

AUG 11 2005

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Aug 5, 05



BRAC COMMISSION,

I am adding my voice to many others on Cape Cod to urge you to reverse the Pentagon plan to close Otis Air National Guard Base.

During these troubled times Homeland Security for the Northeast depends on the 102nd Fighter Wing. It is our first line of defense to intercept air traffic into the U.S. They were there for us on 9/11, and are rated as one of the top fighter wings in the entire Air National Guard.

The pride and security I feel when I hear those jets overhead is overwhelming!

Please save Otis ANGB & the 102nd Fighter Wing.

66 POINT OF PINES
CENTERVILLE, MA. 02632

Sincerely,
Jacquelyn Cronos 

**102nd MAANG Fighter Wing at Otis, MMR,
Cape Cod, Mass.**

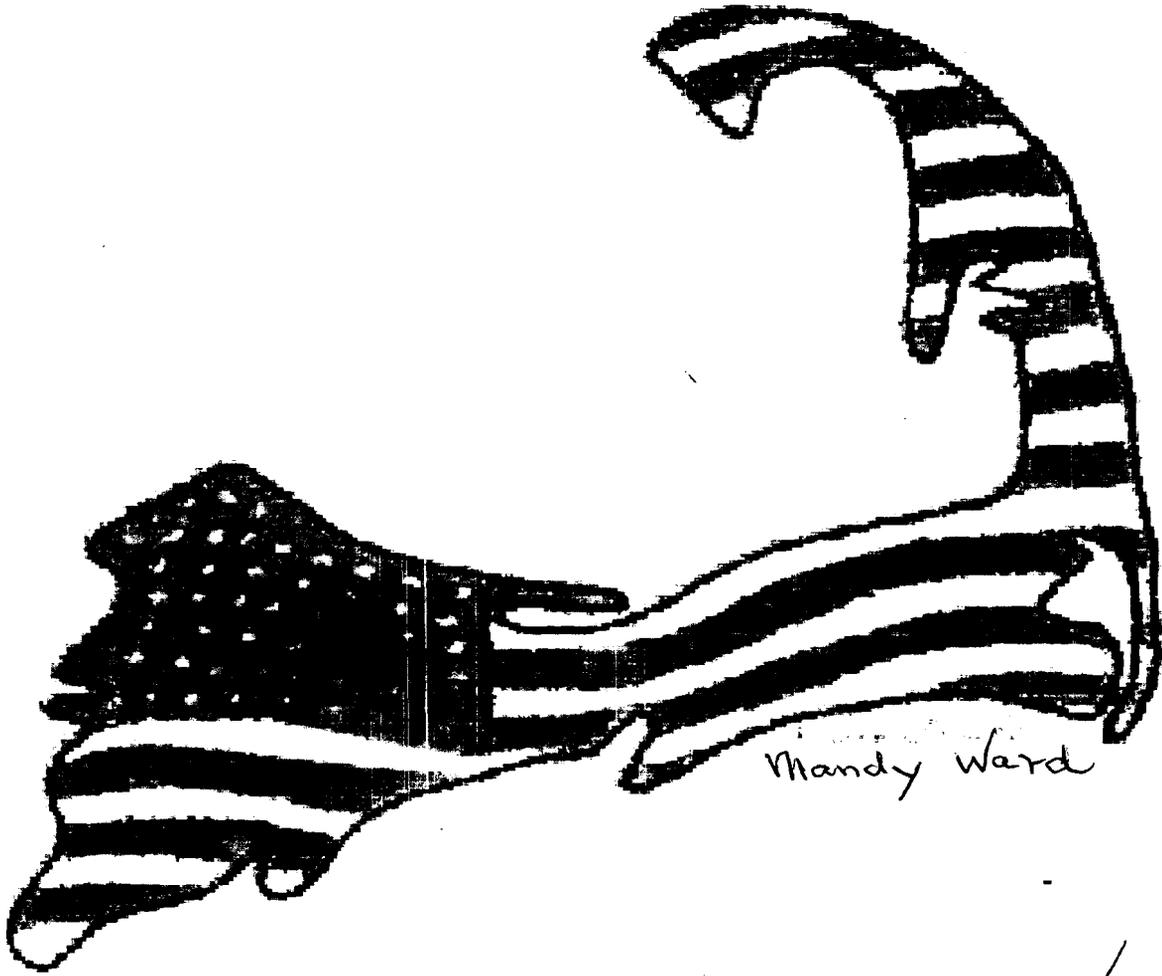
**'Integrated' with Standing Forces
'Transformed' into Joint Forces**

BRAC Commission

AUG 11 2005

Message: Save & Upgrade

Received



Mandy Ward

Respectfully Submitted
By Jean Hazelton Crocker
40 Tracey Road
Cotuit Massachussetts
508-428-4283

See
Editorial
page 6 of
Times
Newspaper

Part 2 of my letter and Part one, I sent yesterday
BRIFF
D
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CAPE COD TIMES
The Cape and Islands' Daily Newspaper
New England Newspaper Association's
Daily Newspaper of the Year

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 2005

LETTERS

Defense Department goals met at Otis

The Department of Defense should be urged to implement its own goals, among them integrating National Guard and reserve units into the standing forces. That mission has been accomplished for the 102nd Fighter Wing at Otis.

