

Howard C. Llewellyn

BRAC Commission

Post Office Box 2055
Cotuit, MA 02635 – 2055

AUG 16 2005

Received

August 12, 2055

BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street (Suite 600)
Arlington VA 22202

Gentlemen:

Subject: Proposed Closing of Otis Air Base

The closing of Otis Air Base seems to be flawed proposal. The most obvious problem is the weakening of national security. Keep in mind this base serves more than one of the Armed Forces. Its coastal location and proximity to shipping lanes and transatlantic air travel routes argue for keeping this base open. The location of Otis makes it a key element in homeland security.

Another serious problem is the impact of the base closing on the economy. We live in a complex economy with many of the linkages intertwined. Thus, if one closes this base there is a pronounced and complex ripple effect in the economy. The proposal made to close seems to be simplistic in that it ignores the many economic linkages in the economy.

I have listened to a good portion of the testimony given at the hearings on this closing. It seems clear to me that the opponents of the base closing had the better arguments. The views presented by those in favor of the closing lacked precision and were weaker than those opposing the base closing.

It seems clear to me that closing the base is a serious mistake.

Sincerely yours,


Howard C. Llewellyn

BRAC Commission

AUG 17 2005

Received

June 17, 2005

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

RE: Resolution in Support of Otis Air National Guard Base

Dear BRAC Commission:

Enclosed is a resolution from the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Sandwich, Massachusetts supporting the retention of the Otis Air National Guard (Otis ANG) Base operations at the Massachusetts Military Reservation (MMR). As explained in the resolution, Otis ANG Base is an integral and valued part of the Sandwich community and the entire Cape Cod region. Most importantly, the military missions it fulfills are of utmost importance to the safety and protection of the United States, in general, and the Northeast, in particular.

Otis ANG Base and F-15s from the 102nd Fighter Wing were the first military aircraft to reach the World Trade Center during the September 11, 2001 attacks. They regularly provide a myriad of military and homeland security functions, as well as vital support to the U.S. Coast Guard at Air Station Cape Cod, one of the busiest installations in the country. Otis ANG Base is the host installation for all of the military and homeland security operations at the MMR, including U.S. Army Guard training at Camp Edwards and numerous Coast Guard operations. It is clear the loss of Otis would severely damage the shared infrastructure and resources currently found on the MMR.

The Sandwich Selectmen strongly urge the Base Realignment and Closure Commission to remove Otis ANG Base from the list of military installations being considered for closure and/or realignment. Simply put, Otis ANG Base is too important for our nation's security and homeland defense to be relocated.

Thank you for your consideration of this input. I live on Cape Cod and am very aware of how often the troops enter and leave the base to keep our coast safe. Closing this and New London, along with the bases in Maine seem to be more of a retaliation of a Republican president to a Democratic voting East Coast than anything else when you read the second paragraph and remember 9/11/01.

Very truly yours,



Alice Bowen

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

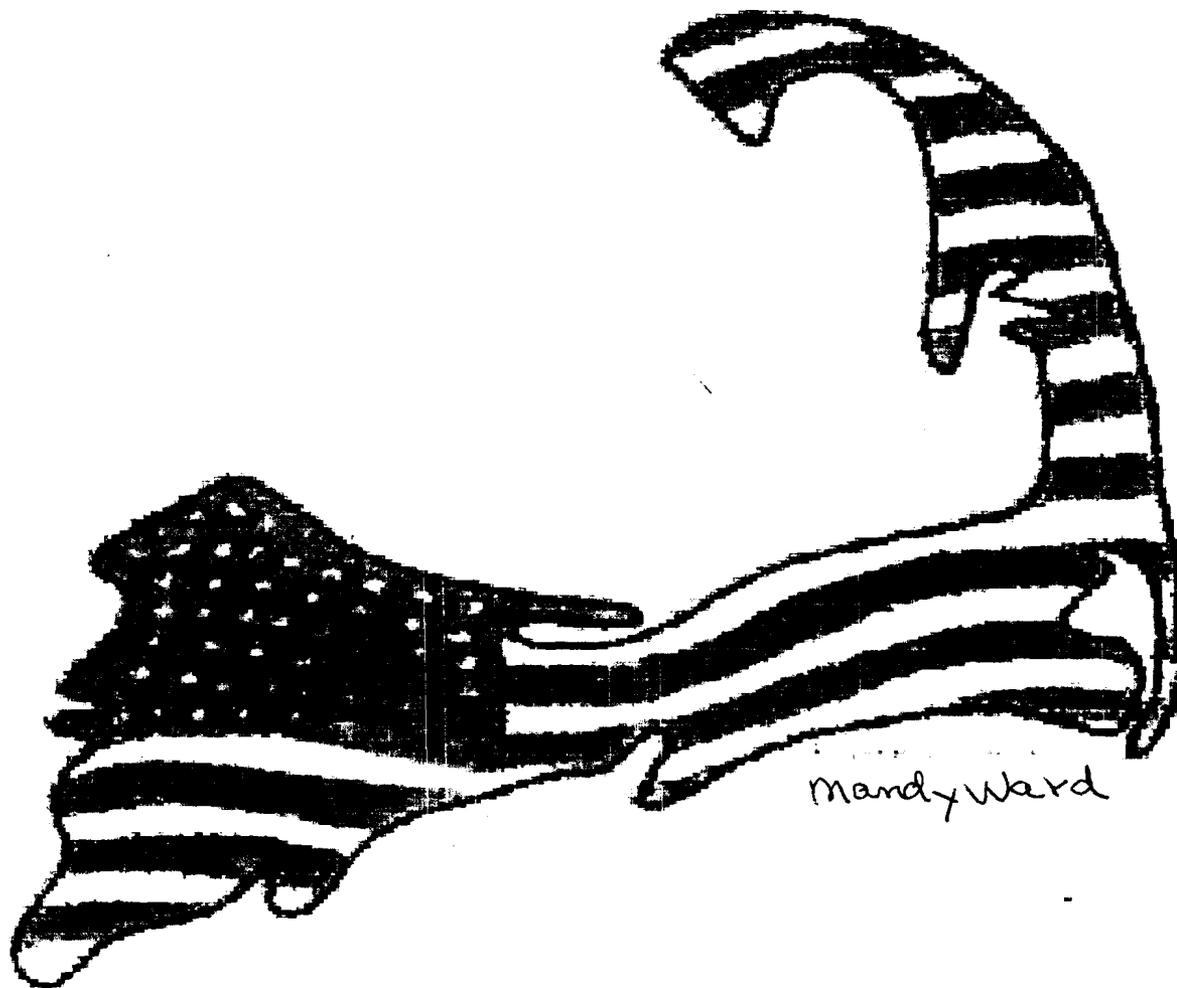
**'Integrated' with Standing Forces
'Transformed' into Joint Forces**

