximately  
3,000.00 monthly

10-12-76

Jim Owens, Term. Mgr.  
Big Spring, Texas

B-171

DORA ROBERTS HEALTH CENTER  
*Big Spring-Howard County Health Dept.*

201 LANCASTER

263-7261

*Big Spring, Texas 79720*

October 22, 1976

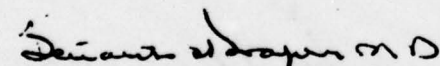
Wade Choate  
Mayor  
City of Big Spring  
Big Spring, Texas 79720

Dear Mayor Choate:

Reference your letter, October 18, 1976 regarding the Environmental Impact Statement.

1. 0
2. 0
3. No known effect.

Sincerely,

  
Stuart I. Draper, M. D. M. P. H.  
Director

B-172

**Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center**  
THIRD AND LANCASTER      P. O. BOX 981      PHONE 267-6387  
BIG SPRING, TEXAS 79720

October 26, 1976

Lt. Col. Tokar  
Big Spring Chamber of Commerce  
P. O. Box 1391  
Big Spring, Texas 79720

Dear Lt. Col. Tokar:

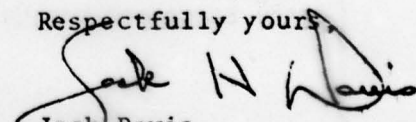
With respect to your correspondence concerning the effect of the closing of Webb, please consider the following:

- 1) Currently there are no base personnel or base related personnel volunteering at the Center. In the past, however, many have participated.
- 2) See #1
- 3) Perhaps the most important aspect related to the presence or absence of Webb is in the area of professional staff recruitment. Traditionally, Webb has provided an excellent source of professionally trained individuals (i.e. wives of Air Force personnel). I personally feel that the Center would have great difficulty recruiting professional staff members if Webb were to close.

The Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center also provides services to a number of Webb personnel and dependents and would obviously suffer financially as well.

If I may provide any additional information, please feel free to contact my office.

Respectfully yours,

  
Jack Davis  
Executive Director

JD:jc

B-173





# Disabled American Veterans

## DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS, INC.

2331 GUS THOMASSON ROAD • SUITE 138 • P.O. BOX 28157 • DALLAS, TEXAS 75228  
(214) 327-3010

October, 19. 1976  
Big Spring, Texas

Finance Committee  
Garland Jones  
Region No. 1  
3226 Waverly Ave.  
Arlene, Texas 79602

A. A. Alexander  
Region No. 2  
3824 Amherst St.  
Dallas, Texas 75226

J. H. Childs (Chrm)  
Region No. 3  
2200 Belmeade  
Brownwood, Tex. 76801

Leonard Miller  
Region No. 4  
Box 321  
El Campo, Texas 77437

Harry Burman  
Region No. 5  
Route 1, Box 108-A  
Donna, Texas 78537

Region Commanders  
C. B. O'Neal  
Region No. 1  
16 April Lane  
Big Spring, Texas 79720

Gordon Lewis  
Region No. 2  
P. O. Box 1902  
Wichita Falls, Tex. 76307

Needom R. Ates, Sr.  
Region No. 3  
6800 Langston Drive  
Austin, Texas 78723

Hugh A. Morgan  
Region No. 4  
1234 Oxford  
Houston, Texas 77006

Andy C. Wylie  
Region No. 5  
P. O. Box 455  
Portland, Texas 78374

Lt. Col. Tokar  
Webb Air Base  
Big Spring, Texas 79720

Dear Sir.

Allow me to introduce my self, I am C.B. O'Neal Co-Chairman  
Of an all Veterans Council in Big Spring, Texas

I am writing you in regards to all Veterans Orgainizations  
in Big Spring, The World War I. Barricks # 1474, The Howard  
County, American Legion Post # 355, The Veterans Of Foreign  
Wars, Post 2013, and the Disabled American Veterans,  
Chapter # 47 Big Spring, Texas.

In the event of the closure of Webb Base, and the impact  
it would have on our Veterans Orgainizations in Big Spring,

First of all, Over the many Years whin our Veterans  
Orgainizations, and our Ladies Auxiliary's, Has called upon  
Webb Personal for Volunteers, For speaking ingagements,  
Memorial Services, Color Guard for our Veterans Military  
Funerals, Color Guard to post Colors in conventions,  
Carry Colors in our many parades, In our City, and the many  
Volunteer hours thay have served our V.A. Hospital in Big Spring

There is no record of how many hours the Webb personal has  
served our Veterans Orgainizations, However it would be an  
astonishing figur.

