

BRAC COMMISSION  
2521 So. Clark Street  
Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

**AUG 09 2005**

Received

**Subject: NAS Willow Grove, PA:  
Advocacy Group of the residents considering suing the Government  
over the threat of Low Flying aircraft**

**Ref: BRAC COMMISSION CLOSURE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The military is wearing out its welcome. Civilian pressure is forcing the military to rethink flight operations at Willow Grove Reserve Air Station. From all fronts the military is fighting the area's pressure. The base is pressed by suburban sprawl and find they have less room to maneuver. Civilian pressures forcing the military to rethink their rooftop operations as a threat to the lives of the pilots and the populated neighborhood. There is more friction created between the residents and Commanders of the Naval Air Station with the daily low flying aircraft during early morning hours, and lasting through the night.

The 111<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing A10 aircraft, Thunderbolts haven't been stationed at the Willow Grove Naval Air Station for the past 15 years. Their operations originate from another service naval air base. They fly over the Willow Grove Air Station once a month at 600 ft altitude and never land, then fly away over the station. They also solicit the command at Maguire Air Force Base to fly an airplane over the base to give the appearance that the base has more aircraft activity.

In the past 15 years a (1) P3A and (1) C130 aircraft would fly PRA's (practice runway approaches) all day to make it appear as an active air base. They fly from 7 AM to 11 PM, which is a threat to the neighborhoods surrounding the air station.

Gov. Edward Rendell, US Senator Rick Santorum and Sen. Arlen Specter are up for election. The polls reflect that they are behind the Pennsylvania voter ratings.

It is to be noticed that the Willow Grove Naval Air Station is a graveyard for non-naval operational aircraft.

The citizens of our neighborhood have been terrified over the past 25 plus years and have very little tolerance for continuous rooftop flights by the aircraft stationed at the Willow Grove Reserve Air Station, especially after an F-4 crash, and the F-14 fighter aircraft crash killing both pilots.

Due to the numbers of aircraft that crashed over the many years has raised the increased threat a "realistic threat." The citizens are concerned and crying out against the rooftop flights, that is prohibited under the government flight regulations. The is quixotic by the

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Commanders of the Willow Grove Air Station; it is idealistic, visionary, and impractical to prevent the aircraft to crash in accordance with the flight regulations. The citizens of our neighborhoods request to know the litany of why the commanders of NAS Willow Grove have a history of non-compliance with the FAA, NTSB.

Department of Defense officials state the military aircraft used in low-altitude, "rooftop flights" are far below the military minimum authorized altitude for training flights. Whether friend or foe, these days you cannot be too careful about low flying aircraft. The neighborhood is protected by the Department of Homeland Security (NTSB), Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), Transportation Security Administration (TSA) in compliance with the Noise Abatement Regulations.

The loss of confidence stems from the Commanders of the Air Station. It is required by law that homeland safety be maintained for all citizens of the neighborhoods from low flying aircraft surrounding the Willow Grove Reserve Air Station. Noise Abatement Regulations of the FAA, NSTB, Transportation Security Administration and Department of Homeland Security should be strictly complied with.

In summary, it is apparent that the recommended closure of the Willow Grove Naval Air Station by the BRAC Commission will satisfy the nearby neighborhoods, and will minimize the loss of pilots and aircraft. To ensure that what is written can be verified, it is suggested that you have one of your staff members drive outside the fence of the Willow Grove Air Station and notice that there are no operational aircraft other than one (1) aircraft that flies everyday, either a P3A or C130. It is to be noted that the P3 is no longer operating.

Gov. Edward Rendell, as Governor and previous Mayor of Philadelphia, has not shown any interest in the Willow Grove Naval Air Station, PA prior to the BRAC closure announcement. The PA governor poll ratings indicate that he is low in the ratings, and early indications show a new governor will be forthcoming after elections.

Respectfully,



GARY RENNARD

(A concerned citizen and  
former Navy pilot)