



**Horsham-Willow Grove
Chamber of Commerce
Community Meeting
June 24, 2005**



Horsham-Willow Grove Chamber of Commerce Community Meeting

June 24, 2005
2 pm
Conference Room B

TAB

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- X. Base Visit Report
 - Y. Press Clippings
 - Z. E-Library Documents/Comments*

* Community used standardized comment template





BASE VISIT REPORT

Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, Willow Grove PA.

27 May 2005

LEAD COMMISSIONER:

None

ACCOMPANYING COMMISSIONER:

None

COMMISSION STAFF:

Michael L. Delaney, Senior Analyst

LIST OF ATTENDEES:

RADM Stephen Turcotte	Commander, Navy Region Mid-Lant (CNRML)
CAPT Harry Myers	Commanding Officer, NASJRB Willow Grove
CAPT Richard Cline	XO, NASJRB Willow Grove
COL Steven Chapman	Commander 913 th AFRES
COL Gregory Marston	Commander 111 th FW PA ANG
COL Mark Monroe	Commander MAG 49
LCDR Martin Schy	NASJRB Willow Grove Administration Officer

BASE'S PRESENT MISSION:

The mission of NAS Willow Grove is to provide, train and maintain a ready reserve force. In 1994 the base was redesignated a Joint Reserve Base to more accurately reflect our status. In addition to the Navy, the Marine Corps, Army, Air Force, and Pa National Guard reside here.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATION:

Close Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Willow Grove, PA. Relocate all Navy and Marine Corps squadrons, their aircraft and necessary personnel, equipment and support to McGuire Air Force Base, Cookstown, NJ. Relocate the minimum amount of manpower and equipment to support intermediate maintenance workload and capacity for Tire and Wheel, non-destruction inspections, and Aviation Life Support System equipment to McGuire Air Force Base. Relocate intermediate maintenance workload and capacity for Aircraft Components, Aircraft Engines, Fabrication & Manufacturing, and Support Equipment to Fleet Readiness Center East, Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, NC. Deactivate the 111th Fighter Wing (Air National Guard) and relocate assigned A-10 aircraft to the 124th Wing (Air National

Guard), Boise Air Terminal Air Guard Station, Boise, ID (three primary aircraft authorized); 175th Wing (Air National Guard), Martin State Airport Air Guard Station, Baltimore, MD, (three primary aircraft authorized); 127th Wing (Air National Guard), Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mount Clemens, MI (three primary aircraft authorized) and retired (six primary aircraft authorized). Relocate Armed Forces Reserve Center Expeditionary Combat Support manpower to Eglin Air Force Base, FL. Relocate Co A/228th Aviation to Fort Dix, Trenton, NJ. Relocate Reserve Intelligence Area 16 to Fort Dix. Establish an enclave for the Army Reserve units remaining on or relocating to Willow Grove and the Air National Guard 270th Engineering Installation Squadron. Realign Cambria Regional Airport, Johnstown, PA, by relocating Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 775 Detachment A, to include all required personnel, equipment, and support, to McGuire Air Force Base.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JUSTIFICATION:

This recommendation will reduce excess capacity while creating new joint opportunities in the McGuire Air Force Base/Fort Dix/Naval Aviation Engineering Station Lakehurst military concentration area. This recommendation leverages maintenance and operational efficiencies within Marine Corps Reserve Aviation and maintains reserve forces in areas with favorable demographics. Inclusion of the realignment of Cambria Regional Airport in this recommendation allows the assets currently housed there to be collocated with their headquarters at McGuire Air Force Base. The major intermediate maintenance functions are consolidated into a Fleet Readiness Center, which reduces the number of maintenance levels and streamlines the way maintenance is accomplished with associated significant cost reductions.

This recommendation enables Air Force Future Total Force transformation by consolidating the A-10 fleet at installations of higher military value, and contributes to Army's establishment of the Northeast Army Reserve Regional Readiness Command.

The USAF KC-135E model aircraft (16 primary aircraft authorized) at McGuire Air Force Base, NJ, retire. The capacity created by the Air Force Force structure retirement of KC-135Es (16 primary aircraft authorized) from McGuire Air Force Base enables the execution of this recommendation.

MAIN FACILITIES REVIEWED:

Wind-shield tour of base

KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED

INSTALLATION CONCERNS RAISED

It appears that DoD believes the 913AW (Air Force Reserve Command) property is actually owned by the Navy as indicated by the following:

- a. Information contained in the DOD BRAC web site under the Air Force service link states that Willow Grove ARS falls under the "parent"

recommendation of the Department of the Navy.

b. Willow Grove ARS, being an organization separate from the Navy, was not contacted by the BRAC Commission

c. The 913AW and the 111FW do not have a military value assigned

2. The numbers of personnel in the BRAC report reflect Willow Grove JRB losing 865 military and 362 civilian positions. The 913AW has approximately 220 Air Reserve Technicians, 106 civilians, approximately 1104 traditional reserve positions and 5 AGRs. The 111th FW has 205 Air Reserve Technicians, 69 AGRs and 745 traditional guardsmen. The numbers reflected in the report don't add up.

The 913th AW and the 111th FW should have been afforded the opportunity to meet with the BRAC commission

4. The 913AW is not identified in any DoD documentation, or in the Federal Registry as an entity formally recommended for realignment or closure.

5. There is conflicting location data between Air Force and DoD reports of personnel moving from Willow Grove ARS to Eglin.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS RAISED:

A review of community attributes indicates no issues regarding the ability of the infrastructure of the communities to support missions, forces, and personnel. There are no known community infrastructure impediments to implementation of all recommendations affecting the installations in this recommendation.

REQUESTS FOR STAFF AS A RESULT OF VISIT:



Pa. officials say they hold aces in base battle

By: **FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS** (Thu, Jun/23/2005)

The Defense Department overlooked important information when it decided to close the Willow Grove Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, and those disregarded details could be enough to save it, elected officials said.

U.S. Sens. Rick Santorum and Arlen Specter, Gov. Ed Rendell and other elected officials met Wednesday in Washington to discuss their game plan as they try to prevent the closings of 13 military installations in Pennsylvania.

"We're not making any concessions," Specter said Wednesday. "We think we have a very, very strong case for total retention. We think that on the basis of national defense and homeland security."