Finally we the Veterans in Big Spring, Are of the oppinion  
that in case Webb Base is closed, Not only will the Veterans  
Orgainizations suffer a hard ship in the community, but in  
the State and our Nation.

Sincerely Yours,

*C.B. O'Neal*  
C.B. O'Neal  
16 April Lane  
Big Spring, Texas 79720

CC To Mayor Wade Choate  
Chamber Of Commerce  
All Vererans Council ADJ.

B-174



October 18, 1976



## The United Way

Mayor Wade Choate  
City of Big Spring  
Big Spring, Texas 79720

Dear Wade:

We are unable to give you the exact number of base personnel and base related personnel who are currently involved in our United Way nor the number of hours spent helping this organization and the people it serves.

The Combine Federal Campaign which covers all base personnel is headed by Col. Harry Spannus working directly under him is Lt. Col. John Wickman and Mr. Richard Stone. Webb Air Force Base makes up approximately 20% of our United Way goal.

If we can be of further service, please advise.

Sincerely yours,

*D D Pittman 4*  
Dearl Pittman  
President



The United Way of America © 1974

B-175



## AMERICAN RED CROSS

HOWARD-GLASSCOCK COUNTIES CHAPTER

BIG SPRING, TEXAS 79720

The Howard-Glasscock Counties Chapter of the American Red Cross would be greatly affected by the closure of Webb Air Force Base. The American Red Cross deals basically with the active, military personnel; therefore, if Webb AFB should close, the work load for this office will drop drastically.

Due to this chapter acting as an agent dealing directly with the base, a loss of \$1,200.00 annually will take place. Closure of Webb AFB will reduce the funds channeled into the American Red Cross by the Combined Federated Campaign and by the United Way. As it is, a \$1,000.00 loss has been realized for the "76-77" campaign.

Should Webb AFB close, this office would also lose the use of Autovon, the military communications system between military installations. The use of this service saves this office greatly in time and money when dealing with an emergency involving military personnel and their families.

Nathaniel E. Roll  
Chapter Manager

Mrs. O. S. Womack  
1601 Tucson Road  
Big Spring, TX 79720

October 21, 1976

As President of the Big Spring Council of Garden Clubs, I would like to relate to those interested the many ways that Webb Air Force Base personnel and base related personnel have contributed to the Garden Clubs over a period of many years.

The men and women of Webb have dedicated many long hours of work in helping our garden clubs on litter drives and beautification projects in Big Spring. They have contributed in a financial way as well as in man hours. They have contributed many feasible ideas that have added much to the beauty of our city as well as helping us on all our "paint-up-clean-up-fix-up" projects each spring. This adds much to our community, and should Webb close, it would work a hardship on us financially as well as the man-hours spent in helping our Garden Clubs.

I would say seven percent of base personnel and base related people spend as many as 2000 hours per month of their time and talents to Garden Council and Garden Club work.

Sincerely,

OSW:pmr  
CC: Mayor Wade Choate

Mrs. O. S. Womack  
State Litter Control &  
Recycling Chairperson of  
Texas Garden Clubs

Litter Chairperson of  
Big Spring, TX appointed  
by Big Spring City Council

Beautification Chairperson  
Big Spring, Chamber of Commerce

B-177



21 October 1976

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

At present, there are seven (7) very active members of the "Big Spring Five Watters Radio Club", that are totally dependent on Webb AFB. These individuals contribute approximately 350 hours per year toward community projects in addition to the regularly scheduled meetings of the club.

The club will lose approximately one third of the present membership if the base closes. The seven, plus others that will have to relocate indirectly through reduction in force. The present activities of our club will severely diminish if Webb AFB closes.

Sincerely yours,

*Ruben E. Steadmon*  
RUBEN E. STEADMON  
Member

B-178

October 26, 1976

78th Flying Training Wing/CCE  
Attn: Lt Col Tokar  
Webb AFB, Tx 79720

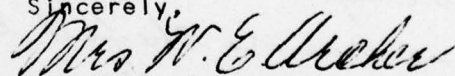
Dear Sir

In reference to Mayor Choate's letter requesting an evaluation of the impact a base closure would have on the 1948 Hyperion Club, we submit the following position for your consideration.

