

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

July 28, 2005

Admiral Harold H. Gehman
Member, Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Admiral Gehman,

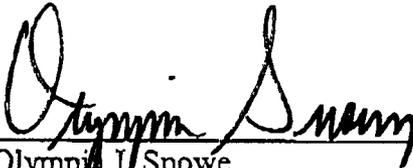
At the last BRAC Commission hearing on July 19, you requested a definition of "strategic presence," in light of the DoD justification given for realignment rather than closure of the Brunswick Naval Air Station (BNAS). We are providing you with some additional information from Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Anne Rathman, in response to your inquiry about the future homeland defense and surge requirements of BNAS. We hope that, as you continue to consider the future role of BNAS in supporting the national defense, you find the information that the Navy has provided helpful.

The letter says that BNAS fulfills *specific* requirements of: (1) response time, and, (2) aircraft mission capabilities. The letter states, "The loss of BNAS will increase P-3 response time to any maritime threat against the northeast coast of the United States. ...Numerous sites in the Northeast have been considered as potentially feasible locations to conduct P-3 detachment operations and Brunswick continues to be viewed by the Navy as the optimal site in New England for P-3 detachment operations."

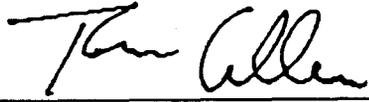
Secretary Rathman states in her letter that BNAS "has enormous strategic value as the last remaining active DoD airfield in the northeast." We hope that you and your staff will carefully review Secretary Rathman's letter, which outlines the Navy's requirement for maintaining the capabilities of the Brunswick Naval Air Station.

Please let us know if we can be of any further assistance during your deliberations.

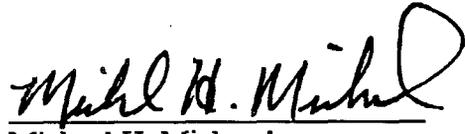
Sincerely,


Olympia J. Snowe
United States Senator

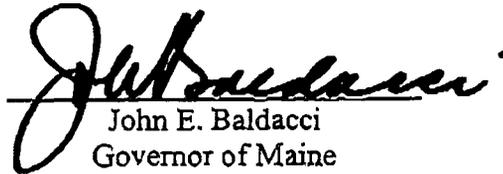

Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Thomas H. Allen
Member of Congress



Michael H. Michaud
Member of Congress



John E. Baldacci
Governor of Maine



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
1000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20350-1000

July 26, 2005

The Honorable Susan M. Collins
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Collins:

This is in response to the July 21, 2005, email from Ms. Mackenzie Eaglen of your staff concerning the strategic value of Naval Air Station (NAS) Brunswick. Specifically, Ms. Eaglen asked: "What is the strategic importance of BNAS and define the associated homeland defense and surge capability requirements of BNAS?"

Commander Fleet Forces Command (CFFC) supports retention of NAS Brunswick as a Naval Air Field (NAF) because it will support future requirements for homeland defense and surge capability. The specific Maritime Homeland Defense (MHL) requirement is stated in terms of response time and aircraft mission capabilities. The loss of NAS Brunswick will increase P-3 response time to any maritime threat against the northeast coast of the United States. Because this area is not a standard operating area for U.S. naval vessels, and because of the proximity of NAS Brunswick to the great circle navigation routes from Europe, P-3s operating out of NAS Brunswick currently provide the MHL initial response coverage. United States Northern Command, working in cooperation with the military departments and the U.S. Coast Guard, is developing an air-to-surface concept of operations that will address this responsiveness concern with other assets or force packages that will be combined with the current P-3 mission capabilities to facilitate maximum response flexibility. Numerous sites in the northeast have been considered as potentially feasible locations to conduct P-3 detachment operations (although additional detailed analysis is required), and NAS Brunswick continues to be viewed by the Navy as the optimal site in New England for P-3 detachment operations. In addition to its location in the northeast, NAS Brunswick is an ideal location to support P-3 detachment missions because it has a fully functional weapons facility that can support all weapons available for deployment onboard the P-3, and because its geographic location permits armed aircraft to depart on maritime missions without flying over inhabited areas.

NAS Brunswick also has enormous strategic value as the last remaining active DoD airfield in the northeast. NAS Brunswick supports (and NAF Brunswick will continue to support) several large NATO joint training exercise opportunities. In addition, NAS Brunswick is a critical logistics and refueling hub for DoD aircraft flowing in and out of the U.S. Central Command and U.S. European Command theatre of operations. NAS Brunswick will also continue to function as an important location for aviation training, because it can and will remain capable of logistically supporting all of the aircraft currently in the DoD inventory. Its utility is not limited to DoD aircraft, but includes

aircraft of the Air National Guard and other Federal agencies. NAS Brunswick will function in a similar manner to NAS Key West, which also has no home-based operational assets. In addition, NAF Brunswick will continue to be the home of the Department of the Navy's east coast Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape (SERE) School, and will also continue to host Navy and Marine Corps reserve units.

I trust this information satisfactorily addresses your immediate concerns. My staff is available to meet with your staff to respond to any specific questions. If we can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Anne Rathmell Davis
Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Navy
For Base Realignment and Closure