The Defense Department made mistakes when considering the military value of Willow Grove, Rendell said Wednesday.

Pennsylvania has the most active National Guard population in the country. To close Willow Grove when the military is having difficulty recruiting soldiers would be a mistake, said U.S. Rep. Curt Weldon, R-Pa.

"When you lose Willow Grove, you lose that visible presence of the military," Weldon said.

State consultants will survey reservists and National Guard members attached to the base, according to Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick, whose district borders the base and is home to many of its personnel. The survey will ask military members if they would move to a new base or if closing this one would force them to leave the service.

"We want to know whether the closure of the base would result in problems such as [them] dropping out or not re-enlisting," Fitzpatrick said.

Many service branches have not met recent recruiting goals, raising concerns about the strength of military force during a war.

Congresswoman Allyson Schwartz, who represents the Horsham base, said Wednesday's meeting reinforced the plan for the next few weeks.

"It was absolutely clear that all of us - the governor, the senators, the entire Pennsylvania delegation - are working together to make the strongest case possible to keep Willow Grove and the other Pennsylvania bases open," she said Wednesday afternoon.

Two commissioners from the Base Realignment and Closure Commission are set to visit Willow Grove on July 5, Schwartz said. Later that week a hearing will be held in Baltimore.

Leaders will have an hour or two to tell the commission why their bases should not be closed.

Rendell's office has hired consultants to comb the Defense Department's recommendations to find flaws in the reasons suggested for closing the bases, Schwartz said.

"Pittsburgh has already had its visit from the BRAC, so they worked on that data first," she said. "Now, we will see just as thorough, just as detailed an analysis on Willow Grove."

Schwartz reiterated the reasons leaders think the Horsham base should be spared:

- It is a joint base, bringing together different branches of the military in one place, an approach she said the Defense Department has encouraged.
- It is an important base for the reservists and the National Guard, and Pennsylvania is contributing large numbers of those troops to the war in Iraq.
- It is strategically located for defense and homeland security and is the only sizable airport in the area, besides the commercial airport in Philadelphia.

Rendell, Santorum, Schwartz and Fitzpatrick are scheduled to appear at a "Save Our Base" rally at the Hatboro-Horsham High School Stadium on Monday at 10 a.m.

On May 13, the Department of Defense released a list of bases it recommended closing or realigning, including 13 closures and six realignments in Pennsylvania.

The nine-member closure commission is reviewing the list and must make its final recommendations to President Bush by Sept. 8. He and Congress must approve the entire list for it to take effect.

This is the fifth round of base closings since Congress began the review program. The Philadelphia Naval Complex and Warminster's Naval Air Warfare Center both were ordered closed in the 1991 round of closings.

The Defense Department estimates the four previous rounds saved at least \$17 billion through 2001. If the 2005 plan goes through as outlined, savings are estimated at \$5.5 billion each year.

Sarah Larson can be reached at 215-345-3187 or slarson@phillyburbs.com.

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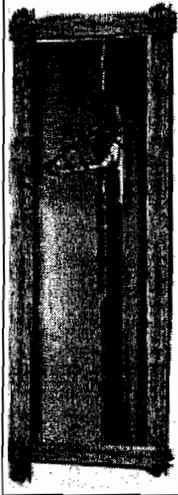


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Posted on Thu, Jun. 23, 2005

Pa. political leaders plan Willow Grove strategy

By Chris Mondics
Inquirer Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON - Faced with the proposed closure of Willow Grove Naval Air Station, Pennsylvania political leaders gathered yesterday on Capitol Hill, where they crafted arguments in favor of the base and vowed to keep pressure on military planners who will decide its fate.

The 45-minute meeting in the office of Sen. Arlen Specter (R., Pa.) focused on what participants said were flaws in the initial Pentagon finding that military units at the Willow Grove base did not have the capacity for expansion. Gov. Rendell said Willow Grove was well-situated to serve the military's growing reliance on National Guard troops, since Pennsylvania supplies a disproportionate share of them.

"We are going to prepare for this to the nth degree," Rendell said at a news conference after the meeting. "Pennsylvania has the most active Guard troops in the nation and to close Willow Grove would be a great mistake. We need to build upon our forces at Willow Grove."

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The Pentagon recommended closing the Willow Grove base May 13, placing almost 1,200 military and civilian jobs in doubt. Nationwide, the Pentagon recommended closing 30 major military bases, including Fort Monmouth in New Jersey. Overall, Pennsylvania would have a net loss of 1,878 jobs under the plan, while New Jersey could lose 3,760 jobs.

Those recommendations are now before the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC), an independent panel chosen by Congress and the President, which must submit a final list of bases to be closed by Sept. 8.

Each base has a local constituency, and politicians from every affected region will be lobbying hard. Historically, only a small percentage of bases recommended for closing survive the cut.

Specter and Rendell were joined by other lawmakers who said the Willow Grove base is a critical link in the nation's defense system.

Moreover, Rep. Curt Weldon (R., Pa.) said it was a fallacy to suggest, as have some developers and others, that closing the base would open up its 1,000-plus acres for commercial development.

He said that if the military closed the base, it would likely hold on to the land.

"I am a supporter of the BRAC process, but it must be based on facts," Weldon said. However, the Pentagon's recommendation rested on what Weldon called "a distortion of the facts."

Specter said it was important for officials to pressure the Pentagon to release all the documents leading to its recommendation. Experience has shown that the Pentagon has withheld information that would contradict its base-closing proposals, he said.

Contact staff writer Chris Mondics at 202-383-6024 or cmondics@krwashington.com.

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From The Morning Call

Case for Willow Grove mapped out

Officials: Pentagon overlooked air reserves at base slated for closure.

By Jeff Miller
Call Washington Bureau

June 23, 2005

WASHINGTON | Could an error of omission save Willow Grove Naval Air Station?

Gov. Ed Rendell and members of Pennsylvania's congressional delegation seemed to think so after meeting to plot strategy in Republican Sen. Arlen Specter's office Wednesday.

The officials said they had a strong case to make that the Pentagon made a mistake on the facts, leading to an error in judgment that put the Montgomery County base on the closure list.

