

# News Release

City of Mansfield, Ohio

Timothy L. Theaker, Mayor



## For Immediate Release

Date: March 13, 2012

Contact: Tim Theaker, Mayor  
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Subject: Ohio Air National Guard 179th Airlift Wing

Mansfield, OH-- Mayor Tim Theaker expresses his dismay regarding the proposal to close the 179th Airlift Wing in Mansfield, Ohio. The 179th Airlift Wing has been an integral part of the continued growth and prosperity of our community since 1948 and this potential closure will leave our financially struggling community in greater disarray. The attempt by government to disseminate small communities through actions such as this must be stopped immediately as taxpayers dollars cannot be wasted in this manner. Decisions of this type are what cause citizens to lose faith in their government.

The State of Ohio placed the City of Mansfield in Fiscal Emergency in September of 2010 and we have been working diligently to be accountable to our citizens by reviewing all costs and reducing wherever possible. We have to be financially sound and accountable for our actions. However, the Federal Government seems not to have the same philosophy. The cost to operate the C-27J transport at 56% full is \$2,100.00 an hour. The cost for a C-130H at 26% full is \$7,100.00 an hour and the cost for a C-130J at 20% full is \$5,100.00 an hour. Since most field operations call for smaller and quicker response loads, the C-27J is by far more cost effective and if used would show a greater accountability to the taxpayer. Also, the Ohio Air National Guard in whole is less expensive than a full time USAF airman. The Air National Guard equates to 6% of the USAF budget yet provides 35% of the USAF capabilities. For 6% of the Air Forces budget, the ANG provides 19% of the AF total personnel. The Air National Guard is also less expensive at retirement, 90% less. Given these facts, it is unconscionable for the Federal Government to continue with eliminating the Air National Guard at the cost of the taxpayer.

The 179th Airlift Wing has been the recipient of numerous awards, decorations and recognitions over the years. Their outstanding record of achievement and their efficient operation was the reason, despite the initial 2005 base realignment and closure recommendations to dismantle the 179th Airlift Wing, was not successful. The potential of losing over 800 jobs along with the possibility of millions in income tax revenue will be detrimental if not devastating to our city. We need the politicians in Washington to think smarter, not harder, and be accountable to the taxpayer.