Historically, we have had an average of a tenth of our membership composed of Webb officer's wives. They have added immeasurably to our study group with their varied backgrounds of worldly travel and associations. Their unselfish attitudes have certainly helped us reach our civic and community goals.

Our Club projects include donations to varied Civic projects, the Big Spring State Hospital, Y.M.C.A. Memberships and The Heritage Museum. Even though we cannot accurately define the number of volunteer hours lost should we lose our current and future Air Force participants, our organization would certainly experience a significant reduction in it's overall effectiveness, for we depend a great deal on the motivation and drive of these active members.

Sincerely,



Mrs W. E. Archer  
President, 1948 Hyperion Club

B-179

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

October 26, 1976  
614 Tulane  
Big Spring, Texas

Lt. Col. Donald C. Fokar  
Webb Air Force Base  
Big Spring, Texas

Dear Col. Fokar:

In response to the request of Mayor Choated  
ampro: ting the following information concerning  
the possible closing of Webb AFB on Alpha  
Chi Chapter of E. S. A.

Our chapter has two members who are  
base connected. We have already lost one  
member due to a transfer. The two members  
contributed some forty hours of volunteer  
work last year.

It is very hard for us to get new members  
in our chapter with the possible base closure.  
This is due to the fact that everyone is  
uncertain of their jobs and the effect this  
will have on our entire community.

Sincerely,  
Alice Bentley, President  
Alpha Chi Chapter # 877  
Big Spring, Texas 79720

c.c. Lt. Col. Donald C. Fokar 8-180

1919 Fairwood  
Big Spring, Texas  
OCT 31 1976

Dear Wade:

Since receiving the letter to  
the Social Order of the Beauxant  
regarding the Environmental  
Impact Statement - I have been  
trying to see if we could answer  
any of your questions.

I believe not - as we have  
no one of our personnel in our  
group - and our volunteer work  
is of a limited nature.

I am sorry I could not be  
of any help as far as this  
organization is concerned.

Sincerely  
Mrs. Lee Porter, Recorder  
Big Spring Assembly, No. 2,  
Social Order of the Beauxant.

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# Young Men's Christian Association

BOX 1428 -- EIGHTH AND OWENS STREETS -- DIAL 267-8234

**Big Spring, Texas**

79720



SIDNEY CLARK, PRESIDENT  
JIM BAUM, VICE PRESIDENT  
MRS. VIRGINIA ROSS, SECRETARY  
LARRY WILLARD, TREASURER  
BILL ETCHISON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
JOHN SCHIEBEL, PHYSICAL DIRECTOR

October 22, 1976

Lt. Colonel Donald Tokar  
78th Training Flying Wing/CCE  
Webb AFB  
Big Spring, TX 79720

Dear Lt. Tokar:

Enclosed you will find a breakdown of base personnel related to the Y.M.C.A. program in either an employed capacity or as a member.

Sincerely,

Bill Etchison  
Executive Director

BE:pr

CC: Mayor Wade Choate

B-182

**Perpetuate Your Personal Influence Thru YMCA's Endowment Program**

1. We do not have any base or base related personnel currently volunteering their services to the Y.M.C.A.
2. We do have the following base personnel employed at the Y.M.C.A. either on an hourly or monthly salary:

A. Pam Ramey, Full-time Secretary	40 hours a week
B. Bill Cox, Gymnastic Instructor	2 hours a week
C. Sue Mellen, Gymnastic Instructor	4 hours a week
D. Mark Spannous, Lifeguard	2 hours a week

3. Our Membership would be affected by approximately 7% if the base were to close. This is broken down as follows:

36 Families-----Totaling 143 Participants

13 Friend of Youth-----Totaling 19 Participants

40 Adults-----Totaling 40 Participants

19 Man-Wife-----Totaling 38 Participants

1 Health Club-----Totaling 1 Participant

9 Air Force Youth-----Totaling 15 Participants

These figures conclude our basic findings.  
If I can be of further assistance, please do not  
hesitate to call.

Bill Etchison

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Oct 24, 1976

Chamber of Commerce  
Big Spring, Tx.