In this instance, they said, the Pentagon did not evaluate all of Willow Grove's military components, primarily because the Air Force decided to give up on the base after the Navy began phasing out its P-3 anti-submarine aircraft, some of which fly out of Willow Grove.

"Because the Navy made a decision, all of a sudden [it's] forget about the National Guard and the Air Reserve," said Rep. Curt Weldon, R-7th District, who serves on the Armed Services Committee.

"That's a mistake," agreed Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa. "We believe that's a very strong club that we have at Willow Grove that needs to be developed."

The next few weeks could prove crucial.

The Base Closure and Realignment Commission, which is reviewing the Pentagon's proposal, has scheduled a site visit to Willow Grove on July 5. A formal hearing will follow on July 7 or 8 in the Washington, D.C., area.

The commission will make its own recommendations to President Bush by Sept. 8. If he accepts them, Congress would have 45 days to approve or reject them. But neither Bush nor Congress could make any changes.

The Pentagon wants to close Willow Grove, in Horsham Township, as part of a larger plan to streamline domestic bases. Closing Willow Grove would eliminate more than 1,200 military, civilian and contractor jobs and save the government \$710 million over 20 years.

But state and local officials have vowed to keep the base open.

Rendell and members of Congress stressed that, as a joint reserve base, Willow Grove is home to Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine and Air National Guard and Reserve units that are vital to both national defense and homeland security.

The base's two major units are the 913th Airlift Wing, which trains and equips Air Force reservists to perform aerial resupply,

and the 111th Fighter Wing of the Air National Guard, which operates tank-killing A-10 aircraft.

"The war in Iraq has proved again how important it is to keep a strong Guard and reservists," said Democratic Rep. Allyson Schwartz, whose 13th District includes Willow Grove.

On Tuesday, a base closure commissioner visited the other major Pennsylvania base slated for closure, the Pittsburgh International Airport Air Reserve Station, home of the Air Force's 911th Airlift Wing.

Rendell said the visit persuaded the commissioner, retired Air Force Gen. Lloyd Newton, that the Pentagon was mistaken in saying the 911th lacked room to expand when it clearly does.

"We took him around and demonstrated to him a very fundamental flaw in the Defense Department reasoning in Pittsburgh," Rendell said. "We'll do the same thing when Gen. Newton comes to Willow Grove on July 5."

jeff.miller@mcall.com

202-824-8216

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TimesHerald.com

06/21/2005

Call to arms

By: KEITH PHUCAS , Times Herald Staff

HORSHAM - The battle lines are being drawn to save Willow Grove Naval Air Station and Joint Reserve Base in the name of homeland security, and area congressional members are bracing for a long, hot summer.

On Monday, U.S. Reps. Michael Fitzpatrick and Curt Weldon argued that closing the base would be a strategic and psychological blow to the region, and that they would pull out all the stops to keep that from happening. The congressmen held a press conference at Willow Grove's Delaware Valley Historical Aircraft Association Museum.

Fitzpatrick, who represents the 8th District, which includes the Willow Grove area, introduced a bill three weeks ago that would require the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) to consider the consequences of shuttering bases in light of the government's new emphasis on protecting the U.S. from terrorist attacks.

"The (Willow Grove) base is essential for our homeland security,"

Fitzpatrick, a Republican, said.

The legislation calls for the secretary of homeland security, Michael Chertoff, to submit a report to Congress on the security implications of the recommended base closings.

The bill, which was co-sponsored by Rep. Allyson Schwartz, D-13th Dist., has been referred to the House Armed Services Committee.

In May, Willow Grove was among dozens of military facilities on the Pentagon's list of recommended closings and realignments. The BRAC commissioners have 11 weeks left to decide the fate of the Horsham facility. The commission must submit its report to President Bush by Sept. 8.

The lawmakers said because Willow Grove is an important homeland security asset, it should be crossed off the Defense Department's closure list.

"It's not the right time to be closing bases," Fitzpatrick said. "Homeland security was not considered in the BRAC (legislation)."

Weldon, vice chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said the facility's location should have kept it off the list.

"I don't understand why Willow Grove has been placed on the BRAC list," he said. "It doesn't make sense, because of its strategic location on the East Coast."

Weldon, R-7th Dist., said the military presence at the base should be expanded.

"I'm convinced we should be growing," he said. "There's additional acreage for expansion."

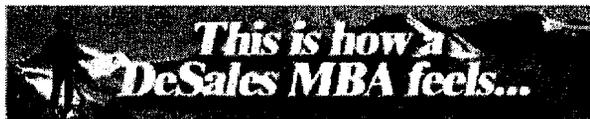
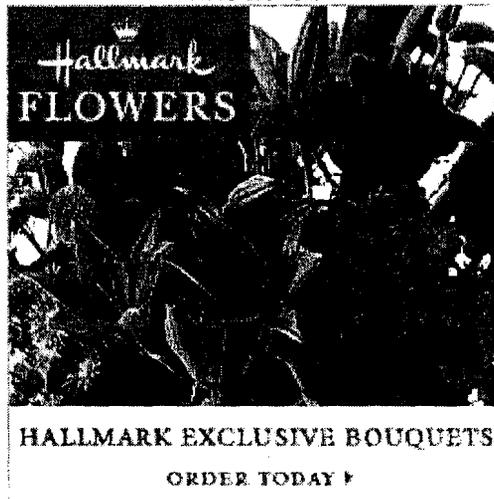
Another BRAC recommendation calls for relocating five Army Reserve units - including Norristown's Ray S. Musselman Army Reserve Center - to a new Armed Forces Reserve Center at Willow Grove.

A key homeland security priority is to protect nuclear facilities from terrorist attacks. If such a disaster occurred, Fitzpatrick said, aircraft at the local base would be expected to respond.

"In the event of an emergency at Three Mile Island (nuclear plants), this base would be critical."

Keith Phucas can be reached at kphucas@timesherald.com or 610-272-2500, ext. 211.

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From The Morning Call

Lawmakers: Willow Grove base is vital

Naval air station's unique features were overlooked, they say.

By Pervaiz Shallwani
Of The Morning Call

June 11, 2005

The Pentagon overlooked key features of the Willow Grove Naval Air Station when it recommended the base be closed, area lawmakers and business leaders say.

