

BRAC Commission

American Legion **JUL 13 2005**
 Barnstable Massachusetts
 Post 206, PO Box 374 **Received**
 Centerville, MA 02632
 July, 6, 2005

2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
 2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600
 Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sirs:

The 102nd Fighter Wing and the Otis National Air Guard Base are both needed to protect New England. The area defended is a huge contributor of revenue and defense needs. It deserves an optimum air defense and Otis is the best place from which to do it.

The New York Sectional Aeronautical Chart, 69° to 77° Longitude and 40° to 44° Latitude, reveals the world's greatest concentration of airports and airways. Otis is prominently situated midway and inside of the Northeast Atlantic coastal Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ). Obviously, the most commanding site from which to defend this complex and densely populated coastal flank is Otis:

1. Otis has the best response time due to central location, unobstructed approaches, military traffic only and immediate over-water flight transecting the normal flow of traffic.
2. Otis joins in Combined Defense Operations, including, Coast Guard fixed wing, helicopter and water craft; Coast Guard, radar and communications; PAVE PAWS early warning radar; Army Guard helicopters, communications and land operations.
3. 100% military readiness: The 102nd ranks at top of Air Guard in readiness
4. Otis has in-depth force protection by inclusion in a large National Guard protected base.

The primary aerial threat to the region is from terrorist commandeered commercial or general aviation aircraft. F-15's are over qualified to meet this threat. However these planes are aging and soon to be replaced. The AF replacement choices are F-22's or F-35's both of which are even more overqualified and extremely expensive (over \$250,000,000 ea.).

The high cost of new fighters alone forces the Air Force to cut back. Fixed costs of F-22's on a 1/1 replacement basis for the 102nd would add astoundingly to operating costs (\$450,000,000/yr. at 10% per yr.). The idea of such a one size fits all fighter is predicated on hypothetical combat employment. But fast and lightly armed interceptors should be sufficient to meet domestic theater terrorist threats. An air wing that would be more mission specific would reduce operating costs.

The Commission is urged not to abandon Otis and the combined forces concept that is embodied in the Massachusetts Military Reservation. Otis is the most visible part of that defense posture in New England. The region's National Guard enrollment is sinking. Closing Otis further debilitates the common defense in the cradle of liberty and our armed forces.

Sincerely,



Minos Gordy, Post 206 Commander

~~JUL 13 2005~~

AMERICAN INDIAN ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

Received

July 5, 2005

BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington VA 22202

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to impress upon you the importance of preserving the Otis Air National Guard Base located on Cape Cod in Massachusetts. For a number of reasons, the closure of this facility would be a tremendous loss both locally and nationally.

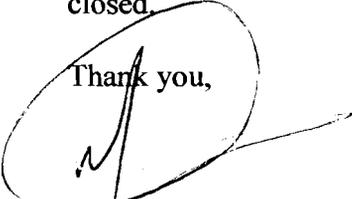
This military reservation is so critical to our national and regional security as to host the fighter jets that were first to respond on September 11, 2001. More recently it was celebrated last year as the location for a new Homeland Security Training Center.

Should Otis be closed, our Coast Guard facility, Air Station Cape Cod, will also be threatened. This vital branch of the Coast Guard, responsible for hundreds of maritime rescue missions, would likely be forced to close as well as it is not funded to sustain the infrastructure necessary to launch missions from the shared Otis facility.

I hope you will also consider that the base closing will cost more than 800 jobs and hurt greatly Cape commerce, which has grown to depend on the base and military personnel to fuel our local economy.

As a local businessman and a member of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, I am very concerned about the negative impact this base closure would have on my family, my tribe and my country. I hope you will give every consideration to the issues, which I feel are strong enough to compel your commission to remove this base from the list of those to be closed.

Thank you,



Mark D. Harding

Senior Management Board, Massachusetts Military Reservation, Mashpee Wampanoag Representative
Citizens Advisory Council, MMR, Vice Chair, Mashpee Wampanoag Representative

JUL 13 2005

Received

Angela F. LeBeau
9 Bishop Path
Sandwich, Massachusetts 02563-2406
July 11, 2005

Mr. Anthony Principi
Chief BRAC Commissioner
Base Realignment & Closure Commission
2521 So. Clark Street
Arlington, Virginia 22202

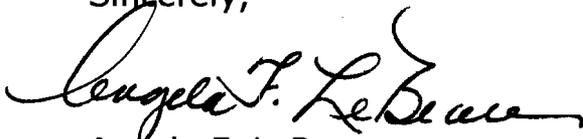
Dear Mr. Principi: RE: Otis ANG Base
 Cape Cod, MA

Enclosed please find a copy of letter sent to Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld regarding the military closures which I believe to be self-explanatory.

Knowing you will give every consideration to those military facilities slated to be closed, kindly give Otis ANG Base an extra look.....this facility has proven its worth both on September 11th and in the pursuit of ongoing flights from overseas that had to land in Bangor, Maine due to suspicious persons on board those flights recently.

Thank you for reading my letter.

Sincerely,



Angela F. LeBeau

/afl
Enclosure