DCN: 6619

BRAC Commission

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Received

State of North Carolina
Office of the Lieutenant Governor

BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

310 NORTH BLOUNT STREET
20401 MAIL SERVICE CENTER
RALEIGH, NC 27699-0401

TELEPHONE: (919) 733-7350
FAX: (919) 733-6595
e-mail: bperdue@ncmail.net

August 1, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark St., Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Commissioner Principi:

I am writing to add my voice to Senator Dole's in support of bringing additional aircraft squadrons to Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point. I applaud your approach to the BRAC process and the priority you've placed on increasing our military readiness. As you work through your recommendations, the location of additional aircraft at Cherry Point merits serious consideration.

As I'm sure you're aware, there was significant construction done in the 1990s to house additional aircraft at MCAS Cherry Point. These aircraft never arrived, leaving unused capacity. Cherry Point is ready to accept four more squadrons of aircraft, in addition to the two squadrons slated to arrive in 2007.

Cherry Point and the surrounding communities have been proactive with regard to land use, so encroachment is not an issue now nor will it be an issue in the future. I agree with our senior Senator that moving aircraft to Cherry Point will not only reduce congestion at Oceana but will position these squadrons only minutes away from training ranges and aircraft carriers.

I thank you and your fellow commissioners for your consideration and your dedication and hard work in this critical endeavor.

Sincerely,

Bev Perdue

Beverly Eaves Perdue

BEP/srn