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David R. Murphy
19 Pike St.
Lisbon Falls, Me.
04252

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Dear Mr. Principi and fellow BRAC Commission Members,

My name is David R. Murphy, my SSN is 012-42-0824, and I live in Lisbon Falls, Maine, about 12 miles from the Brunswick Naval Air Station. I am also a Disabled Veteran, with a current overall rating of 70%. I served 20 years and 8 months on active duty with the Navy, most of which was served at NAS Brunswick.

From 1972-1974, I was at the Quonset Point Naval Air Station in Rhode Island when that base was closed permanently. Back then there were no rallies at the gates to persuade the Base Closure Commissions to save an installation from the proverbial axe. The closure literally turned the town of Quonset Point into a ghost town. I don't want to see a repeat of that here in Brunswick, Maine.

In today's world, society is considerably more informed and intelligent about decisions that the Government makes, and is willing to do most anything to let the powers-to-be know how those decisions will really affect the lives of everyone involved.

So, lets take a quick look at Brunswick:

A: There are two major employers in the Brunswick-Bath area, NASB and Bath Iron Works. BIW will not be able to absorb the people who lose their jobs to either a re-alignment or closure of BNAS.

B: The housing market will take a considerable hit, housing values will drop, and those who have put a substantial sum into their homes will not be able to recoup those expenses. The financial outcome is obvious.

C: In my town of Lisbon Falls, I spoke with the Town Manager about the town's total population, the percentage of residents who derive a paycheck from NASB, to the rest of the town. He estimates about 5% of residents derive a pay check from NASB. He then went a step further to explain how losing 5% of the town's tax paying residents would hurt the rest of us. Basically, when it snows, the town will continue to plow all streets, as they have every winter. The town will continue to provide water and sewer to the residents. Since the town can't plow just 95% of the roads, or cut off water and sewer service for 11/2 days a month, the logical choice is to raise property taxes.

In a post 9-11 world, with Homeland Security as it is, realigning NASB should be the absolute last thing anyone would want to do, or even think of. Since NASB is THE last active duty military installation in the Northeast region of the United States, NASB is the last long arm of our nations defense in the Northeast. Please do not leave us unprotected. I served almost 21 years in military service to protect this great country of ours. Don't you think it is time to give something back to all those who have defended you?

Since you took a tour of the base while you were here, it's clear to you that millions and millions of tax payers dollars have been spent to improve the readiness of NASB, and to improve quality of life for those living in military housing. Had you seen the housing units prior to their



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renovation, you would've undoubtedly wondered why or how anyone could live in those conditions.

I believe that the checkbook where the government gets its money from doesn't belong to the government at all. It belongs to me and every other taxpaying individual in the United States. If I were to spend millions of dollars on a project, then walk away from it later, and not recoup the money I put in, I'd want to have my head examined. I'll always be glad to pay my taxes, knowing that my country is a safer place to live in since 9-11. All I ask is that you don't waste my money.

There is just one more item I'd like for you to consider. The military is used to being shuffled around. But, everyone eventually has a breaking point. At what cost in loss of quality personnel, personnel that the Navy has already spent millions and millions of dollars training, are you willing to accept. I'll answer this for you. The answer is zero.

The Navy has taken great strides in retaining its quality personnel. Why beat them up with yet another Change-of-Station move? Some of the people here at NASB may have already decided to make Maine their home after retiring. Decisions that will disrupt their plans for life after the Navy shouldn't be made lightly. Change-of-Station moves are extremely emotional for adults, and traumatizing to the children involved.

Mr. Principi, sit back for a moment and reflect on the issues I've raised here. This isn't just about dollars and cents, it's about how this realignment will directly affect the lives of the military and civilian personnel aboard NASB. It's also about the sad state of affairs that this area will be in for years to come, a direct result of the realignment.

It's also about the strategic location of NAS Brunswick. You couldn't ask for a better located or equipped military facility than you have with NASB. At a time when we are discovering Al-Qaeda cells in California, doing anything to reduce the protection that NASB provides to the Northeast is unthinkable.

I attended the briefing at the Atrium on Thursday morning. You said, "this commission is not a rubber stamp, that the commission was transparent." I sincerely believe that you are being honest with the people of Brunswick. I pray that you will make the correct decision for people of Maine, and that it's a decision you can live with.

Very Respectfully,

David R. Murphy
Chief Petty Officer
US Navy (Retired)



06212005

June 17, 2005

Anthony Principi, Chairman
BRAC Commission
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2521 South Clark Street
Arlington, Virginia 22202

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Dear Chairman Principi:

First thank you for undertaking this very challenging assignment, and your commitment to all that you and your talented Commissioners "will not be a rubber stamp" entity and that your outcomes and recommendations will be "independent" following your teams thorough analysis of the facts.

