



*Connecting the Possibilities*



07 07 20 05

July 5 2005

2005 - Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

To Whom It May Concern,

The Plymouth Area Chamber of Commerce representing over 750 businesses in the South Shore area of Massachusetts would like to offer this letter of support for the continued operation of the Otis Air National Guard Base. The Plymouth Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors has unanimously voted and documented their opposition to this closure and would like the BRAC committee to register the following proclamation as written documentation of such opposition.

Best Regards,

  
Denis J. Hanks  
Executive Director

## PROCLAMATION

RECEIVED

**Resolution in Support of the Otis Air National Guard Base  
Massachusetts Military Reservation, Cape Cod, Massachusetts**

07 07 2005

The Plymouth Area Chamber of Commerce through its Board of Directors representing the 750 members of the Plymouth Area Chamber of Commerce within 9 communities on the South Shore of Massachusetts, hereby offer documented support opposing the closure of the Otis Air National Guard Base Massachusetts Military Reservation, in Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

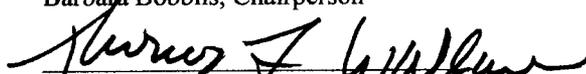
- Whereas:** The Otis Air National Guard Base carries out a critical military mission in this nation's homeland defense network by protecting the Northeastern United States from attacks by terrorists and by defending our borders against illegal entry, with the F-15 fighters from the 102<sup>nd</sup> being the first forces to arrive at the World Trade Center during the September 11 attacks;
- Whereas:** The 102<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing traces its history in Eastern Massachusetts to 1921 and for four decades the Otis Air National Guard Base has served as the keystone of operations in support of the several critical missions carried out at the Massachusetts Military Reservation, which currently include hosting the Coast Guard Air Wing that provides vital and irreplaceable support for the protection of our coastal waters from New Jersey to Canada;
- Whereas:** The 102<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing specifically provides air protection to the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Facility that resides in Plymouth should it ever be a potential target to terrorist activity;
- Whereas:** The military and civilian personnel employed and stationed at the Otis Air Base facility are an integral part of our economic base in Plymouth and the surrounding communities as well as an economic stimulus from goods and services purchased;
- Whereas:** The Base Realignment and Closure Commission is currently in the evaluation and decision making phase of the 2005 round of Department of Defense's proposed military base closures, and will be making its recommendations to Congress and the President in September of 2005;
- Whereas:** The Department of Defense has included the Otis Air National Guard Base on its proposed closure list to be considered by the Base Realignment and Closure Commission;
- Whereas:** Our loss of the Otis Air National Guard from the Massachusetts Military Reservation would severely damage the ability to carry out the interconnected and essential military missions of the Base would diminish the homeland security and coastal safety of the Northeast region of our United States, and would fundamentally impact the economy of the Upper Cape Cod region.

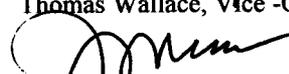
Now, Therefore Be it Resolved: That the Plymouth Area Chamber of Commerce encourages the Base Realignment and Closure Commission to remove the Otis Air National Guard Base from consideration for closure, and that this important national resource continue to fulfill its vital role in the protection of our nation.

In Witness Thereof, we have this date, June 24, 2005, hereunto set our hand and seal to be affixed.

OFFICERS

  
Barbara Bobblis, Chairperson

  
Thomas Wallace, Vice - Chairman

  
Jack Meehl, Treasurer

  
Joseph Bisaccio, Clerk

  
Denis J. Hanks, Executive Director