

DCN: 3065  
Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

June 23, 2005



The Honorable Anthony J. Principi  
Chairman  
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
2521 Clark Street  
Suite 600  
Arlington, Virginia 22202

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Dear Secretary Principi:

We write today concerning your upcoming BRAC Commission site visit to Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Willow Grove, Pennsylvania on July 5, 2005. We strongly encourage you to meet with representatives of the Willow Grove community during your visit.

Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Willow Grove is one of only three joint reserve installations in the country. It is home to elements of the Navy, Marine Corps, Army, Air Force and Pennsylvania National Guard. As you are aware, the Department of Defense has recommended that the installation close; that all Navy and Marine Corps squadrons, their aircraft and necessary personnel, equipment and support be relocated to McGuire Air Force Base in Cookstown, New Jersey; that the 111<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard be deactivated; and that some of the 111<sup>th</sup>'s A-10 aircraft be relocated to National Guard units in Idaho, Maryland and Michigan, and that the remainder be retired. In addition, the Department of Defense recommended the establishment of an enclave to house remaining or relocating units of the Army Reserve and Air National Guard.

As you are scheduled for a site visit to Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Willow Grove on July 5, 2005, we respectfully request that that you allow time to meet with stakeholders in the Willow Grove community. We believe that visiting and meeting with these representatives will enable you to fully realize the outstanding performance and excellence of the men and women of this installation.

We appreciate your kind consideration of this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of additional assistance to you on this or any other issue.

Sincerely,

Arlen Specter  
United States Senator

Rick Santorum  
United States Senator

Allyson Schwartz  
U.S. House of Representatives