Dear Sirs:

In response to your  
inquiry about our club,  
The Big Spring Chapter of the  
Antique Car Club of America,  
and its base connected  
members, we wish to  
report that 20% of our  
membership is base  
connected. We are a small  
club + to lose 20% would  
be drastic.

Sincerely -  
James W. W. W.  
(Antique Car Club)



Agent D.C. Barbee  
TEXAS & PACIFIC RY.

Says that there has been no carload freight inbound or outbound to or from Webb Air Force Base in some time.

However, the Texas & Pacific Motor Transport business in Big Spring with Webb Air Force Base amounts to one percent of the outbound and three percent of the inbound total.

He also feels that taking into consideration the amount of T&P business generated by the Webb families, both military and civilian, and its auxiliaries, the total overall should approach ten(10) percent of Texas & Pacific's Howard County generated revenue.

Delta is ready when you are!



## WEST TEXAS GIRL SCOUT COUNCIL

P. O. BOX 5586, ABILENE, TEXAS 79605 — 915 — 698-1738



TO: Mayor Wade Choate

DATE: Oct. 26, 1976

FROM: Ms. Sandy Sibilsky

SUBJECT: Webb AFB Impact Study

Dear Mayor Choate,

Thank you for your support of Webb AFB and your deep concern to see that every avenue of action is taken to ensure its continued growth. Girl Scouting needs volunteers and it needs Webb Air Force Base.

Your continued support of Girl Scouting in Big Spring is sincerely appreciated. If our organization can assist you or the Chamber of Commerce in anyway, please do not hesitate to contact me. The GS office is located at 2005 Gregg and the phone number is 263-1364.

Sincerely yours,

*Sandy Sibilsky*  
Ms. Sandy Sibilsky

B-186

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

P. O. Box 1002  
Big Spring, TX 79720  
October 26, 1976

Lt. Col. Tokar  
% Big Spring Chamber of Commerce  
P. O. Box 1391  
Big Spring, TX 79720

Re: Environmental Impact Statement, WAFB

Dear Col. Tokar,

In response to a letter requesting a comprehensive picture of the socio-economic impact a base closure would have on Big Spring with regard to Girl Scouts, I would like to submit the following information on behalf of the West Texas Girl Scout Council:

1. To date there are 12 registered base personnel volunteering their services to our 32 troops. These individuals are just a few of the many who do not register but donate time and money to Girl Scouting. 1975-76 some 21 base personnel were registered with Girl Scouting. If Webb AFB remains we anticipate approximately the same to register by the end of May, 1977. Not only would a base closure effect our volunteers but also decrease our girl membership by 1/3 its present total registered.

2. Base personnel spend approximately 4-6 hours a week serving some 400 girls. Weekends are often involved.

3. Any non-profit organization needs volunteers to maintain its membership. Such is the case with Girl Scouting in Big Spring, Texas. Because Girl Scouts is a world-wide organization devoted to the enrichment and growth of girls, many families moving to Big Spring feel they already have a "friend" or "family". Military families know their time is limited in any area so many find it easier to help voluntary groups. Their children find friends easily and parents become involved.

Webb Air Force Base personnel have provided our local Girl Scout agency with working manpower for many years. Base personnel have been our day camp directors, service unit chairmen, troop organizers and consultants. They have enabled

B-187

## BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Lt. Col. Tokar  
Page 2  
October 26, 1976

us to provide our girls with varied and more enriched cultural and environmental opportunities. The experiences of world travel always enhance our program.

To say that Webb's closure would effect the Girl Scouts would be an understatement. Closing Webb AFB completely and moving its life-blood of youth and energy would devastate Girl Scouting in Big Spring. As the Field Executive for West Texas Girl Scout Council, I fear the day Webb AFB ceases to exist and what will happen to Girl Scouting in Big Spring!

Sincerely yours,

*Sandy Sibilsky*  
Ms. Sandy Sibilsky  
Field Executive, Big Spring

SS/km

cc: Mayor Wade Choate ✓

B-188



THE CITY OF BIG SPRING, TEXAS  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Gilbert Grantham - N.G.  
Mullins Lodge #372  
Box 1415  
BS, TX

The members of the Legislative Action Committee of the Century Club and other interested individuals are in the process of completing our final input into the Environmental Impact Statement.