BRAC Commission

AUG 08 2005

Received

Message: *Save & Upgrade*



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

Who is at the Massachusetts Military Reservation?

Massachusetts Army National Guard



Camp Edwards

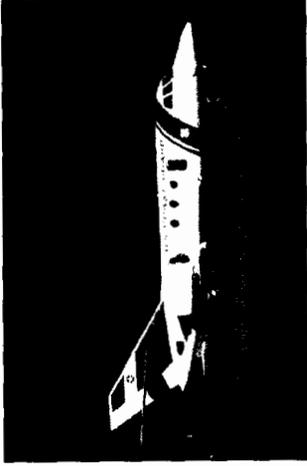


United States Air Force

United States Coast Guard



Air Station Cape Cod



Massachusetts Air National Guard



6th Space Warning Squadron – PAVE PAWS

102nd Fighter Wing

John H. Crocker Testimony to BRAC
For Recommendation
To Dept of Defense
(DOD)

LETTER TO: BRAC Commission, DOD, & Interested Persons:

For Boston, Massachusetts Hearing: DATE: 6 July 2005

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

SUBJECT: Cape Cod, RE Army air national Guard 102nd Fighter Wing:

SUMMARY of Rationale :

- 1. Reverse DOD Decision & 2. Actions Recommended: Retain 102nd
- 3. New Action Recommendation: Critical!

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 1970s to current status): **Mission Accomplished.**

* The intense planning & execution for 'Military Services Transformation' for the integration of all modern military forces improved strategic rationale as presented to the public & congress (Late nineties to current status): **Mission 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 against terrorism.

History of 9-11 needs BRAC to DOD for **strategic re-assessment.**

2. ACTIONS RECOMMENDED:

DOD needs to retain this top - professional 102nd personel team at Massachusetts state-owned Otis Field on the MMR. Because:

* The MMR 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 Otis - NASA stand-by landing strip is strategic!**

* The 102nd unit strength is strategically trained to stand with the standing forces, legitimized my DOD POLICY under military services **integration** with National Guard and Reserve Forces. This is a **constitutionally-conceived unit** to defend Massachusetts. It appears to be **illegal for DOD to remove the Massachusetts state militia conceived for homeland defense from its conception, protected under our United States constitution.**

* The 102nd as a unit has met demands of military services "transformation" of the nineties & new century in an exemplary fashion.

* The wholistic concept of the MMR is already transformed to joint services readiness for homeland defense. The 102nd proved this on 9-11! MMR is also in readiness as a Homeland Security Training Site, when DOD funds the resources to support their own policy.

* Norfolk and New Jersey skies have crowded lanes, and DOD needs the clean air space, free for the air lanes of the 1102nd! 102nd planes should stay on Cape Cod.

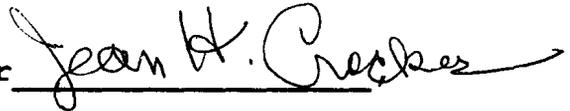
Pg 2 of 2 ^{IV}
JHC
To Brac
Fu DOD
Recommendation

3. NEW ACTION IS 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 unit at Otis.

* Because DOD did not consider support of their own policies, 'integration' and 'transformation' of the Armed Forces, personnel resources, and financial commitments as stated above in #1 & # 2.

