

FAQs for NGANJ Congressional Letter

QUESTION	ANSWER
Q1. With JBMDL losing the majority of their air refueling and cargo capability, can't the larger and more modern KC-46 fill the loss?	A1. No. There are only going to be a total of twenty-four (24) KC-46's assigned to the joint base (JB). Those aircraft cannot make up for the loss of air refueling and cargo capability for trans-Atlantic missions. With the changes made, there is a net loss of 819,104 gallons of fuel and a loss of 480 pallet positions on aircraft at the JBMDL. Additionally, the subtraction of stand-alone unit-equipped air refueling squadrons versus the association squadron structure provides less capability to combatant commanders. This construct has also complicated and added more risk to the base's strategic mission.
Q2. How can the joint base lose all those aircraft if there hasn't been a Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC)?	A2. The Department of Defense and the Air Force know that congress would never approve of another BRAC. Therefore, they make the changes through the programmatic process.
Q3. What types of analysis have been conducted?	A3. The goal is for the NJANG to remain viable, therefore, only a cost savings analysis has been conducted. Nothing has been studied or directed to look at the cost of moving the capability to other bases, nor are any planned.
Q4. What is the cost-effectiveness of the ANG vs Active Duty (AD)?	A4. The overall mix of forces at JBMDL has changed, as programmatically directed by the USAF. Active Duty (AD) units are more expensive than ANG which will eventually bottom out overall USAF budget and continue downward spiral of ANG and Air Force Reserve Component (AFRC) units. Note: ANG is 77% part-time but maintains the same level of readiness as the AD (same inspections, etc.). ANG is 21% of USAF manpower but only 10.7% of military personnel budget. ANG operates 42% and AFRC operates 18% of current refueling fleet (prior to changes). Even when activated, an ANG or AFRC member is 80-95% of the cost of an AD member due to burdened personnel costs of the AD.
Q5. By writing this letter, what are you looking to accomplish?	A5. We are looking to accomplish several things: 1) to make our Congressional delegates aware of the severe loss of aircraft at the JB and its effect on the nation's cargo and air refueling capability; 2) the lack of a plan for follow on missions for the 177FW which severely impacts the homeland security mission on the east coast and all assets such as the Warren Grove Range which is utilized regularly by the NJ Army National Guard (NJARNG) (and other states) for training. Once our congressional delegates are involved, we would like to have them push for more KC-46's to be assigned to the JB and to assure a future mission for the 177FW. Finally, the JB has already lost 640 personnel positions with the loss of the 514 th KC-10 Mission (AF Reserves). The letter will further inform our Congressional delegates that the upcoming Air Force manpower study at the JB may further recommend a reduction in positions at the 108 th Wing. And further, no identification or commitment by the Air Force to a follow-on mission for the 177FW would be catastrophic in the loss of mission and personnel, etc. This also further negatively impacts employment, NJ's economy and the manpower/resources available to the Governor to respond to State emergencies.
Q6. Will writing these letters really accomplish anything?	A6. During the 2005 BRAC the 108 th lost all 20 of their KC-135E's and was going to be shutdown. The NGANJ Association began a letter writing campaign to our Congressional delegation. Even though the BRAC process is much more difficult to overcome, a positive outcome was achieved and the 108 th was reassigned eight KC-135R models and was not shutdown. So, we strongly feel, based on past experience, that a letter writing campaign certainly has a positive effect on programming decisions.
Q7. If I'm in the NJARNG, how does the writing of this letter about the NJANG affect me?	A7. In addition to the national security issues and the economic impact, there is also an impact on the ability of the National Guard to respond to domestic emergencies and operations. Loss of NJANG personnel means fewer members of the National Guard to be mobilized for state operations whether natural weather events, homeland security missions due to terrorist actions or a pandemic, etc. It also means the Governor loses all ability to utilize NJ based AF aircraft (with NGB approval) for any domestic emergency elsewhere such as responding to another event such as Hurricane Katrina. If this can happen to the NJANG with a simple decision by the US Air Force, the same can happen to the NJARNG with simple decisions by the US Army. Additionally, the NJANG and NJARNG work hand in hand on many other mission sets. From cyber protection to foreign relations with the State Partnership Program, the collective NJNG team (aviation, cyber, security, etc.) works together to meet state and national security objectives. The loss of manpower and mission sets will greatly affect the domestic and strategic work our organizations have been striving towards. Finally, by signing this letter and submitting it to our Congressional delegates, we are raising their awareness to the fact that DOD, Air Force and Army can make force structure/mission changes outside the normal BRAC process. Informing our Congressional delegation puts this issue in the forefront, especially concerning the national security implications as well as the economic impact to NJ. It is necessary to educate them about the impact of the decisions and possibly take action to reverse the negative outcomes of these Air Force decisions. This should be easier than a BRAC process and will help with any possible force structure changes, outside the BRAC process, if they were to occur in the future to either the NJANG or the NJARNG.
Q8. How will the NGANJ Congressional Letters get into the hands of our New Jersey U.S. Senator, Congressman and Representatives?	A8. Constituents will sign a letter for each Congressional member, resulting in multiple individually sealed envelopes. NGANJ Officer and Enlisted Association representatives will gather and conduct a mass delivery to the offices of the NJ U.S. Senator, Congressman, and Representatives.