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8026 Narvon Street
Philadelphia, PA 19136

June 6, 2005

The BRAC Commission
2521 S. Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing this letter urging you to convey my interest in maintaining the military installation NAS JRB Willow Grove, located in Horsham, PA. This installation is a model of joint use base facilities, with strengths outlined as follows:

- Current joint tenants at Willow Grove include the United States Naval Reserve, the United States Marine Corps Reserve, the United States Air Force Reserve, the United States Army Reserve and the Pennsylvania Air National Guard.
- The location is critical to the Northeast Corridor, major metropolitan areas and port areas. Located on a major road network transportation hub, specifically Interstate I-95 and I-76, the base provides short flying times to Philadelphia, New York City, Baltimore and Washington, DC. It is also already experienced in Homeland Security missions. The base is both secure and readily accessible.
- Willow Grove is modernized with an 8,000 foot runway and extensive Maintenance/Ramp facilities. In addition, the base has All-Weather capability, excess hanger capacity and is only one of four bases in the United States with Digital Air Control Systems.
- Willow Grove receives strong community support and its closure would mean the regional economy would lose over 10,000 jobs and over \$375,000,000 in economic activity.

I believe the future of Willow Grove Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB) is unnecessarily threatened. Yes, the Cold War is over, but we are still engaged in numerous military conflicts around the globe, including in Afghanistan and Iraq, while simultaneously fighting a war on global terrorism. Let's not forget what happened on September 11. While we are consolidating our military to what I believe are dangerously low levels, other countries are ramping up. Now is certainly not the time to rest on our laurels!

I appreciate your representation and thank you in advance for conveying this strong message.

Sincerely,

Joseph F. Assenmacher, Jr.