

Ohio Department of Development

NEWS RELEASE

Bob Taft, Governor
Bruce Johnson, Lt. Governor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 31, 2005

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Review of BRAC Recommendations Shows Positive Impact on Ohio *Community support, skilled workforce testament to aerospace & defense strength*

COLUMBUS- Lt. Governor Bruce Johnson today said that a review of last week's BRAC recommendations show that Ohio fared exceptionally well throughout the Base Realignment and Closure process, further strengthening Ohio's position within the aerospace and defense industry. While cautioning that the process is not complete, Johnson was optimistic that despite an overall national force reduction, Ohio stands to gain nearly 2,000 jobs.

"The last six months have been a series of ups and downs, with Ohio going from status quo to a worst-case scenario loss of 3,300 jobs, to a net gain of more than 1,800 jobs," said Johnson, who also serves as director of the Ohio Department of Development. "While not all Ohio locations were spared, Ohio's overall position relative to other areas of the country is a testament to the skilled workforce at Ohio's military bases and the community and congressional support that rallied around those installations."

Johnson noted it could take many months, or even years, for all the implications to become clear. He used as an example recent news that the Air National Guard base in Mansfield, slated to close after last week, has instead been designated an enclave, meaning some jobs there could be save and new missions could be assigned to the facility.

The Ohio Department of Development provided assistance to local communities throughout the process. It houses the Ohio Aerospace and Defense Advisory Council, which advises Governor Bob Taft on policies and programs that shape the aerospace and defense industries in Ohio, and worked with local communities on action plans. In addition, the department provided more than \$2.5 million to local communities to develop strategies to address the BRAC process.

"Not including our men and women in uniform, the aerospace and defense industry supplies 60,000 high-paying jobs here in Ohio, making it a critical part of our economy," said Johnson. "With our military presence, research and manufacturing strengths, a highly skilled workforce and an outstanding business climate, it is clear that 'Ohio Means Business' when it comes to the aerospace and defense industry."

A full report on the industry can be viewed online at <http://www.odod.state.oh.us/tech/OADAC.pdf>.

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