



## **JOINT NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Citizen Resolution to Help Save 440th Airlift Wing**

FAYETTEVILLE - The Fayetteville Regional Chamber, the City of Fayetteville and Cumberland County are concerned about recent Air Force budget proposals calling for the deactivation of the Air Force 440th Airlift Wing. They are partnering to help the community fight to keep the 440th at Fort Bragg and Pope Army Airfield by providing an online portal at Fayetteville OutFront that enables residents to sign a resolution opposing the deactivation.

The recent 2015 budget proposal submitted by the Air Force includes decommission of the C-130H aircraft and the deactivation of the 440th Airlift Wing. If the budget proposal were enacted, the 10 C-130H aircraft and some 1,600 jobs would be removed from our community. That's an impact of \$77.8 million on our local economy.

The Chamber, City, County and other local governments and community leaders have joined forces to petition Congress to rethink the inclusion of the 440th Airlift Wing, taking into account the impact it would have on our community and the mission readiness of our military soldiers and airmen. The unified voice is strong and the backing of the citizens of our region is imperative.

An online portal was created to give individuals an easy opportunity to unify by signing a resolution which will be sent to representatives in Congress.

“There is no more powerful voice than that of our residents,” said Fayetteville Mayor Nat Robertson. “We have shown time and again that our community is the best in the country when it comes to supporting our military soldiers and airmen and their families. This is our All America City’s chance to show our strength once more.”

“With so many jobs in the 440th being impacted, our economy could take a massive hit,” said Doug Peters, President & CEO of the Chamber. “The people that make up that force are your friends, your neighbors, and the people who help drive our economy forward. We stand in support of those Airmen and are ready to do whatever it takes to show that they belong at Fort Bragg.”

“We are united in our opposition to these proposed budget cuts and call upon our citizens to help us let the folks in Washington know where we stand,” said Commissioner Jeannette Council, chairman of the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners.

Individuals can visit [FayettevilleOutFront.com](http://FayettevilleOutFront.com) to add their name to the resolution. Direct links to the resolution can also be found on the Chamber Website at [www.faybiz.com](http://www.faybiz.com) or the City of Fayetteville's Website at [www.cityoffayetteville.org](http://www.cityoffayetteville.org).

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