

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

BRAC Commission

August 25, 2005

AUG 26 2005

Received

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
The Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

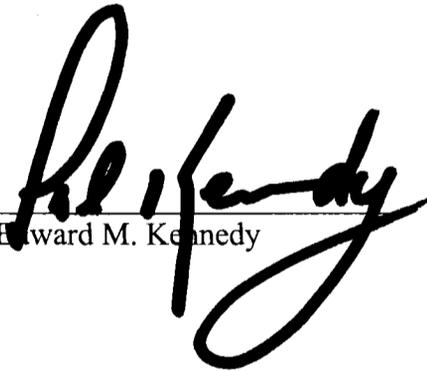
Dear Tony:

We know that you are preoccupied with a momentous task, but we want to take this last opportunity to mention an issue that has come up as a result of the Commission's actions on Wednesday. As you know from your visit in May and from the case we made in Boston, Otis Air National Guard Base has significant excess ramp and hangar space capacity that the Air Force overlooked in its analysis of the base. Yesterday, when you and your colleagues voted to close Naval Air Station Brunswick, the Navy was left in need of new aviation surge capacity in the Northeast. Please note that Otis would be the ideal base for the Navy's P-3 detachments to carry out their homeland defense and sea patrol missions. Otis can accommodate the necessary planes and is ideally located with access to the sea lanes. Moreover, it already functions as a joint service airfield through the presence of the Coast Guard's northeast air station.

We believe that the case we have made to date shows the Air Force undercounted Otis's military value and overstated the possible savings from its closure. The issue we raise here with respect to naval aviation is just one more reason why keeping this base open makes sense. We appreciate your taking it into consideration.

Thank you once again for taking on a challenging task of great importance to the nation. All the best as you complete your work.

Sincerely,



Edward M. Kennedy



William D. Delahunt

Congress of the United States
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Admiral Harold W. Gehman, Jr.
The Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Admiral Gehman:

We know that you are preoccupied with a momentous task, but we want to take this last opportunity to mention an issue that has come up as a result of the Commission's actions on Wednesday. As you know from the information we have provided the Commission to date, Otis Air National Guard Base has significant excess ramp and hangar space capacity that the Air Force overlooked in its analysis of the base. Yesterday, when you and your colleagues voted to close Naval Air Station Brunswick, the Navy was left in need of new aviation surge capacity in the Northeast. Please note that Otis would be the ideal base for the Navy's P-3 detachments to carry out their homeland defense and sea patrol missions. Otis can accommodate the necessary planes and is ideally located with access to the sea lanes. Moreover, it already functions as a joint service airfield through the presence of the Coast Guard's northeast air station.

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General James T. Hill
The Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600
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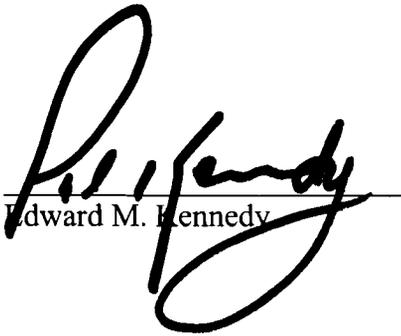
Dear General Hill:

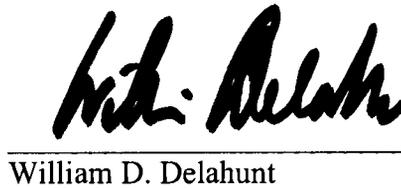
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William D. Delahunt

DCN 8295
Executive Correspondence
Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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Brig. Gen. Sue E. Turner
The Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

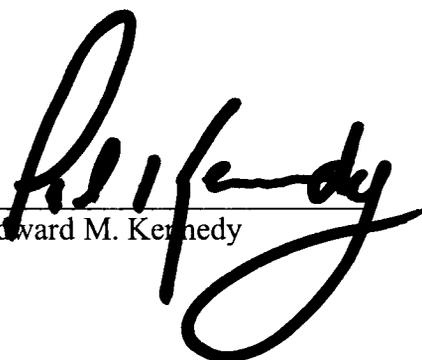
Dear General Turner:

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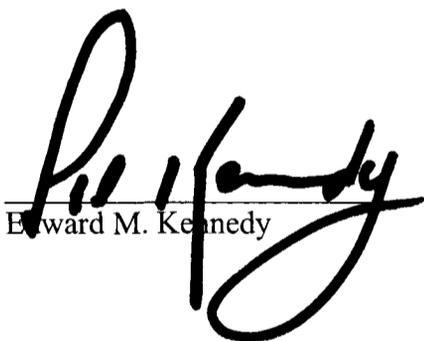
Dear Jim:

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Congress of the United States
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The Honorable James V. Hansen
The Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

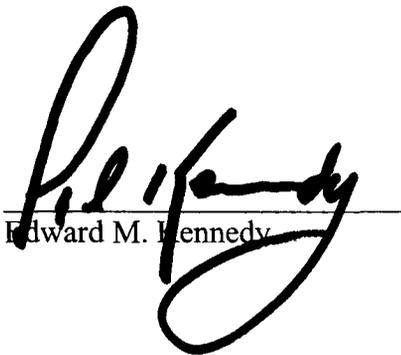
Dear Congressman Hansen:

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

Dear Commissioner Coyle:

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General Lloyd W. Newton
The Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600
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Dear General Newton:

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The Honorable Samuel K. Skinner
The Base Closure and Realignment Commission
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2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

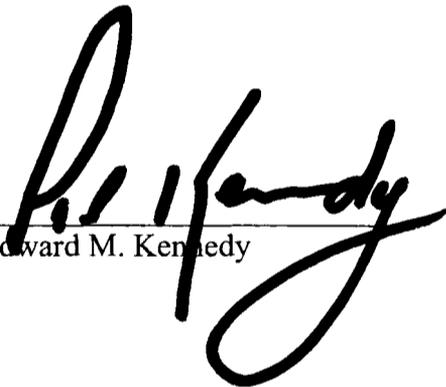
Dear Secretary Skinner:

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