



March 9, 2005

General John P. Jumper  
Chief of Staff  
United States Air Force  
HQ USAF/CC  
1670 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20330-1670

Dear General Jumper:

The Adjutants General of the 54 states see the USAF transformation strategy known as Future Total Force (FTF) having a profound effect on the Air National Guard (ANG). We want to help the Air Force shape a strategy and force structure that uses the ANG to its full potential. Homeland defense is a critical issue for us as we are responsible to our Governors for homeland security matters.

Adjutant General involvement with the FTF initiative only began recently with three Adjutants General being invited to participate on the AF/XP sponsored General Officer Steering Committee (GOSC). Lieutenant General Steve Wood has actively engaged us since coming on board late last year. His focus on open exchange of information is refreshing and is setting a course that will benefit all.

From our initial perspective the FTF initiative seems to focus on accelerated reductions of current weapon systems located predominately in the Air National Guard and the relocation of ANG units to active duty bases. The loss of flying units will be compensated by rolling ANG force structure into new missions to sustain its end strength. Issues exist that could be very detrimental to the National Guard to the point of irreversible deterioration. In particular, we fear the initiative as we understand it will cause serious gaps in our capability to defend the homeland.

Our concern compels us to ask you to undertake actions to refine and improve the FTF initiative. These proposals are necessary to preserve the Air National Guard, ensure defense in depth of the homeland, and provide the most lethal and cost effective force in the future.

The Adjutants General can add significant value to Air Force modernization initiatives. First, we feel we should be involved with developing and vetting options, and be given the opportunity to contribute data and analysis to various studies. Through our Adjutants General Association of the United States (AGAUS) we can offer valuable ideas and critiques in a timely manner that will enhance the FTF initiative by making it more palatable to a broader range of interested parties.

Second, the Air Force should thoroughly evaluate the air sovereignty mission after receiving USNORTHCOM requirements from which to develop a realistic force structure plan for homeland defense. The evaluation should consider weapon system dispersion as well as lethality and determine more precisely the extent other services will support this vital mission.

Third, we want to work with the Air Force to develop a roadmap to 2025 that uses proportionality as a key principle for determining roles and missions for the Air National Guard. This is not to say that current proportionality must be strictly adhered to. But rather, it is a starting point for determining the best mix of active and reserve component forces for future operations. We believe increasing full time strength for key weapon

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systems in the ANG deserves evaluation. The ANG may more effectively support critical Air Expedition Force rotations and other vital missions with a different mix of full time and traditional Guard personnel in units.

Fourth, the community basing plan should be expanded immediately to include additional sites and different weapon systems for a more comprehensive evaluation. The Adjutants General believe very strongly that community basing is a key to sustaining the relevant and ready Air National Guard which has performed so magnificently in homeland defense and contingency missions.

Fifth, to sustain an effective ANG end strength of approximately 107,000 the FTF schedule must be adjusted to slow aircraft retirements while accelerating the assumption of new missions by the ANG to avoid a lengthy gap between mission changes during the transitory period. A gap will cause the loss of experienced personnel while impeding our transition to the Air Force of the Twenty-first Century.

Sixth, the ANG should field new Air Force aircraft weapon systems in ratios consistent with our contribution to the war fight and interspersed throughout each system's fielding plan. The nation will be well served by involving the Air National Guard early on during the fielding F/A-22, C-17, and F-35 weapon systems. This would also apply to the new tanker and other flying systems (such as intra-theater lift) as they emerge from development. The Adjutants General can provide the Air Force valuable support if given a clear picture showing ANG participation throughout weapon system fielding.

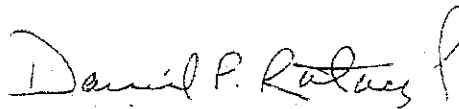
The Adjutants General have an obligation to nurture the rich heritage of the Air National Guard and ensure its readiness and relevance. We have defined several principles that will guide our actions in influencing the make up of the future of the Air Force.

1. Retain the militia basing concept which connects the Air Force to communities dispersed throughout the nation and provides for agile and quick responses to dispersed threats;
2. Leverage the cost efficiencies, capabilities, and community support generated by ANG units in the several states by including them as an integral part of the Future Total Force structure;
3. Each state needs a baseline force for homeland defense which includes civil engineering, medical, and security forces;
4. The Air National Guard maintains essential proportions of flying missions to nurture and sustain direct connectivity with America's communities while supporting the expeditionary Air Force cost effectively, captures the extensive aircrew and maintenance experience of the Air National Guard;
5. The nation is well served by a continuing dialog involving the Air Force, National Guard Bureau, and the Adjutants General as new missions emerge and threats change.

Our desire is to work with the National Guard Bureau in developing, vetting, and implementing initiatives. We provide perspectives from the field that when aligned with the programmatic expertise of NGB will result in sound courses of action with solid support from the several states.

Sir, we truly understand and appreciate your Herculean efforts to transform the greatest Air Force in the World into something even better. We only ask that we are allowed to help in the process.

Respectfully,



DAVID P. RATACZAK  
Major General, AZ ARNG  
President  
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