The May 13 base closure report failed to recognize Willow Grove's ability to conduct joint missions across the service branches, its strategic location near major cities on the East Coast and the important role of Pennsylvania's National Guard, three Montgomery County lawmakers said Friday outside the base in Horsham Township.

"We don't believe that it was an error. We believe the mission here was understated," said state Rep. Eugene McGill, flanked at a news conference by a fellow Republican, Rep. Sue Cornell, and Rep. Josh Shapiro, a Democrat.

That is a glimpse of the case the state probably will make to keep the 1,100-acre base open when it argues before the Base Realignment and Closure Commission on July 8 and 9 in Baltimore.

Also at the news conference, the Suburban Horsham/Willow Grove Chamber of Commerce announced that Gov. Ed Rendell will participate in the June 27 "Save the Base Day" at Hatboro-Horsham High School.

The group of local business and political leaders held a rally last week and plans to hold a demonstration when BRAC commissioners, including Chairman Anthony Principi, tour the base July 5. Base supporters also are signing up residents to bus to the BRAC hearings.

The Pentagon has suggested moving Willow Grove's Navy and Marine Corps squadrons to McGuire Air Force Base in Wrightstown, N.J., and deactivating the 111th Fighter Wing of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard.

But the base could carry on in dramatically reduced fashion under a new name: the Willow Grove Joint Reserve Base. The Pentagon wants to create an Armed Forces Reserve Center there through the closure and consolidation of several small Army Reserve centers in the Philadelphia area.

Pennsylvania has hired consultants, mostly former military officers familiar with the BRAC process, to prepare a case that would show Willow Grove is unique among bases targeted for closure or realignment.

Among the points the state will emphasize are that it has the country's largest National Guard and has more National Guard troops on active duty for the Iraq war than any other state.

"We have hired experts, and statewide meetings are occurring on a weekly basis," said Shapiro, who got a taste of how BRAC works in 1995 while working as an aide to U.S. Sen. Carl Levin of Michigan, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee.

From his experience, Shapiro said, about 15 percent of military facilities are taken off the BRAC list when the process is complete.

The state set aside \$4.5 million to defend its bases after Gov. Ed Rendell won office in 2002. About \$1.2 million of that money remains and will be divided among the 13 state facilities the Pentagon wants to close. McGill said the major share will go to the two biggest bases on the list: Willow Grove and Pittsburgh International Airport Air Reserve Station.

Ed Ebenbach, co-chairman of the chamber's Regional Military Affairs Committee, said the group has distributed more than 120,000 pamphlets and about 1,000 yard signs advertising the lobbying campaign called "Save Our Base." In addition, the group has logged more than 2,700 signatures and e-mails as part of its petition drive.

According to Pentagon estimates, the closure could cost the community 138 to 1,805 jobs, depending on the level of economic recovery. Either scenario is less than a tenth of 1 percent of the Philadelphia job market. The Chamber put the community impact at more than 10,000 jobs, for a loss of \$375 million in economic activity.

The Pentagon estimates it will cost \$126 million to close Willow Grove, but that the Defense Department will end up saving \$710 million over 20 years.

The commission must present a revised list of proposed closings and down-

sizings to President Bush by Sept. 8. He has until Sept. 23 to accept or reject the list in its entirety. If he accepts it, Congress can reject it in its entirety. If Congress does nothing, the recommendations move forward.

"If we don't have this thing won by the first week of August, it is closed," McGill said, noting that the commission will be heavily into its decision-making process by then. "We are going to have to find a few mistakes, and we believe we have found some."

pervaiz.shallwani@mcall.com

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CBS

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Residents Fight To Save Willow Grove NAS

Jun 11, 2005 9:45 am US/Eastern

The community near Willow Grove Naval Air Station is getting ready to rally to try to keep the base from being shut down.

In the next several weeks, a federal commission is expected to decide whether the base in Philadelphia's northern suburbs should remain on the closure list.

State and local lawmakers are meeting each week to work on a game plan. "Save Our Base Day" has been set for June 27th at Hatboro-Horsham High School to rally support.

Ed Ebenbach, an official with the local Chamber of Commerce, says his group plans to encourage everyone to hop on buses and head to Baltimore to attend a July 9th hearing on the proposal.

Lawmakers estimate the chance of getting Willow Grove off the closure list is about 15 percent.

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MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK
8TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

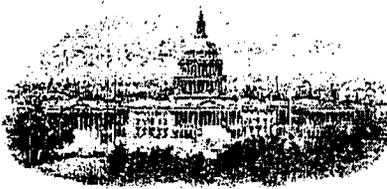
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Dear Members of the Commission,

I am writing today to express my support for the Willow Grove Joint Reserve Base in Horsham, Pennsylvania.

As stated by Secretary of Defense, the Base Realignment and Closure Commission is charged with the task of reviewing the status of our military installations in order to streamline operation costs, promote interservice cooperation and consolidate military assets. In doing so the commission will look at certain criteria that will define which installations are to be signaled for possible closure. These criteria include, cost, inter-service cooperation and expansion potential. I do not believe that Willow Grove meets the requirements for closure as set forth in the BRAC guidelines for the following reasons.

First, one of the major issues related to Department of Defense force transformation includes the need for "jointness," or the ability to base, train and deploy forces from different service branches together. Willow Grove is the largest joint force base in the United States and the only major joint reserve base in Pennsylvania.

The base is home to the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Air National Guard. Willow Grove's close proximity to Philadelphia, Baltimore, New York and New Jersey provides reservists an easily accessible base to fulfill their training requirements. The base is also home to Pennsylvania's oldest flying unit, the 111th Fighter Wing that was recently deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Second, Willow Grove has room to expand within its current "footprint" in the community. While the other branches have been increasing their operational tempo, the Navy has begun to move aircraft off base either to active duty units or to other squadrons that need the planes for current combat operations. This allows room for expansion on the base by the Air Force into areas formerly used by the Navy.

