



TOURISM
ASSOCIATION

July 1, 2005



Anthony J. Principi
BRAC Commission
Polk Building
Suites 600 and 625
2521 South Clark St.
Arlington, VA 22202

07 05 2005

Dear Mr. Principi:

On behalf of the Maine Tourism Association Board of Directors and our 1749 members from across Maine, I am writing to urge the BRAC Commission to keep the Naval Air Station in Brunswick, Maine fully operational by keeping the patrol squadrons in place.

I am sure that you have been well informed of the key arguments being made by our elected officials and citizens on behalf of the State of Maine and therefore understand the devastating impact such a reduction in staffing would have on the economy of the Brunswick area and the many businesses that have come to rely on the NASB personnel.

We agree with and support the arguments that the NASB is a key strategic military facility and that the NASB should be kept fully operational. The proposed change in operations raises questions about our national security and leaves the northeastern U. S. without this strategic location for the defense of our country. Since 9/11, and with terrorism on the increase, all United States citizens are experiencing a greater sense of insecurity. As millions and millions of citizens reside in the metropolitan areas along the eastern seaboard, one must ask, if reducing operations at a facility located as strategically as NASB, is the right decision given the uncertainties throughout the world right now.

Thank you for your consideration of this request to keep the NASB fully operational. I wish you the very best during your deliberations.

Sincerely,

Vaughn Stinson, C.T.C.
Chief Executive Officer

327 Water Street • Hallowell, Maine 04347

Tel: 207-623-0363 • Fax: 207-623-0388

Web site: www.mainetourism.com • e-mail: mtainfo@mainetourism.com