However, as of yet, we do not have any information concerning the impact on volunteer organizations in Big Spring. In order for us to present a comprehensive picture to the Air Force of the socio-economic impact a base closure would have on Big Spring, we need information on the following:

1. The number of base personnel and base related personnel who are currently volunteering their services to your organization. O

2. The approximate number of hours these individuals spend helping your organization and the people it serves. D

3. Also include a narrative of any additional information which you feel is pertinent and would create hardships on your organization as the result of a base closure. none

Once you have this information, please send the original to Lt. Col. Tokar and a copy to myself (envelopes are enclosed for your convenience).

Since we are working on a tight time schedule, I would appreciate receiving this information as soon as possible.

Thank you for your time and cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

*Wade Choate*

Wade Choate  
Mayor

WC:db

ENC

B-189



# The National Secretaries Association

(INTERNATIONAL)

(5-59-150)  
Big Spring Chapter  
Big Spring, TX

Please Reply to:

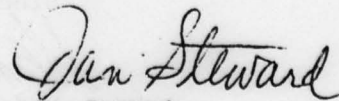
Jan Steward  
P. O. Box 871  
Big Spring, TX 79720

In answer to your request, below is the information needed regarding the impact of the base closure on our organization.

1. The number of base personnel and base related personnel who are currently volunteering their services - 7
2. The approximate number of hours these individuals spend helping our organization and the people it serves - 10 hours per month
3. Additional information -----

Our Association is made up of about 1/3 base personnel so this would really be a loss for us. In the past, Webb has been very cooperative in letting us use the base facilities for seminars we have held. Also, base personnel have participated each year in presenting programs to our group.

If we can furnish further information, please let us know.

  
Jan Steward  
President

AD-A045 364

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE WASHINGTON D C  
PROPOSED CLOSURE OF CRAIG AFB, ALABAMA AND WEBB AFB, TEXAS. APP--ETC(U)  
1976 J E CROOKER, R LONGORIA, A THORSSGAARD

F/G 1/5

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DATE  
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11-77

DDC

STATEMENT OF MR. ADOLPH SWARIZ  
PRESIDENT  
CENTURY CLUB

There have been many facts and figures submitted and I will try to make my presentation very brief this morning.

I am the President of the Century Club. The Century Club several years ago was organized to establish base-community relations which was the sole purpose to entertain and provide activities for the military to have some place to come, to visit in our homes and be entertained by civilians in our community.

And to summarize this thing, I'd say the Century Club which is named after the Base Community Council is a group of 100 members representing the cross section of business leaders of our community, who meet bimonthly together with representatives of a group of our base people.

This organization has existed for many, many years, although it originally was organized, as I said before, as a base community relations council. The purpose of this organization was to promote the expansion, development and effectiveness of Webb Air Force Base and to promote and develop goodwill through continued base-community relations and develop such as deems necessary in the best interest of Webb Air Force Base and Big Spring, Texas.

Regular meetings of the Century Club are held bimonthly and written notices go out to all members. In a continuing effort to further base-relationship, the Chairman of the Century Club and Wing Commander serve as Co-Chairman.

Every effort is made to make the military feel at home and be continuously entertained by their civilian neighbors.

We have been constantly told by our military neighbors that Big Spring is without a shadow of a doubt the friendliest, warmest community they have been stationed at.

In all the discussions that I heard this morning and in the first meeting that I came to several weeks ago, there has nothing that has been said about the base-community relations. It may not mean anything to the military now, but during this last year when the military was trying pretty hard to get people to serve in the military, this point seemed to have been said to us over and over - how much they appreciated our effort in making the boys feel at home while away from their home. I took the liberty this morning to ask a Wing Commander who retired as Brigadier General sometime ago, I asked him, he was one of the Wing Commanders some years ago here, to be our guest and to say a few words to substantiate what I am trying to say to you people.

At this time it is my great pleasure to present to you Brigadier General Kyle Riddle Retired.

STATEMENT OF BRIGADIER GENERAL KYLE RIDDLE (RETIRED)

Colonel Smith, I would like to make a few comments that Mr. Swartz has just offered about community relations that I believe to have existed during the time that I was here for approximately two years five months beginning early 1967 and ending August of 1969.