Transformation of all military branches is a second Defense Department goal: to organize varied elements of the armed forces, to coordinate work more efficiently on the battlefield and to trim finances. The 102nd has accomplished that transformation mission, as evidenced by its being the most rapid responder on 9/11.

This top professional 102nd must be retained at the Massachusetts Military Reservation, especially given that the Otis landing strip is the third choice in case of a NASA landing emergency. The NASA standby landing strip at Otis is strategic to space safety.

Why has Defense forgotten its own goals? The joint-services organization of the MMR is an ideal reflection of the department's integration and transformation philosophy, implemented!

Finally, the department must reconsider the strategic vulnerabilities of Boston Harbor, New England borders and harbors and nuclear facilities. These areas are sitting ducks for terrorism.

My value is to protect Cape Cod, Massachusetts and New England.

JEAN HAZELTON CROCKER
Cotuit

Jean Hazelton Crocker

Shortened
Version

TO: BRAC Commission & Interested Persons

FROM: Jean H. Crocker, B.S.; M.S.; 40 Tracey Road; Cotuit MA 02635

DATE: 4 July 2005

SUBJECT: Rationale : 1. Reverse BRAC Decision &
2. Actions Recommended & 3. New Action Recommendation

1. Reverse BRAC Planned Action: Keep here 102nd Fighter Wing

Because BRAC has not considered:

* **'Integration of National Guard and Reserve Units' into the Standing Forces** to become one force (early 1960s to current status): **Mission Accomplished.**

* The intense planning & execution for 'Military Services Transformation' for the integration of all military forces improved strategic rationale presented to the public (Late nineties to current status): **Mission Being Accomplished**

* The strategic vulnerability of Boston Harbor (a sitting duck for terrorism actions against the geographically enclosed harbor and its huge fuel deliveries; and New England borders. **PROOF:**

9-11 was launched here in New England& we need the 102nd for our safety.

History of 9-11 needs BRAC & DOD strategic re-assessment.

2. **ACTIONS RECOMMENDED:**

DOD needs to retain this top - professional 102nd at the MMR because:

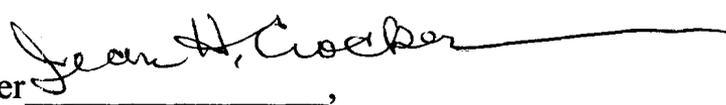
* **The landing strip is the 3rd choice in case of a landing need for the space flight missions.** And Explorer goes again this month, as an example. The NASA stand-by landing strip is strategic!

* **The 102nd unit strength is strategically trained under military services integration** with National Guard and Reserve Forces, and

* **The 102nd as a unit has met demands of military services transformation in an exemplary fashion.**

3. **NEW ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

* **DOD & legislators have the obligation to assign more strategically modern planes to the 102nd Fighter Wing of the Massachusetts Air National Guard & keep 102nd at Otis. Because of what the BRAC and DOD have not to date considered . (See #1above)**



Respectfully Submitted, Jean H. Crocker

Widow of deceased Merle M. Crocker, Col., U.S. Army Artillery

(With New England Readiness Group (1975-1981) Commander of NE & R. Grp Exec O.)

Quietness Over Otis

Hearing no sound,
I see only dark gray shadow
speed once across white sand
of old parade ground,
worn flat and hard
by decades of marching drills.

Silent plane keeps me safe,
ghostly shadow now
soaring over small soft clouds
above my space
high in secret place.

Quickly, viewing upward
I see only seagull sailing closer,
swooping down by me
lifting up on wind again
from field to treetops
out beyond, out of sight
also soaring into secret place,
finding quiet safety for itself
in summer sky, clear and bright
and free.

A handwritten signature in black ink, slanted upwards to the right. The signature appears to read "John C. Cuckner" in a cursive, flowing script.

Rudy J. Cvitan
533 Currier Rd.
E. Falmouth, MA.02536
8-6-05

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

Gentlemen,

Years ago, Otis Air Base was chosen as a strategic location to defend our country. Through the efforts of the 102nd Fighter Wing of the ANG, the United States Coast Guard Air Station and PAVE PAWS, our Eastern Coastline and interior area, we have enjoyed a high level of Security.

I believe Otis on Cape Cod is very strategically located. The above defense operations have proven performance in Homeland Security over the many years of operation.

I further believe, any of the suggested changes, would damage Security Capability and time would prove it to be a great mistake. Then, when the mistake is realized, a rebuilding of the existing capability would be costly and necessary.

Sincerely,


Rudy J. Cvitan

BRAC Commission

AUG 11 2005

Received

BRAC Commission

AUG 12 2005

Received

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

RE: Letter in Support of Otis Air National Guard Base

Dear BRAC Commission:

I am writing to you to remind you of the facts that have been presented to you many times in the past few weeks. Please consider these facts before making your decision on Otis ANGB. Many times it has been said that politics does not enter into this decision, and the more I hear that the more certain I am that politics is an integral part of this decision. If Otis is closed and there is no one to make a timely interception in the future, I hope you will be able to sleep after that day. I know I will. Thank you for your time. Below is a collection of the facts that have been presented to you numerous times in the past few weeks.

- 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.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Kenneth R Bowman, resident of Wareham, MA.
Member of the 102FW/CES

