

**BASE VISIT REPORT**

**Naval Air Station Brunswick**

**26 July 2005**

**LEAD COMMISSIONER:** The Honorable Samuel K. Skinner

**COMMISSIONER:** Brigadier General Sue E. Turner (USAF Ret.)

**COMMISSION STAFF:** Jim Hanna, Navy/Marine Corps Team Leader and Hal Tickle, Senior Navy/Marine Corps Lead Analyst

**LIST OF ATTENDEES:**

RDML Kenny – Commander, Navy Region Northeast, Commander Subgroup TWO and TEN  
Captain Hewitt – Commander Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing FIVE  
Captain Womack – Commanding Officer, Naval Air Station Brunswick

Governor Baldacci

Mr. Horton – Senator Snowe staff

Ms. Eaglen – Senator Collins staff

Mr. Ouellette – Congressman Allen staff

Mr. DuBois – Congressmen Michard staff

Major General Libby (TAG)

**CPRW FIVE MISSION:**

- Ensure that patrol squadrons are trained, equipped, and resourced to achieve the required levels of operational readiness necessary to meet ever Changing theater commander requirements.
- Major tenants are: CPRW FIVE, VP-8, VP-10, VP-26 (Active P-3s), VPU-1 (Special Projects P-3s), VP-92 (Reserve P-3s) and VR-62 (Reserve C-130s)

**NAVAL AIR STATION BRUNSWICK MISSION:**

- To operate DoD's primary military air station in the northeast region of the United States in support of the operational forces of the U.S. and its allies.
- Major tenants are: CPRW FIVE, VP-8, VP-10, VP-26 (Active P-3s), VPU-1 (Special Projects P-3s), VP-92 (Reserve P-3s) and VR-62 (Reserve C-130s), AIMD, FASO and Air Reserve Center.

**ADDS Consideration:**

- Close Naval Air Station Brunswick, ME and relocate its aircraft along with dedicated personnel, equipment and support to Naval Air Station Jacksonville, FL. Consolidate Aviation Intermediate Maintenance with Fleet Readiness Center Southeast Jacksonville, FL. Disposition of other tenant activities awaiting further analysis.
- **JUSTIFICATION** Permit the BRAC Commission with options to realign, close or leave the base as is; consider potential increased savings; permit State redevelopment of base property to offset economic impact

### **MAIN FACILITIES REVIEWED:**

- NAS Brunswick facilities
- CPRW FIVE Headquarters
- Tactical Support Center
- P-3 tour

### **KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED**

- Strategic location
- Existing facilities, airspace and expansion capability to support MMA
- Suited to UAV operations
- Cost savings of closure versus realignment
- Homeland Defense requirements
- Possibility of increased missions if base remains open
- ANG aircraft support
- Coast Guard aircraft support
- Reserve C-130 support from other realigned/closed installations
- TAG consolidation of ANG and Reserve Units to base for force protection

### **INSTALLATION CONCERNS RAISED**

- Degradation of training, mission effectiveness and Sailor quality of life associated with the closure
- Reserve Officers and Sailors unlikely to relocate; integration of VP-92 crews into active duty squadron in question
- Last active duty DoD airfield in New England
- Can support MMA and entire military inventory of aircraft
- Unencumbered, parallel runways, ready access to training airspace over water and land
- Site of only cold weather survival school in the Navy
- Closest point for military aircraft deploying to or returning from Europe and Mid-East
- NATO funded Tactical Support Center, CPRW FIVE headquarters and fuel farm
- CNRNE: DoD recommendation to close Submarine Base New London is an irreversible decision based on incorrect 20-year Force Structure numbers for SSNs

### **COMMUNITY CONCERNS RAISED:**

- Military value of NAS Brunswick underestimated
- Homeland Defense and civil support basing options support to Northeast
- Speed and persistence essential
- Surge capability to support all types aircraft including MMA and UAVs
- Relatively inexpensive to operate
- Would lose Naval Reserve demographic in New England
- Capacity analysis overemphasized at expense of military value
- Closure costs underestimated
- Savings overestimated
- Economic impact on community underestimated
- Recapitalization of over \$136M since 2001
- Strong community support for military presence