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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-4302

May 11, 2005

POSTED

The Honorable Anthony Principi  
BRAC Commission  
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

RECEIVED  
5/11/05

Dear Chairman Principi:

I am writing in regards to Ellington Field, located in Houston, Texas. As our country enters this new millennium it has been confronted with new threats, a new war, and will be faced with battles yet to come. It is imperative that our nation transform our military infrastructure to better handle the current Global War of Terrorism and future battles. However, I wish to emphasize that any potential closure of Ellington Field would do a disservice to our nation's ability to protect and secure our homeland.

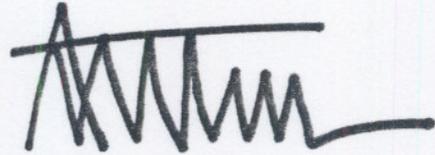
Ellington Field is located just outside of Houston, Texas, the 4<sup>th</sup> largest city in the United States with 26% of the state's population. It has the U.S. Coast Guard based out of there along with the 149<sup>th</sup> Texas Army National Guard Apache battalion and the 147<sup>th</sup> Texas Air National Guard Fighter Wing. Ellington Field is the only military installation in Southeast Texas. As such, it is the only installation that can provide immediate protective air coverage to Southeast Texas.

The Harris County and Jefferson County area is an important region for our country's homeland security. The Ports in Jefferson County are an entry point for most of the liquefied natural gas and petrochemicals that fuel our nation. This area is a prime location for enemy forces to target in an attempt to disrupt our nation's energy supply. Twenty-five percent of all oil refined for use in the U.S. comes from the immediate area of my district. Additionally, the Port of Beaumont in Jefferson County is a major transfer point for equipment and cargo from Fort Hood and the surrounding bases in neighboring states. It is an area that needs to have the immediate protection that Ellington Field offers with their F-16 fighter wing.

I used to be assigned to Ellington Field when I was a reservist. During that time, I served in a C-130 unit. I have seen first hand the important role that Ellington provides in securing our nation's skies and providing logistic support to the surrounding military installations. Additionally, President George W. Bush also honorably served our nation as a pilot as a part of the F-102 squadron at Ellington Field. He can testify to the important role Ellington Field plays in Texas' and the United States' defense.

As the Base Realignment and Closure Commission proceeds with the review process, I believe you will see the positive impact that Ellington plays to our nation. Rather than close the base, I hope that you will see the need for realignment and reassign more units to Ellington Field.

God and Texas,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ted Poe', with a horizontal line above it.

Ted Poe  
Member of Congress