



06292005
RECEIVED

STATE OF DELAWARE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

June 24, 2005

RUTH ANN MINNER
GOVERNOR

Mr. James S. Hanna and Ms. Ashley Buzzell
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 S. Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202-3920

Dear Mr. Hanna and Ms. Buzzell:

On behalf of the entire State of Delaware, we would like to express our deepest thanks for you taking the time to visit the New Castle County Air National Guard base on June 13, 2005. The Commission's genuine attention to this situation and your willingness to help explain the process to all of us is much appreciated.

As you know, we support the BRAC process and are encouraged to see it working as the Commission takes a closer look at each recommendation. We believe maintaining the effectiveness of this base is important to our national defenses and also to the safety of the millions of people residing in the Mid-Atlantic region. The loss of our 8 C-130 tactical airlift planes and critical personnel would have a devastating impact on the safety and readiness of our State.

We understand you and the Commission have a very difficult task weighing such a large amount of information in such a short period of time and we are truly thankful for your consideration of New Castle's situation. We look forward to continuing our dialogue with the Commission. Please feel free to contact us or our staffs if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ruth Ann Minner
Governor

Joseph R. Biden
United States Senator

Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator

Michael N. Castle
United States Representative

Christopher A. Coons
New Castle County Executive

Maj. Gen. Francis D. Vavala
Adjutant General

Hugh T. Broomall
Brigadier General