



06302005

June 28, 2005

Mr. Anthony Principi, Chairman  
BRAC Commission  
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Mr. Principi:

As a business owner and twenty-three year resident of the Brunswick area, I am writing to urge you and the BRAC Commission to reconsider its decision to include the Brunswick Naval Air Station on the base closing and realignment list. As the only surviving military base in the northeast, BNAS is vital to our national security. Its air patrols monitor all the major shipping routes in the north Atlantic, and its ground facilities are in constant use by squadrons returning to the United States from Iraq.

Furthermore, in the past 3 years, the federal government has spent millions of our tax dollars to update facilities and housing at the base. I am appalled that, having spent all of our hard earned tax dollars to build new housing, a new hanger, and a new control tower, and to update the runways, the government would now decide to abandon everything that has been built, and rebuild it in Florida.

BNAS is also a vital part of our community. Base personnel and their families are valued and active members of our churches, our schools, and our businesses. My business works with many of the squadrons at the Base to provide home coming gifts for their returning family members. We have provided pottery and pottery firing services to the Base recreation center for the past five years. Many of the children attend painting classes at our studio on a weekly basis. At my church, Navy personnel and their families serve in many of the church's ministries, benefiting both the church and the area's many non-profit social service agencies. These men and women and children are our friends and neighbors, and many have also become family members. The fact that many of the Navy's personnel request repeated tours here, and many more have chosen to retire here, speaks of their love for and connection to this area.

DCN: 4415

I sincerely hope that you will reconsider your recommendation for realigning the Brunswick Naval Air Station, and remove it from the BRAC list.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Anne Olivo". The signature is fluid and connected, with a large initial "A" and "O".

Anne Courtney Olivo, Owner