

DCN 5611
July 25, 2005

BRAC Commission

JUL 27 2005

Received

Dear BRAC Commissioners,

I am writing to request that you not close the Otis ANGB on Cape Cod, MA. The base is not something that we residents take for granted: we are proud patriots, and feel very strongly about saving Otis.

I ask that you consider the following points:

- The 102nd Fighter Wing is responsible for patrolling the Northeast skies for homeland defense. It is the nearest 24 hour alert unit to intercept air traffic coming to the U.S., and has been activated regularly. It was among the first on the scene on 9/11, and is one of the top fighter wings in the entire ANG. Sparing the 102nd Fighter Wing is vitally important.

- The Otis Coalition contends (as do I) that it would be unfortunate for our country to dismantle one of its preeminent fighter wings and close one of its more important air defense installations, especially while our nation is at war - and when the Middle East will not be rendered problem-free for some time.

- Otis ANG Base has a direct, indirect, and induced annual economic impact of \$82.3M in Massachusetts, most specifically on the Cape (especially important to me), and the South shore/coast.

- Otis ANG Base operates the base airport; provides base security, fire services, water, and sewer to all base tenants; supports the Coast Guard's Air Station Cape Cod, Coast Guard fisheries training center, marine safety office, and new port security personnel. If Otis were to be closed, all military, homeland defense, and public safety operations - including the Coast Guard - would be compromised.

- Other base users 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 (extremely important for defense); Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve; FAA Air Traffic TRACON facility, etc.

- A GAO study puts the cost of closing Otis to Coast Guard at +\$17M and 100 new personnel (the costs to other tenants are not yet known), making base closure cost savings questionable.

- The servicemen and women of Otis ANG are my neighbors, family, friends, and part of our business community. Their departure will hurt our us. We desperately want to support them, and keep the base.

- Full time employment at Otis provides c500 jobs, representing more than 1 percent of the total employment in the adjacent communities of Falmouth, Bourne, Mashpee and Sandwich. In the absence of job growth statewide, the loss of these full-time, benefited jobs is extremely meaningful. I know: I was severed in 2001 due to a Utility merger (Colonial Gas/Keyspan). There are so few good jobs here.

- 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; or support to 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. This is a huge issue for me, as protection of Cape lands is vital. It is also very important that this land not be abandoned to commercial/residential development.

- Closing Otis ANG would mean losing a strategically important Northeast defense airfield - one that juts into the Atlantic and provides almost immediate, unencumbered access for fighter jets.

A late acquaintance of mine (Brad Dean) was a former military radio man. He once told me that the geographic situation of Otis makes it *the* most important radio-receiver site in the world; able to intercept radio signals from anywhere.

These benefits are crucial to our nation's security, are they not - and seem a terrible waste of the Cape's geographic attributes?

- 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.

- A new base fire station is under construction; a new air traffic control tower is being designed. Future construction plans at the MMR call for modernizing other military facilities to build cost efficiencies/savings.

- Unfortunately, the methodology for the BRAC review of Otis failed to take into account all of the strategic military values of the installations (as mentioned above) and the value of all homeland defense operations, prior to the Pentagon's recommendation. In other words, it seems that Otis was not given the same fair assessment as other bases during this round of proposed base closings.

Commissioners, please: I urge the BRAC to remove the Otis Air National Guard Base from its 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Recommendations. I cannot overstate how precious that base is to the people here - to *me*, and how strongly I feel that to close the base would be to compromise national security.

Thank you for your time in considering this matter,



Debra Milton
62 White Rock Road
Yarmouth Port, MA 02675-2313
Email: lupatrian@gmail.com
Fax 425-928-1325

Adm. Harold W. Gehman Jr.

230 School Street

Acton, MA 01720

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To whom it may Concern:

This is to urge you to reverse the Pentagon plan to close Otis Air National Guard Base and split up the 102nd Fighter Wing.

- 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.
- 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.
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- 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.
- 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.

Thank you,



Barbara K. Wolfenden

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Dear Anthony J. Principi, James H. Bilbray, Philip Coyle, Adm. Harold W. Gehman Jr., James V. Hansen, Gen. James T. Hill, Gen. Lloyd W. Newton, Samuel K. Skinner and Brig. Gen. Sue E. Turner,

Urge the BRAC to reverse Pentagon plan to close Otis Air National Guard Base and split up the 102nd Fighter Wing.

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.

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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.

Sincerely,


Rebecca Wiita

43 Prince Henry Drive
East Falmouth, MA 02536

July 25, 2005

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I write to request that you not close the Otis base on Cape Cod, MA. The base is not something that we residents take for granted: we feel very strongly about saving Otis.

