

PEGNATO

**P.O. Box 1026 39 Clay Pond Road
Monument Beach, Massachusetts 22553**

BRAC Commission

July 25, 2005

JUL

Received

BRAC,
2521 South Clark St., Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202.

Dear Commissioners,

On July 6, 2005 at the BRAC hearing in Boston, you were presented detailed testimony on the merits of keeping the 102nd Fighter Wing and Otis Air National Guard Base open. I urge the BRAC Commission to review that testimony and make a correct decision.

In its 85 plus year history, the 102nd Fighter Wing has had a variety of assignments. Since 1973, the 102nd Fighter Wing has been responsible for patrolling the skies of the northeast for homeland defense. It is the closest 24 hour alert unit to intercept air traffic coming towards the United States from the north and east from points across the Atlantic Ocean and has been activated on a regular basis. It was among first responders on the scene on September 11, 2001 and is recognized as one of the top fighter wings in the entire Air National Guard.

The Otis Coalition contends that it makes no sense for our country to dismantle one of its best fighter wings and close one of the nation's most important air defense installations, especially while our nation is at war.

Although not directly military related, Otis ANG Base has a direct, indirect and induced annual economic impact of \$82.3 million in Massachusetts, most specifically on Cape Cod, the Boston south shore, and Fall River/New Bedford south coast areas.

The 102nd Fighter Wing/Otis ANG Base operates the base airfield; provides base security, fire services, and water and sewer to all base tenants. The 102nd supports the Air National Guard's 267th/253rd Combat Support Group, the Coast Guard's Air Station Cape Cod, Coast Guard fisheries training center and its marine safety office, new port security personnel, and the Army National Guard's Camp Edwards. If Otis closes, then it means that all military, homeland defense and public safety operations, including the Coast Guard are at risk.

Other users of the base include: Upper Cape Solid Waste Transfer Station, Cape Cod Septic System Test Center, Bourne Public Schools, the Veterans Administration's Massachusetts National Cemetery, Barnstable County House of Correction, USDA R&D facility, the Air Force's PAVE PAWS radar, Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve, and the FAA Air Traffic TRACON facility, which controls aviation in southeastern Massachusetts.

A GAO study documents that the cost to the Coast Guard of closing the 102nd Fighter Wing/Otis ANG Base will be at least \$17 million and 100 new personnel. The cost to all other tenants is not yet known. Therefore, cost savings are questionable.

The servicemen and women and civilian employees of Otis ANG Base are neighbors, family, friends and part of our business community. Their departure will hurt our communities.

Full time employment at Otis provides almost 500 jobs, representing more than 1 percent of total employment in the surrounding communities of Falmouth, Bourne, Mashpee and Sandwich. In the absence of robust job growth statewide, the loss of these full-time, benefited jobs is extremely meaningful.

If Otis ANG Base closes there are no plans to operate the base services that all military tenants require to perform their missions. No plan has been established to provide water and sewer to the 600 military housing units; base security; operations of the airfield; support to the Coast Guard, Army National Guard, Combat Support Group, FAA and the VA.

No plan has been established to provide replacement fire services to all remaining base users, PAVE PAWS, or to suppress future fires in the northern 15,000 acres of the base, leaving the towns exposed to a significant public safety hazard.

Closing the 102nd Fighter Wing/Otis ANG Base means loss of a strategically important airfield for defending the northeast. It is situated on Cape Cod, jutting out into the Atlantic, to provide almost immediate and unencumbered access for fighter jets.

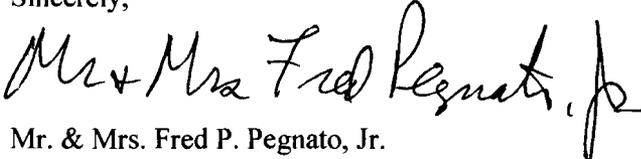
The base has a long range master plan with initial clearances from local and state environmental agencies. It has plans to modernize training facilities, establish better homeland security training facilities for both military and other first responders; and to provide a home for expanded Coast Guard operations.

Under construction is a new base fire station. Under design is a new air traffic control tower. Future construction plans at the base call for modernizing other military facilities to help build cost efficiencies and savings.

The methodology for the BRAC review of Otis failed to take into account all the strategic military values of the installation and the value of all homeland defense operations prior to the Pentagon's recommendation. Otis was not given the same fair shake as other bases during this round of proposed base closings.

We strongly urge the BRAC to remove Otis Air National Guard Base and save the 102nd Fighter Wing as part of its 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Recommendations.

Sincerely,



Mr. & Mrs. Fred P. Pegnato, Jr.