Third, Willow Grove has a proven history of emergency preparedness and can accommodate contingency, mobilization, surge and total force requirements. After the September 11th attacks, Willow Grove took on first responders from the Department of Environmental Protection and became a training area for homeland security preparedness. The Federal Emergency Management Agency named the base an "alternate regional operations center," which was activated and used during the 2000 Republican National Convention in Philadelphia and shortly after 9/11. Additionally, Willow Grove supports an 8,000 foot runway, which can facilitate military and large commercial aircraft. Given its close proximity to Philadelphia, Washington, DC, New York and Baltimore, Willow Gove could easily land aircraft diverted from their major airports in case of emergency. The base is currently used by Air Force One during presidential trips to the region and could place military assets into the air to patrol the region during a possible attack.

Finally, I believe that closing Willow Grove will have a significant negative economic impact on the surrounding community. According to a local consulting firm, Willow Grove maintains 10,724 jobs and creates \$378 million worth of local economic activity per year. Closure of the base would heavily affect the community, especially since it is located very close to the former Naval Air Warfare Center in Warminster, PA that was closed during the 1995 BRAC round. Only recently has the community surrounding the NAWC begun to revitalize. Closing Willow Grove would not only hurt the off-base community, but further imperil Warminster.

Willow Grove Joint Reserve Base is an outstanding asset to the United States Department of Defense as well as to the community. For the above stated reasons, I do not believe that recommending Willow Grove, JRB for closure will be an advantageous move for the Department of Defense. I am more than willing to provide supporting materials if requested. Additionally, I am available to speak to any of the commissioners once the recommendation list becomes public this week. Please contact Mr. Jeff Urbanchuk on my staff to schedule an appointment at (202) 225-4276. Thank you very much and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK
Member of Congress

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	COMMENT NUMBER	COMMENT	DATE RECEIVED	BASE/INSTALLATION
1	2285	<p>NAS JRB Willow Grove</p> <p>Dear BRAC Commissioner:</p> <p>I urge you to convey my interest in maintaining the military installation NAS JRB Willow Grove, located in Horsham, PA. This installation is the model of joint use base facilities whose strengths include:</p> <p>Working Joint operations including all services except Coast Guard Criticalstrategic location near all Northeast Corridor major metropolitan and port areas Vital part of Homeland Defense & Security for the East Coast Huge economic impact to our local region Modern, 8,000 ft. runway and modern Digital Radar Air Control System – one of only four in the U.S. and available for Emergency Preparedness and operations. Strong community support</p> <p>I appreciate your representation and thank you for conveying this strong message.</p> <p>Sincerely, Wendy Gower Allentown, PA</p>	6/23/2005 4:15:00 PM	Naval Air Station Willow Grove
2	2283	<p>Base Closure</p> <p>I urge you to convey my interest in maintaining the military installation NAS JRB Willow Grove, located in Horsham, PA. This installation is the model of joint use base facilities whose strenths include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Working Joint operations including all services except Coast Guard 2. Criticalstrategic location near all Northeast Corridor major metropolitan and port areas 3. Vital part of Homeland Defense & Security for the East Coast 4. Huge economic impact to our local region 5. Very strong community supports 6. Modern, 8,000 ft. runway and modern Digital Radar Air Control System, one of only 4 in the U.S. and available for Emergency Preparedness and operations. <p>I appreciate your representation and thank you for conveying this urgent message.</p>	6/23/2005 4:02:00 PM	Naval Air Station Willow Grove

		<p>Sincerely, Denise Drummond Hayes 16 Langhorne Road Chalfont, PA 18914</p>		
3	2260	<p>Consider this my request that NAS JRB Willow Grove be spared from closure</p> <p>Dear BRAC Commissioner:</p> <p>I urge you to convey my interest in maintaining the military installation NAS JRB Willow Grove, located in Horsham, PA.</p> <p>Not only did my father (before his passing in '91) proudly serve both as civilian and non-civilian at this location but also my Uncle currently serves at this phenomenal base as a an officer in the Air Force. In fact, one of the buildings proudly displays my father's bust on it's facade as a tribute to his time there.</p> <p>This installation is the model of joint use base facilities whose strengths include:</p> <p>Working Joint operations including all services except Coast Guard Critical strategic location near all Northeast Corridor major metropolitan and port areas Vital part of Homeland Defense & Security for the East Coast Huge economic impact to our local region Modern, 8,000 ft. runway and modern Digital Radar Air Control System – one of only four in the U.S. and available for Emergency Preparedness and operations. Strong community support</p> <p>I truly appreciate your consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely, Karen E. Clothier 880 Allentown Rd Telford, PA 18969 267-497-0257</p>	6/23/2005 12:42:00 PM	Naval Air Station Willow Grove
4	2251	<p>do not close willow grove navy base</p> <p>my fiance has been in the navy for 16 yrs, please do not close this base. it is vitally important to the military and the civilians. thousands will lose jobs.</p>	6/23/2005 11:37:00 AM	Naval Air Station Willow Grove
5	2240	<p>Save Willow Grove</p> <p>I urge you to convey my interest in maintaining the military installation NAS JRB Willow Grove, located in Horsham, PA. This installation is the model of joint use base facilities whose strengths include:</p> <p>Working Joint operations including all services except Coast Guard Critical strategic location near all Northeast Corridor major metropolitan and port areas Vital part of Homeland Defense & Security for the East Coast Huge economic impact to our local region Modern, 8,000 ft. runway and modern Digital Radar Air Control System – one of only four in the U.S. and available for Emergency Preparedness and operations. Strong community support</p>	6/23/2005 8:23:00 AM	Naval Air Station Willow Grove