I ask you to consider these facts:

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- The Otis Coalition contends (as I do) that it would be unfortunate for our country to dismantle one of its preeminent fighter wings and close one of its more important air defense installations, especially while our nation is at war - and when the Middle East will likely be a hot-spot for some time.
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- A GAO study puts the cost of closing Otis to Coast Guard at +\$17M and 100 new personnel (the costs to other tenants are not yet known), making base closure cost savings questionable.
- The servicemen and women of Otis ANG are my neighbors, family, friends, and part of our business community. Their departure will hurt our us. I want to support them, and keep the base open.
- Full time employment at Otis provides c500 jobs, representing more than 1 percent of the total employment in the adjacent communities of Falmouth, Bourne, Mashpee and Sandwich. In the absence of job growth statewide, the loss of these full-time, benefited jobs is extremely meaningful. I know: my wife was severed in 2001 due to a Utility merger (Colonial Gas/Keyspan). There are few good jobs here.
- 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; or support to 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. This is a huge issue for me, as protection of Cape lands is vital. It is also very important that this land not be abandoned to commercial/residential development.
- Closing Otis ANG would mean losing a strategically important Northeast defense airfield - one that juts into the Atlantic and provides almost immediate, unencumbered access for fighter jets.

A late acquaintance of my wife's (Brad Dean) was a former military radio man. He once told her that the geographic situation of Otis makes it *the* most important radio-receiver site in the world; able to intercept radio signals from anywhere.

These benefits are cornerstones of our nation's security, and closing the base would be a terrible waste of the Cape's geographic attributes.

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Commissioners, I urge the BRAC to remove the Otis Air National Guard Base from its 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Recommendations. I cannot overstate how meaningful that base is to the people here, and how strongly I feel that to close the base would be to compromise our national security.

Thank you for your time in considering this matter,



Paul Woodward
62 White Rock Road
Yarmouth Port, MA 02675-2313
Email: fishfearme@hotpop.com
Fax 425-928-1325

Barbara Shaner

91 Rt 6A

Sandwich, MA 02563

Hillport1911@adelphia.net

BRAC Commission

JUL 27 2005

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BRAC

2521 South Clark St. Suite 600

Arlington, VA 22202

Attn: Anthony J. Principi, James H. Bilbray, Philip Coyle, Adm. Harold W. Gehman Jr., James V. Hansen, Gen. James T. Hill, Gen. Lloyd W. Newton, Samuel K. Skinner and Brig. Gen. Sue E. Turner

I urge you to consider the points listed below when you are making your final decision as to the base closures.

- Reverse Pentagon plan to close Otis Air National Guard Base and split up the 102nd Fighter Wing.
- 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.
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- 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara Shaner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barbara Shaner

230 School Street

Acton, MA 01720

Anthony J. Principi

BRAC, 2521 South Clark St., Suite 600, Arlington, VA 22202.

July 22, 2005.

To whom it may Concern:

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Barbara K. Wolfenden

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James V. Hansen

230 School Street

Acton, MA 01720

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Barbara K. Wolfenden

Gen. James T. Hill

BRAC Commission

230 School Street

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Acton, MA 01720

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Barbara K. Wolfenden

Philip Coyle

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Barbara K. Wolfenden

Gen. Lloyd W. Newton

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Thank you,



Barbara K. Wolfenden



Resolution in support of the 102nd Fighter Wing of the Air National Guard stationed at the Massachusetts Military Reservation

Whereas: the 102nd ANG Fighter Wing performs a critical military mission by defending the US northeast borders and air space against illegal entry,

Whereas: the 102nd ANG Fighter Wing supports many critical missions at the Massachusetts Military Reservation, such as hosting the Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod that provides vital and irreplaceable protection of our coastal waters from New Jersey to Canada,

Whereas: the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) is evaluating a proposal to remove the 102nd ANG Fighter Wing from the Massachusetts Military Reservation, an act that would critically weaken homeland security and military readiness in the region, jeopardize other military and homeland security organizations such as the Army Guard training at Camp Edwards, and Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod and other operations of the United States Coast Guard, remove a back-up shuttle landing site, and substantially negatively impact the economy of the Cape Cod region,

Therefore: the Bourne Financial Development Corporation states its overwhelming support for the military mission of the 102nd Air National Guard Fighter Wing and respectfully and strongly recommends that the unit be left as is and that the BRAC Commission **not** adopt the Pentagon's recommendation to remove and redeploy the unit.

VOTED: June 22, 2005

Bourne Financial Development Corporation Board of Directors