BRAC Commission

JUL 29 2005

Received

July 26, 2005

BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Subject : Retention of Otis Air National Guard Base

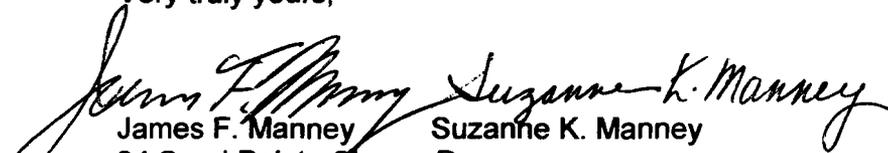
Dear BRAC Commission:

We support the retention of the Otis Air National Guard Base operations at the Massachusetts Military Reservation. Otis ANG Base is an integral and valued part of the Falmouth community and Cape Cod. Most importantly, the military missions it fulfills are important to the safety and protection of the Northeast United States.

The F-15s from the 102nd Fighter Wing based at Otis ANG Base were the first military aircraft to reach the World Trade Center during the September 11, 2001 attacks. The 102nd Fighter Wing fulfills numerous military and homeland security needs. It also provides vital support to the U.S. Coast Guard at Air Station Cape Cod, one of the busiest installations in the country. Otis ANG Base is the host installation for all of the military and homeland security operations at the MMR, including U.S. Army Guard training at Camp Edwards. The loss of Otis would severely damage the shared infrastructure and resources currently found on the MMR.

We urge the Base Realignment and Closure Commission to remove Otis ANG Base from the list of military installations being considered for closure and/or realignment. Otis ANG Base is too important for our nation's security and homeland defense to be eliminated.

Very truly yours,


James F. Manney Suzanne K. Manney
34 Sand Pointe Shores Dr.
E. Falmouth, MA 02536

BRAC Commission

JUL 29 2005

Received

July 25, 2005

Dear Anthony J. Principi, James H. Bilbray, Philip Coyle, Adm. Harold W. Gehman Jr., James V. Hansen, Gen. James T. Hill, Gen. Lloyd W. Newton, Samuel K. Skinner and Brig. Gen. Sue E. Turner,

Urge the BRAC to reverse Pentagon plan to close Otis Air National Guard Base and split up the 102nd Fighter Wing.

The 102nd Fighter Wing is responsible for patrolling the skies of the northeast for homeland defense. It is the closest 24 hour alert unit to intercept air traffic coming to USA, and has been activated on a regular basis. It was among first on the scene on 9/11 and is one of the top fighter wings in the entire Air National Guard.

The Otis Coalition contends that it makes no sense for our Country to dismantle one of its best fighter wings and close one of the nation's most important air defense installations, especially while our nation is at war.

Otis ANG Base has a direct, indirect and induced annual economic impact of \$82.3M in Massachusetts, most specifically on the Cape and south shore/coast.

Otis ANG Base operates the base airport; provides base security and fire services water

and sewer to all base tenants. Supports the Coast Guard's Air Station Cape Cod, Coast Guard fisheries training center and marine safety office, and new port security personnel; Army National Guard Camp Edwards. If Otis goes, then it means that all military, homeland defense and public safety operations — including the Coast Guard — are at risk.

Other users of MMR include: Upper Cape Solid Waste Transfer Station; Cape Cod Septic System Test Center; Bourne Schools, VA National Cemetery; Barnstable County House of Corrections; USDA R&D facility; Air Force PAVE PAWS radar; Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve; FAA Air Traffic TRACON facility etc.

GAO study documents cost of closing Otis to Coast Guard is at least \$17 million and 100 new personnel. Cost to all other tenants not yet known. There is questionable cost savings. The servicemen and women of Otis ANG are neighbors, family, friends and part of our business community. Their departure will hurt our communities.

Full time employment at Otis provides almost 500 jobs, representing more than 1 percent of total employment in the adjacent communities of Falmouth, Bourne, Mashpee and Sandwich. In the absence of robust job growth statewide, the loss of these full-time, benefited jobs is extremely meaningful.

If Otis closes there are no plans to operate the MMR base services that all military tenants require to perform their missions. We do not know who will provide water and sewer to the 600 military housing units; base security; operations of the airport; support to the FAA and the VA.

There are no plans to provide replacement fire services to all MMR users, PAVE PAWS, or to suppress future fires in the northern 15,000 acres of the base, leaving the towns exposed to a significant public safety hazard.

Closing the Otis ANG means loss of a strategically important airfield for defending the northeast. It is on Cape Cod, juts out into the Atlantic, providing almost immediate and

unencumbered access for fighter jets.

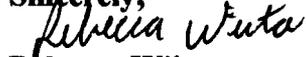
The MMR has a long range master plan --- with initial clearances from local state environmental agencies. It modernizes training facilities, establishes better homeland security training facilities for military and other first responders; and provides a home for expanded Coast Guard operations.

Under construction is a new base fire station. Under design is a new air traffic control tower. Future construction plans at the MMR call for modernizing other military facilities to help build cost efficiencies and savings.

The methodology for the BRAC review of Otis failed to take into account all the strategic military values of the installations and the value of all homeland defense operations prior to the Pentagon's recommendation. Otis was not given the same fair shake as other bases during this round of proposed base closings.

We urge the BRAC to remove the Otis Air National Guard Base and save the 102nd Fighter Wing as part of its 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Recommendations.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Wiita

43 Prince Henry Drive

East Falmouth, MA 02536