Respectfully Submitted, Jean H Crocker



Widow of deceased Merle M. Crocker, Col, US Army Arty, distinguished and recognized in and after his honorable service to his country.

NOTE: Col. Merle Crocker, AKA "Buzz" served with **New England, NJ, NY Readiness Group (1975-79): Commander; & North East Readiness Region: Exec Officer (1979-81)**

I am an active participating citizen concerning the MMR: Governor's Community Advisory Council, Public Information Team, and Air Force Plume Containment team. Also attend the Impact Area Review Team RE: Camp Edwards. Have been recognized for my work supporting the Army National Guard as a founder and original chair of the **STRONG Task Force (Save The Reservation & Our National Guard.)**

I have given this letter long, thoughtful consideration. Please listen to me and take action as recommended by this letter; as well as the many other Cape Cod citizens with wise viewpoints on this subject of pending DOD decisions, and the needed BRAC corrective actions.

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.

United Americans

Since 11 September, 2001

By Jean Hazelton Crocker, From my forthcoming book:

A Cape Cod Pilgrim Sings, Seaside Verse

Gold shining domes across our country's land
Reflect high pride each state holds in its hand.
States cling to bold diversity unique.
And yet, they sail as partners in our fleet.

We can't be perfect, but we do move on,
Reaching for horizons, each new dawn.
Most people strive to learn; to understand
Rich source of values in this hope-full land.

In hours we fail to reach top pinnacles
We look for wisdom from our oracles.
When we must fight what evil misconstrues,
We reassess, regroup, then blend our hues.

We know we're flexible, so strong and kind.
Our people carry love in heart and mind.
When innocents and heroes fall, our thrust
Is yes ! We reaffirm " *In God We Trust!* "

Our people from all races, states, and clans
Stand tall to sing ... We're proud Americans !

And we remember that
the 102nd Fighter Wing of the
Massachusetts Air National Guard
were at Otis MMR
to respond on-
scene on
9/11!

CAMP EDWARDS,

A Song to Policy Makers

By Jean Hazelton Crocker, From Her Booklet

Camp Edwards: Environs and Issues, 2000

This morning what I see comes back to me.
My eyes look out. Life starts. What do I see ?
Gray squirrels are the first to stir at dawn.
Soft spring invites tan deer and youngest fawn.

When needle fall sifts through red bush to sand
Of sparce groundscape, wind-carved 'pine barrrens' land,
Strong white-tails trot to 'impact area' trails
To walk from hunters, storms of man, sea gales.

Still vernal pools will dry and fade, then blend,
Change form, and camouflage by meadow's end.
Flat open grasslands beckon butterfly
No, not extinct! Resurgence flutters by.

All seasons flaunt protected character.
Camp Edwards now survives; 'The Guard' guards her.

August 15, 2005

AUG 17 2005

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

Received

Dear BRAC Commission:

A glance at almost any map of Cape Cod reveals a massive wooded area on the Upper Cape that is largely undeveloped, but fringed with highways, homes and other development. This area, known formally as the Massachusetts Military Reservation (MMR), consists of approximately 20,000 acres, located in the upper Cape towns of Sandwich, Bourne, Mashpee and Falmouth. Home to the Army and Air National Guard, U.S. Coast Guard, and a number of other agencies, the MMR have been used for over a half century for a variety of military training Activities. In recent years the MMR has become widely known for its groundwater contamination problems. It was declared a Superfund site in 1989. Perhaps less well known is its recognition by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage Program as one of the most ecologically significant areas in the northeastern United States.

Future uses of the MMR — both military and civilian — are of great interest to Cape Codders. Decisions about the fate of this area will have a tremendous impact not only on the four communities in which the MMR lies, but also on Cape Cod as a whole. Of the 20,000 acres within the MMR, approximately 18,000 acres are owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and leased to the federal government. Much of this land is licensed back to the Commonwealth for military training purposes. There are three primary federal government lessors—the Department of Transportation (Coast Guard), Department of the Army (Massachusetts Army National Guard), and Department of the Air Force (Air Force and Massachusetts Air National Guard). The airfield is located in the southeast corner of the base. This area consists of two runways and related facilities. The main runway runs NW/SE and is approximately 9,500 feet long. The second runway runs NE/SW and is approximately 8,000 feet long. Around the airfield, aprons and taxiways are numerous Air National Guard and U.S. Coast Guard workshops and maintenance facilities. Also in this area are the Army National Guard helicopter/aviation facilities, the fire station, the existing air traffic control tower and a FAA building. Also, there are grassland areas surrounding the runway areas that provide habitat for several species of rare grassland birds.

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. 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. In comparison to many other bases slated for closure or realignment this may

seem insignificant. However, many other base are not as unique to home land security as Otis has become. 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.

If Otis closes there are no plans to operate the MMR base services that all military tenants require performing 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. 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 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.

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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. I 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 yours,

Maria Pierson
Cape Cod Resident.