		<p>I appreciate your representation and thank you for conveying this strong message.</p> <p>Sincerely, Kitina Nester 542 Colonial Drive East Greenville, PA 18041</p>		
6	2235	<p>Base Closing</p> <p>I urge you to convey my interest in maintaining the military installation NAS JRB Willow Grove, located in Horsham, PA. This installation is the model of joint use base facilities whose strengths include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working Joint operations including all services except Coast Guard • Critical strategic location near all Northeast Corridor major metropolitan and port areas • Vital part of Homeland Defense & Security for the East Coast • Huge economic impact to our local region • Modern, 8,000 ft. runway and modern Digital Radar Air Control System – one of only four in the U.S. and available for Emergency Preparedness and operations. • Strong community support • Having a Military presence in the Metro Philadelphia Region is great recruiting for active duty and a place for ex active duty members from PA, DE, NY, MD AND NJ to continue their service close to home. <p>I appreciate your representation and thank you for conveying this strong message.</p> <p>Sincerely, Damon A. Lenza 742 16th Avenue Prospect Park, PA 19076</p>	6/23/2005 7:59:00 AM	Naval Air Station Willow Grove
7	2229	<p>BRAC Commission</p> <p>I respectfully urge you to reconsider the closing of this base not just for the community impact, but for the thousands of veterans in the area.</p> <p>Mr. Principi, of all people, must be aware that this would be another blow to the disabled veterans that routinely are provided with their prescriptions at the base pharmacy. I can only hope that this was taken into consideration in the final analysis.</p> <p>It has taken over 15 years to recover the loss of the Philadelphia Naval Base alone for us veterans that constantly lose their retiree benefits.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>YNCS William J. Vinglas, USNR (Retired) 299 Allen Lane Warminster, PA 18974-5266</p>	6/23/2005 6:24:00 AM	Naval Air Station Willow Grove
8	2207	<p>Please Save Willow Grove Naval Air Station</p> <p>Please reconsider thoughts of closing the base...it is very strategically located for national, local & regional defense & provides a substantial economic core for the area as well...</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>	6/22/2005 9:46:00 PM	Naval Air Station Willow Grove

		Marilyn M. Gross Downingtown, PA		
9	2204	<p>Base Closing</p> <p>This base is vital to the surrounding area. Please consider not closing this base.</p>	6/22/2005 9:02:00 PM	Naval Air Station Willow Grove
10	2188	<p>Base Closure</p> <p>I urge you to convey my interest in maintaining the military installation NAS JRB Willow Grove, located in Horsham, PA. This installation is the model of joint use base facilities whose strengths include:</p> <p>Working Joint operations including all services except Coast Guard Critical strategic location near all Northeast Corridor major metropolitan and port areas Vital part of Homeland Defense & Security for the East Coast Huge economic impact to our local region Modern, 8,000 ft. runway and modern Digital Radar Air Control System – one of only four in the U.S. and available for Emergency Preparedness and operations. Strong community support</p> <p>I appreciate your representation and thank you for conveying this strong message.</p> <p>I come from a family of all military people from my grandfather to my son, I really think it is a disgrace that you would even think about closing any of the bases, if it is money the govt. has to start saving than maybe the govt needs to look at political people to cut back on and the big money they make. Govt needs to leave the little people alone, that means closing these bases will put a lot of little people out of work and who will take care of them, the people that put them out of work.. I doubt that very much. Well there are more letters I have to write, so thank you for taking the time to read this..</p> <p>Sincerely, Valerie Lezoche 1528 Guinea Lane Warrington, Pa. 18976</p>	6/22/2005 6:19:00 PM	Naval Air Station Willow Grove
11	2182	<p>SAVE WILLOW GROVE AIR STATION</p> <p>June 22, 2005 Dear BRAC Commissioner:</p> <p>I urge you to convey my interest in maintaining the military installation NAS JRB Willow Grove, located in Horsham, Pa. This installation is the model of joint use base facilities whose strength include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working Joint operations including all services except Coast Guard - Critical strategic location near all Northeast Corridor major metropolitan and port areas - Vital part of Homeland Defense & Security for the East Coast - Huge economic impact to our local region - Modern, 8000 ft. runway and modern Digital Radar Air Control System - one of only four in the U.S. and available for Emergency Preparedness and operations. - Strong community support 	6/22/2005 5:31:00 PM	Naval Air Station Willow Grove

		<p>I appreciate your representation and thank you for conveying this strong message.</p> <p>Sincerely, Thomas J. Smigo 885 Hemlock Road Warminster, Pa. 18974</p>		
12	2177	<p>Closing of NAS JRB Willow Grove...</p> <p>Dear BRAC Commissioner:</p> <p>I urge you to convey my interest in maintaining the military installation NAS JRB Willow Grove, located in Horsham, PA. This installation is the model of joint use base facilities whose strengths include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Working Joint operations including all services except Coast Guard *Critical strategic location near all Northeast Corridor major metropolitan and port areas *Vital part of Homeland Defense & Security for the East Coast *Huge economic impact to our local region *Modern, 8,000 ft. runway and modern Digital Radar Air Control System -one of only four in the U.S. and available for Emergency Preparedness and operations *Strong community support <p>I appreciate your representation and thank you for conveying this strong message.</p> <p>Sincerely, Christina Norton 713 Cedar Hill Road Ambler, PA 19002</p>	6/22/2005 4:32:00 PM	Naval Air Station Willow Grove
13	2145	<p>Save Willow Grove Navel Base</p> <p>Dear Elected Official or BRAC Commissioner:</p> <p>I urge you to convey my interest in maintaining the military installation NAS JRB Willow Grove, located in Horsham, PA. This installation is the model of joint use base facilities whose strengths include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working Joint operations including all services except Coast Guard Critical strategic location near all Northeast Corridor major metropolitan and port areas Vital part of Homeland Defense & Security for the East Coast Huge economic impact to our local region Modern, 8,000 ft. runway and modern Digital Radar Air Control System – one of only four in the U.S. and available for Emergency Preparedness and operations. Strong community support <p>I appreciate your representation and thank you for conveying this strong message.</p> <p>Sincerely, Elizabeth McGee 133 Reliance Place Telford PA 18969</p>	6/22/2005 11:38:00 AM	Naval Air Station Willow Grove
14	2140	<p>Do Not Close base shown below</p> <p>This Joint station should remain open. Not only for protection to</p>	6/22/2005 11:19:00 AM	Naval Air Station Willow Grove

