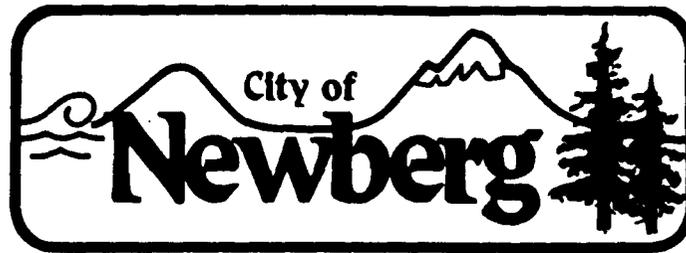


City Manager  
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June 16, 2005



The Honorable Anthony J. Principi  
Chairman, Base Realignment and Closure Commission  
Polk Building, Suite 600 & 625  
2521 South Clark Street  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

The recent DoD recommendation to the BRAC Commission moving the 142<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing's F-15 aircraft to New Orleans and Atlantic City is a mistake both for National and Regional security and economic stability. Most importantly, this decision creates a potential life threatening circumstance. It neglects the mission of Homeland Defense. The following discussion of facts clearly demonstrates why this decision places the Pacific Northwest and Western Region of the United States at risk.

First, the 142<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing in Portland, Oregon, protects our homeland with the F-15 Eagle jet fighter. Their present position is geographically strategic; providing both continuous air defense and air superiority capabilities from northern California far into Canada. This is part of the 24-hour continuous alert North American Air Defense system. No other base in the Pacific Northwest covers this range, and without it we are at risk.

Secondly, intelligence reports consistently reveal Al Queda and its franchise terrorist cells are continuing to probe our aviation resources as sources of effective weaponry. Most of the major routes for airlines operating between Asia and North America traverse the West Coast airspace, with many taking off at Western International Airports heavily "fuel loaded" for long flights. Reflecting back to 9/11, and by proactively using current day intelligence information, it would be nothing short of woeful negligence to not maintain a dedicated Air Defense Fighter Wing to provide logistic and operational support to an alert mission in protection of the western United States.

Lastly, the citizens of the Pacific Northwest and Northern California deserve the same protection afforded the Eastern United States. This decrease in Air Defense capability, coupled with known current threats and the likelihood of multiple targets that are widely dispersed becomes a scenario that is more appealing and potentially a very successful opportunity for the terrorist. Realistically, the 142<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing's homeland defense mission is more critical now than previously perceived.

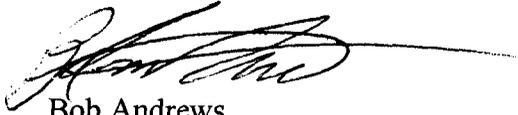
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The DoD recommendations degrade the Homeland Security of the Northwest and the entire nation. This cannot and should not be ignored. I believe that a maximum effort must be generated to change the DoD recommendation that transfers Dedicated Air Defense from the Northwest. I strongly ask for your support and leadership to help reverse this DoD recommendation.

Thank you for your help and consideration in keeping the Pacific Northwest and the United States safe.

Respectfully yours,



Bob Andrews  
Mayor Pro Tem  
City of Newberg

CC: Senator Smith, Senator Wyden, Representative Wu, Representative Hooley, Representative Walden, Representative Fazio, Representative Blumenauer, League of Oregon Cities, Association of Oregon Counties

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