Without exception, my experience in the thirty plus years in the Air Force community relations that existed at that time in this community were by far better than any that I have ever experienced before or since. I feel that they are unparalleled in the endeavor of the community. Everything I remember of this community was pride to making sure the people here feel at home, feel welcomed and be a member of the community. At that time there was no such organization as the Century Club, but let me quickly say that each and every community member tried to assume all of the duties now Century Club is trying to perform.

In my moving through this community I never felt awkward about greeting any person that I encountered on the street.

Now, due to this treatment that would be advanced or given to the Commander of an air base such as Webb in this small community, let me say that these feelings were extended to all echelons of the military people at Webb.

Since leaving Webb and encountering people who were stationed here at the time I was and since that time, there have been almost spontaneous remarks on their part to me, unsolicited, about the great community relations extended by this community.

During the time I was here I thought the operational facilities here at this base were as good as, if not better than, any in the training command. We never were limited in our training efforts by the lack of facilities. We had navigational facilities to support this base that were installed at the base. We had one shortcoming in our instrument training, instrument landing systems. This facility was installed in Midland Air Force Base west of here and by agreement with them we were able to use this in the furtherance of our instrument training.

So, we only had one limitation, really, providing pilot hours, that is on the part of the people that keep the airplanes in commission who support the flying program. We were never below our commitment in that respect.

Now, coming back to the community relations part of this, I would like to close by saying that it seems to me ashamed that if you close Webb and remove an air base from ideal surroundings from the standpoint of community relations and all of you that have been commanders know that a commander of an air base, a commander of any squadron unit, spends much of his time thinking about and considering the efforts that he must put out in order to maintain proper community relations between his organization and the community population.

Thank you.



STATEMENT OF MR. WINSTON WRINKLE  
CHAIRMAN  
SOCIO-ECONOMIC COMMITTEE  
of the  
LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE

Colonel Smith, I am Chairman of the Socio-Economic Committee of the Legislative Action Committee of the Big Spring Century Club, a division of our Chamber of Commerce. My committee was formed in order to prepare an indepth study of the adverse socio-economic effects the closure of Webb Air Force Base would have on Big Spring, Howard County, and this area of West Texas in general.

We have divided the socio-economic committee into some thirty (30) different subcommittees which have specialized in specific segments or/and on areas. For example, we have asked the realtors, apartment owners, savings and loan people, builders to participate in an indepth study of housing, which you will hear later tonight.

Some of the major categories to be discussed here today include education, utilities, transportation, auto dealers, motels, hotels, hospitals and clinics, city and county government, retail merchants, media, charitable organizations, financial institutions, minority groups, and there are others.

We have prepared a statement on each of these thirty (30) categories to be included in the record to reflect what the effects the closure of Webb will have on each of these specific areas of interest. Many of these reports will be presented today by the subchairmen, and others will be placed on file to be included in the public record.

Big Spring has been a stable viable growing West Texas City and one of the reasons for this steady growth has been due to our sound economy. One major part of our economy though, is the presence of the military. We have many businesses that have located in Big Spring, and others that have expanded their businesses recently, on the basis that Webb Air Force Base would remain an integral part of our community.

The announcement on March 11, 1976, that Webb Air Force Base was a candidate for closure sent tremors through this community as our citizens began to realize the full economic impact the closure of Webb would have on the city of Big Spring and our County of Howard. Since this announcement, retail sales have already declined, construction of new homes in our city has stopped, many new businesses that planned to build have cancelled their plans, and this community has experienced eight months of indecision caused by the announcement of the possible closure of our Air Force Base. This

indecision has already caused irreparable damage to our city. The closure of Webb will be catastrophic to Big Spring and Howard County.

Your own data in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement shows that 7,700 persons will be directly effected by the closure of Webb and that a minimum of 6,239 of these people will move from Big Spring, Howard County. This equates to fifteen and a half percent (15.5%) of Howard County's population. And those of us in the community feel that the 6,239 persons that will actually move, will hurt the county more than if these people stayed in the local community in an unemployed status. Because once these people leave, we will lose a large portion of our available labor force and the possible recovery would be greatly hampered.