		the East Coast to assist in event of any situation involving Norfolkportsmouth. This base could be of service to handle medical problems should a Mass Casualty situation occur. In addition jobs would not be lost.		
15	2096	<p>Base Closure</p> <p>I am conveying my interest in maintaing the military installation of NAS JRB Willow Grove, located in Horsham, Pa. This installation is th model of joint use base facilities whose strengths include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Working Joint Operations including all services except Coast Guard 2. Criticaltrategic location near all Northeast Corridor major metropolitan and port areas 3. Vital part of Homeland Defense and Security for the East Coast 4. Huge ecomonic impact to our local region 5. Modern, 8,000ft. runway and modern Digital Radar Air Control System, one of four in the United States and available for Emergency Prepardness and operation 6. Strong community support <p>I appreciate your time and thank you for letting me convey this strong message.</p> <p>Sincerely, Denise Miller 1970 New Rodgers Road Apt. D-35 Levittown, PA 19056</p>	6/21/2005 10:03:00 PM	Naval Air Station Willow Grove
16	2056	<p>NAS JRB WILLOW GROVE BASE CLOSURE</p> <p>Dear BRAC Commissioner:</p> <p>I urge you to convey my interest in maintaining the military installation NAS JRB Willow Grove, located in Horsham, PA. This installation is the model of joint use base facilities whose strengths include:</p> <p>Working Joint operations including all services except Coast Guard Criticaltrategic location near all Northeast Corridor major metropolitan and port areas Vital part of Homeland Defense & Security for the East Coast Huge economic impact to our local region Modern, 8,000 ft. runway and modern Digital Radar Air Control System – one of only four in the U.S. and available for Emergency Preparedness and operations. Strong community support</p> <p>I appreciate your representation and thank you for conveying this strong message.</p> <p>Sincerely Steven Brown 723 Joseph Avenue Warminster, Pa. 18974</p>	6/21/2005 4:02:00 PM	Naval Air Station Willow Grove
17	2051	<p>Base Closing</p> <p>I urge you to maintain the military installation NAS JRB Willow Grove, located in Horsham, PA. This installation is the model of joint use base facilities whose strengths include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Working Joint operations including all services except Coast Guard 	6/21/2005 2:42:00 PM	Naval Air Station Willow Grove

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Critical strategic location near all Northeast Corridor major metropolitan and port areas · Vital part of Homeland Defense & Security for the East Coast · Huge economic impact to our local region · Modern, 8,000 ft. runway and modern Digital Radar Air Control System – one of only four in the U.S. and available for Emergency Preparedness and operations. · Strong community support <p>Thank You</p> <p>Harold Praediger</p>		
18	2004	<p>Willow Grove NAS JRB</p> <p>Dear BRAC Commissioner:</p> <p>I urge you to convey my interest in maintaining the military installation NAS JRB Willow Grove, located in Horsham, PA. This installation is the model of joint use base facilities whose strengths include:</p> <p>Working Joint operations including all services except Coast Guard</p> <p>Critical strategic location near all Northeast Corridor major metropolitan and port areas</p> <p>Vital part of Homeland Defense & Security for the East Coast</p> <p>Huge economic impact to our local region</p> <p>Modern, 8,000 ft. runway and modern Digital Radar Air Control System – one of only four in the U.S. and available for Emergency Preparedness and operations.</p> <p>Strong community support</p> <p>I appreciate your representation and thank you for conveying this strong message.</p> <p>Sincerely, Gus Petrogiannis 34 loretta circle holland, pa</p>	6/20/2005 11:48:00 PM	Naval Air Station Willow Grove
19	1978	<p>KEEP WILLOW GROVE BASE OPEN</p> <p>Dear BRAC Commissioner:</p> <p>I urge you to convey my interest in maintaining the military installation NAS JRB Willow Grove, located in Horsham, PA. This installation is the model of joint use base facilities whose strengths include:</p> <p>Working Joint operations including all services except Coast Guard.</p> <p>Critical strategic location near all Northeast Corridor major metropolitan and port areas.</p> <p>Vital part of Homeland Defense & Security for the East Coast. Huge economic impact to our local region.</p> <p>Modern, 8,000 ft. runway and modern Digital Radar Air Control System – one of only four in the U.S. and available for Emergency Preparedness and operations.</p> <p>Strong community support and many more reason to keep this base open, but I cannot list them all.</p>	6/20/2005 5:45:00 PM	Naval Air Station Willow Grove

		<p>I appreciate your representation and thank you for conveying this strong message.</p> <p>Sincerely, Brian C sheridan 1431 Valley View Warrington, PA 18976</p>		
20	1972	<p>Willow Grove Naval Airbase Closer</p> <p>I urge you to convey my interest in maintaining the military installation NAS JRB Willow Grove, located in Horsham, PA. This installation is the model of joint use base facilities whose strengths include:</p> <p>Working Joint operations including all services except Coast Guard Criticalstrategic location near all Northeast Corridor major metropolitan and port areas Vital part of Homeland Defense & Security for the East Coast Huge economic impact to our local region Modern, 8,000 ft. runway and modern Digital Radar Air Control System – one of only four in the U.S. and available for Emergency Preparedness and operations. Strong community support</p> <p>I appreciate your representation and thank you for conveying this strong message.</p> <p>Sincerely, Amy M. Jesberger & Family</p>	6/20/2005 4:27:00 PM	Naval Air Station Willow Grove
21	1963	<p>BRAC</p> <p>To the BRAC Commission, As a concerned citizen and father of a son who serves in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard, 111th Fighter Wing based at NAS Willow Grove, I strongly urge you to reconsider your position regarding this base and the resulting fate of this unit. The 111th has made 5 combat deployments (3 of which were voluntary) in the past 10 years while 75% of the unit have served overseas since 91. They have served our country faithfully in the GWOT. Disbanding this fine unit would be a devastating loss to our state, our national defense, as well as a crippling economic loss to our community. To convert Willow Grove from a joint reserve base (all services represented except the Coast Guard and the second largest in the nation) into an Army Reserve Base with no flight operations is a tremendous waste of the infrastructure that is available here. If anything NAS Willow Grove should become more prominent and gain units from other areas. As I understand it, one of the purposes of the BRAC is for realignment and creation of joint facilities. Willow Grove is already joint. It has a 10,000 foot runway and necessary radar control and maintenance facilities to absorb more aircraft. I understand that one base in Massachusetts which has escaped the BRAC list is slated to receive some of the A-10s operated by the 111th and in order to do so, millions of dollars must be spent on the facility just to improve the infrastructure and runways. This seems contrary to the purpose of the BRAC Commission. The Philadelphia region is strategically located in the Northeast corridor and is the best location for reserve flight operations. Please reconsider your position on NAS Willow Grove and listen to the supporting rationale that will be presented July 9th at a hearing in Baltimore. Thank you for your consideration, Bob Gagne</p>	6/20/2005 2:48:00 PM	Naval Air Station Willow Grove

