



DCN: 6618

BRAC Commission

AUG 04 2005

Received

August 1, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman, Base Realignment and Closure Commission
Polk Building, Suite 600 & 625
2521 South Clark Street
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi

The recent DOD recommendation to the BRAC Commission to move the 142nd Fighter Wing's F-15 aircraft to New Orleans and Atlantic City is of great concern to the Redmond Chamber of Commerce and it's 650+ members. This decision creates a potential life threatening circumstance to all Oregonians and neglects the mission of Homeland Defense. The Redmond Chamber would like to encourage you to reconsider the BRAC Commissions findings and maintain the 142nd Fighter Wing's F-15's in Oregon.

The 142nd Fighter Wing in Portland, Oregon, protects our homeland with the F-15 Eagle jet fighter. Their present position is geographically strategic, providing both continuous air defense and air superiority capabilities from northern California and far into Canada. This protection is part of the 24-hour continuous alert North American Air Defense (NORAD) system. No other base in the Pacific Northwest covers this range and without it the region is at risk.

Citizens of the Pacific Northwest and Northern California deserve the same protection afforded the Eastern United States. The DOD's recommendations degrade the Homeland Security of the Northwest and the entire nation. Again, we would strongly encourage you to reconsider the BRAC Commission's recommendation and retain the 142nd Fighter Wing in its entirety. Thank you for your time and consideration in maintaining the safety and security of the Pacific North West and the United Sates.

Sincerely,

Eric Sande, Executive Director
The Redmond Chamber of Commerce & CVB