In March 1976, there were approximately 2,850 military and civilians assigned to Webb Air Force Base. The Webb commanders were pleading with apartment owners and builders of this city to provide more housing for Webb personnel. The community responded by constructing over two hundred (200) new apartment units during 1975 and 1976. This represents an investment of over three million dollars (\$3,000,000) in new apartments.

Now, reports indicate that 2,670 single-family homes and rental units will be vacant as a direct result of a base closure. This represents fifteen percent (15%) of the single-family homes in Big Spring and twenty point five percent (20.5%) of the renter occupied units. In our opinion, the local market will not be able to absorb this large number of vacant structures and many of these units will eventually have to be bulldozed down.

Howard County has retail sales of about a hundred and twenty million dollars (\$120,000,000). The Draft Environmental Impact Statement shows a loss of seventeen percent (17%) of retail sales because of the decrease in population if Webb is closed. However, we contend that the actual loss to this community of retail sales would be closer to thirty percent (30%), which amounts to thirty-five million, seven hundred thousand dollars (\$35,700,000). The hundreds of questionnaires which we have sent out and have received completed from business establishments have estimated that our figures represent a clearer picture of our expected losses than the information contained in your report to be the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

With this expected loss in retail sales, we also anticipate a corresponding loss in state and local sales taxes of approximately one million dollars (\$1,000,000). This one million dollars (\$1,000,000) in taxes will have to be raised by increasing our property taxes, which will put an even greater burden on those of us who chose to remain here in Howard County.

City taxes and utility rates would also have to be increased. This would place this city in a very bad position to compete for new industry due to the higher tax base, which would prove to be a detriment in our recruitment of any new industry. City services, such as police and fire protection, would also have to be increased due to the large number of vacant homes and rental property that would be created by a base closure. Again putting additional strains on the city of Big Spring's budget.

All of our utilities would be severely effected by the closure of Webb. Revenues of the Pioneer Natural Gas Company has estimated a loss of four hundred and eighty-five thousand, nine hundred and seventy-nine dollars (\$485,979) with no reduction in operational costs and the Texas Electric Service Company estimates a loss in revenue of a million one hundred and forty-five thousand dollars (\$1,145,000) with a reduction in the employee force of nine (9) employees.

I would like to point out that Webb Air Force Base is paying much less than all of the other UPT bases, with the exception of Vance Air Force Base, for their electric power. It is projected by the City of Big Spring that the City will lose three hundred sixty-eight thousand, two hundred and seventy-eight dollars (\$368,278) in water sales if Webb closes. The City of Big Spring would have to absorb this loss.

The Environmental Impact Statement has projected a loss of seventeen percent (17%) in school enrollment in our Big Spring Independent School District. Our local school officials have made an indepth study of what the effects would be on the local school district and have found the school district will lose not seventeen percent (17%), but twenty-two and a half percent (22.5%) of the school enrollment. That amounts to twelve hundred and fifty-one (1,251) students. This loss of twelve hundred and fifty-one (1,251) students would result in a loss of revenue to the Big Spring Independent School District in the amount of one million eight hundred thirty-eight thousand, one hundred and fifty-one dollars (\$1,838,151) annually. If Webb is closed Big Spring school officials have indicated that they will need to raise or increase taxes between twenty to twenty-five percent (20 to 25%) over the 1976 school tax rates in order to meet the operating costs of our school system.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement virtually ignores Howard College, the local community college. According to Dr. Charles Hayes, President of Howard College, the effects of the closure of Webb on the college would be devastating. They would lose twenty-nine percent (29%) of their enrollment in the college, three hundred and sixty-seven (367) students, and their operating revenue would be reduced by some two hundred and eighty thousand dollars (\$280,000), which constitutes eleven and a half percent (11.5%) of the college's budget.



The transportation segment of our community will also be drastically hurt by the closure of Webb. There will be fewer military and dependent and civil service employees utilizing the local transportation system, and there will be an appreciable loss in motor freight and rail freight revenue. It is estimated that the Big Spring transportation companies serving this area will lose over a million dollars (\$1,000,000) in revenue.

Our motels and hotels anticipate a ten to fifteen percent (10 to 15%) reduction in revenue if Webb Air Force Base is closed, and also, they anticipate a reduction in their labor force of twenty to twenty-six (20 to 26).

The news media of Big Spring, which includes a daily and weekly newspaper, four radio stations, and one Television station, estimate a loss of three hundred and ninety-four thousand dollars (\$394,000) in revenue.