22	1933	<p>Save our Base</p> <p>Dear BRAC Commissioner,</p> <p>I urge you to convey my interest in maintaining the military installation NAS JRB Willow Grove, located in Horsham, PA. This installation is the model of joint use base facilities whose strengths include:</p> <p>Working Joint operations including all services except Coast Guard Critical strategic location near all Northeast Corridor major metropolitan and port areas Vital part of Homeland Defense & Security for the East Coast Huge economic impact to our local region Modern 8,000 ft. runway and modern Digital Radar Air Control System – one of only four in the U.S. and available for Emergency Preparedness and operations. Strong community support</p> <p>I appreciate your representation and thank you for conveying this strong message,</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Mary Lou Jones</p> <p>Sellersville, PA.</p>	6/20/2005 10:14:00 AM	Naval Air Station Willow Grove
23	1918	<p>Remove Willow Grove JRB from the list!</p> <p>Dear BRAC Commissioner:</p> <p>I urge you to convey my interest in maintaining the military installation NAS JRB Willow Grove, located in Horsham, PA. This installation is the model of joint use base facilities whose strengths include:</p> <p>Working Joint operations including all services except Coast Guard Critical strategic location near all Northeast Corridor major metropolitan and port areas Vital part of Homeland Defense & Security for the East Coast Huge economic impact to our local region Modern, 8,000 ft. runway and modern Digital Radar Air Control System – one of only four in the U.S. and available for Emergency Preparedness and operations. Strong community support</p> <p>I appreciate your representation and thank you for conveying this strong message.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Paul C Brown 536 Sunnemeade Ave Warminster, Pa 18974</p>	6/20/2005 7:14:00 AM	Naval Air Station Willow Grove
24	1909	<p>BRAC Commission</p> <p>I am writing to voice my concern over the closing of this important base. I am truly hoping that you will reconsider your thoughts and allow this base to remain open. Thank you for your time.</p>	6/19/2005 8:55:00 PM	Naval Air Station Willow Grove

25	1898	Willow Grove Naval Air Base	6/19/2005 4:21:00 PM	Naval Air Station Willow Grove
		<p>Dear BRAC Commissioner:</p> <p>I urge you to convey my interest in maintaining the military installation NAS JRB Willow Grove, located in Horsham, PA. This installation is the model of joint use base facilities whose strengths include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Working Joint operations including all services except Coast Guard* Critical strategic location near all Northeast Corridor major metropolitan and port areas* Vital part of Homeland Defense & Security for the East Coast* Huge economic impact to our local region* Modern, 8,000 ft. runway and modern Digital Radar Air Control System – one of only four in the U.S. and available for Emergency Preparedness and operations.* Strong community support <p>I appreciate your representation and thank you for conveying this strong message.</p> <p>Sincerely, Ashleigh Gephart 2635 Pleasant Hill Hatboro, PA 19040</p>		

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Pennsylvania Facts and Figures

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Major Installations

Army

- Charles E. Kelly Support Facility
- Fort Indiantown GAP
- Tobyhanna Army Depot
- Letterkenny Army Depot
- Carlisle Barracks

Navy & Marine Corps

- Navy Ships Parts Control Center
- Willow Grove NAS

Coast Guard

- Group Philadelphia
- Marine Safety Office Philadelphia
- Marine Safety Office Pittsburgh

National Guard

Maj. Gen. William B. Lynch, Adjutant General

Lt. Col. Christopher Cleaver, Public Affairs Officer

(717) 861-8468

Personnel Totals

Army 1,252

Navy & Marine Corps 1,604

Air Force 405

Coast Guard 374

Active Duty Military 3,261

Reserve and National Guard 52,837

Total Personnel 56,472

U.S. Military Facts and Figures

Personnel

- 1.4 million men and women on active duty
- 672,000 civilians
- 1.35 million volunteers serving in the Guard and Reserve
- Support 1.8 million retirees and families that are receiving benefits
- 35,000 Coast Guard men and women on active duty
- 6,315 Coast Guard civilians
- 8,370 members serving in the Coast Guard Selected Reserve
- 32,000 volunteers serving in the Coast Guard Auxiliary
- 32,714 Coast Guard retirees and their families that are receiving benefits

Quality

- 96 percent of our employees have high school diplomas versus 87 percent of the national work force
- 6.3 percent of our troops have masters degrees versus 5.7 percent of the national work force

Infrastructure

- Personnel are located at about 600 fixed facilities around the world
- More than 40,000 properties amounting 18 million acres of land
- These include 250 major installations

Worldwide Presence

- Personnel located in more than 130 countries
- Some 247,000 troops and civilians are overseas both afloat and ashore

Activities On any given day, the U.S. military...

- Maintains 12,000 miles of waterways
- Operates 24 percent of the nation's hydropower capacity
- Manages 225 schools
- Provides day care for 200,000 children (world's largest day care provider)
- Saves 10 lives at sea

- Confiscates 306 pounds of cocaine and 169 pounds of marijuana from drug smugglers

Budget

- Annual budget is approximately \$280 billion
- About a half of that goes for salaries
- One quarter for operating and maintaining our force, from bullets to butter
- One sixth to buying materiel: everything from tanks to planes
- Most of the last sixth to research and development
- Annual Coast Guard budget is approximately \$4.4 billion

Increase in Deployments

Although the end of the cold war implied a less dangerous world, this has not been the case. American operational commitments since 1990 have made us busier than ever:

- There have been 99 major commitments of Americans in uniform, both active and Reserve to virtually every corner of the globe
- Army deployments have increased 300 percent in the past 10 years
- The number of deployed Navy ships on any given day has increased 52 percent in the last six years
- Since 1986, the number of Air Force deployments have quadrupled
- On the domestic front, in the previous five years, we responded to some 300 disasters, more than 600 National Guard commitments and almost 10,000 requests from law enforcement agencies
- The Coast Guard deployed training teams to help more than 50 nations develop their navies/coast guards

Decrease in Resources

- The number of soldiers and civilians in the Army has been reduced by 39 percent
- The number of ships in the Navy fell by 30 percent
- Air Force lost one-third of its people
- Coast Guard personnel strength is the same as it was in 1967 — but its missions have expanded

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