We were extremely pleased to welcome four members of the BRAC Commission including yourself to our cherished and valued Naval Air Station Brunswick on June 2nd, in Brunswick, Maine. My regret is that we were not able to treat you all to a good old fashioned lobster bake on the coast nearby. We encourage you to all come back, as this is a very special place, very much enhanced by our superb relationship with our Navy military neighbors.

We are delighted that NASB was recognized as the valued military asset that it is. All of us in Maine and New England are deeply concerned by the vulnerability of leaving our corner of this wonderful heavily populated region of our country unprotected. We all, as you and your Commissioners do, vividly remember the tragedy of 9-11, a short distance from NASB. We wonder if we had a jet fighter squadron based here, as an adjunct to our very effective Navy presence providing a growing Homeland Security and Defense and terrorist interdiction umbrella, could we have intervened on 9-11 for a different outcome of that national tragedy?

Our base, as you saw, has huge potential for expansion, is in "mint condition" with thousands of miles of unencumbered air space strategically located at the apex of the major Atlantic shipping lanes into our regions heavily trafficked sea ports. We are a perfect candidate for joint military use, have a critical need for Coast Guard protection for our important fishing fleet, and are preparing for a planned regional Reserve Training facility.

With our ongoing NATO support, addition of any military service and their planes and personnel, served by our two superb runways are easily integrated. We have been told that we can land "anything at NASB". Our brand new state of the art hanger is turn key ready for the new MMA/P3 replacement aircraft. Our housing is first class, with room to grow everywhere, and a community and school system that feels truly enriched by our military friends and neighbors.

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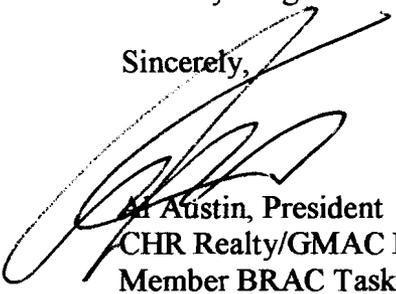


In closing, I hope that the facts do matter, because if they do, you and your talented Commissioners can only conclude that NASB should be realigned, not reduced, but allowed to grow to fulfill to the maximum potential that is available at this truly outstanding fully capable, functioning last bastion of defense in our home, the Northeast, the true roots from where this wonderful country grew into the "good guys" role we inherited and deserve, to protect the world.

God bless you all in your important deliberations! We are awaiting your decision on NASB with bated breath.

Thank you again for the important role you serve.

Sincerely,



Al Austin, President
CHR Realty/GMAC Real Estate
Member BRAC Task Force

May 31, 2005

Anthony J. Principi
BRAC Commission
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Arlington, VA 22202

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Dear Mr. Principi,

As a veteran of multiple services (Sergeant - USMC; Staff Sergeant - Minnesota Air National Guard; and Lieutenant Commander - US Navy Retired) I have always tried to keep an open mind and not let my affiliation with any one service cloud my judgment. However, I am dismayed as a veteran and current citizen of the Northeast by the apparent lack of regard for the security of the area – as well as the lack of concern there seems to be with the economic impact that the closing of ALL of the bases in this extreme Northeast Region of the country has on the area.

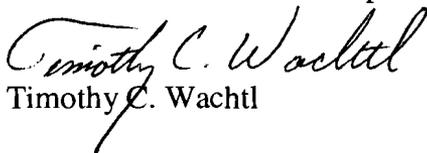
Taking away all of the aircraft and nearly all of the military personnel, while keeping the Naval Air Station as a Naval Air Facility which could be used in times of need does not appear to have show any concern for the economic well being of the area, and would seem to be an intermediate step to getting rid of the base altogether.

Having been a P3 Tactical Coordinator and Mission Commander, I am quite familiar with its capabilities and find it hard to believe it would not be considered essential to any homeland security efforts that may have to be put forth in this region. When looking at how military assets have been nearly wiped out in the Northeast, I was simply amazed that Naval Air Station Brunswick was even considered for closure or realignment.

As a retired veteran in this region, I have felt fortunate for NASB to have survived the first few BRACs, and use the facilities quite often – mainly the commissary. If this base is taken away, it would take away the last military facilities for a large area which is being used by numerous retired veterans since the closure of other bases in their vicinity. Additionally, with the recent allowances given to Reservists which have opened up the facilities to them, this would seem to be breaking faith with both groups to set in motion changes which will most likely lead to the eventual shutting down of all of the facilities.

I gladly served my country in three branches of the military (having started by enlisting in the Marines in 1970 - during Vietnam) and hope that in addition to the negative economic effect that the realignment will have on the local area, the effect it will have on numerous veterans of all services in the Northeast will also be considered.

Disenchanted, but still Semper Fidelis,


Timothy C. Wachtl