Responses from local moving and storage companies indicate that as much as seventy-five percent (75%) of their income will be lost if Webb closes. Many of these local moving companies will not be able to remain in business, and there will be a considerable loss in the work force at the remaining moving and storage companies.

One of the areas that will be the hardest hit by a base closure will be the Big Spring automobile dealers. They have estimated that they will lose approximately six million, eighty hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars (\$6,875,000) in income and that fifty-five (55) of their one hundred and fifty-seven (157) employees will lose their jobs as a result of this drop in income.

Mobile home dealers in Big Spring estimate a loss of over eight hundred thousand dollars (\$800,000) and the thirteen (13) furniture dealers in Big Spring estimate a loss of ten to thirty percent (10 to 30%) of their annual sales for a total of two million, five hundred thousand dollars (\$2,500,000) annually.

The Webb closure would also have an adverse impact on our local hospitals. The Hospital Corporation of America and the Malone-Hogan Clinic has just completed a new clinic, which cost two million five hundred thousand dollars (\$2,500,000), and a new hospital at a cost of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000). And a large portion of their income is derived from military, from military dependents, and military related personnel who receive treatment at this large medical complex. In addition, this hospital, as well as the other private hospitals in Big Spring, the VA hospital, the State hospital, the mental hospital, estimate they will lose between fifty and sixty percent (50 & 60%) of their registered nurses, making it hard for them to continue with their current service and to meet state certification requirements.



I would like to now express my personal opinion as to why Webb Air Force Base in Big Spring and Craig Air Force Base in Selma, Alabama, were selected for closure. I don't think the Air Force has been really reasonably able to explain or justify why Webb was selected in the first place as a candidate.

After careful consideration, it is my personal decision that it becomes relevant that two Air Training Command bases would be closed, someone at the Air Staff looked around at the six possible candidates for closure and selected these two candidates based on political consideration.

Here is what I mean. The closure of Columbus in Mississippi would have saved more money for the Air Force than the closure of Webb in Big Spring. I feel the reason Columbus was not seriously considered as a closure candidate was because Senator John Stennis is Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee and he hails from the great state of Mississippi. Webb, with a flight simulator, would have a higher capacity for teaching pilots than Columbus, and also save the Air Force four million dollars (\$4,000,000) a year. So saving money is not the only reason.

Next, Reese Air Force Base at Lubbock was never seriously considered although Lubbock, Texas, with its population of approximately one hundred and eighty thousand (180,000), could have best absorbed the loss of a base closure if the decision had been based at all on economic impact.

Your own Draft Environmental Impact Statement shows that the loss to Lubbock if Reese Air Force Base would close would only be a three percent (3%) loss in retail sales to Lubbock County. Whereas, the loss of Webb Air Force Base would have a loss of eleven point two percent (11.2%) to Howard County's regional output.

Vance Air Force Base in Oklahoma is the only Air Training Command base in Oklahoma, and I think there was also a political consideration as a favor to Senator Dewey Bartlett and it was never seriously considered for closure.

That left Air Force planners with the decision between three bases: Laughlin Air Force Base in Del Rio, Texas, Craig Air Force Base in Selma, Alabama, and Webb Air Force Base in Big Spring, Texas.

Since Craig Air Force Base had the lowest pilot training capacity and you had attempted to close it before, it was selected as one of the candidates. And then, what was the similarity between Craig and the other two? And Webb was selected because of two runways. You couldn't criticize us on our pilot production because we have been right up to the top or on full flying hours or on weather. But Craig and Webb had two runways so then the case was built to close the two runway bases. By deduction, the Air Force selected Webb in Big Spring and Craig in Alabama because they had two runways. However, the Air Force continued to build a substantial case to

justify the comparison of Webb and Craig and give reasons for selecting them.

I think it is grossly unfair to this community, which has always supported the Air Force and our national defense effort. I think it is unfair and unjust and we are going to use every means possible here to reverse the initial decision that has been made.

I hope you will reconsider the facts that will be presented here at this public hearing and will be presented at the hearing tonight. We don't deserve this kind of treatment. Webb Air Force does not deserve to be closed based on the operational and socio-economic factors. If closed, then all of our work has been in vain.