

DCN 5558
Executive Correspondence



STATE OF DELAWARE
STATE FIRE PREVENTION COMMISSION
DELAWARE FIRE SERVICE CENTER

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July 21, 2005

BRAC Commission
ATTN: Anthony Principi, Chairman
2521 Clark South Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

At a recent meeting of the Delaware State Fire Chief's Association, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed to send a letter to your Commission urging you to remove the Delaware Air National Guard unit at the New Castle Delaware Airport from the list of base closures.

In addition to the air support in the New Castle area, the firefighters with the guard unit are a vital resource to the volunteer fire service in the County, with their foam and Hazardous Materials capabilities. The volunteer fire service in the County also supports the unit on aircraft emergencies at the Airport, and would be hard pressed to keep up the level of service without the Air Guard Unit's support.

Base closings are a very sensitive matter, and all of the members of the Delaware State Fire Chief's Association would like to support our colleagues in New Castle County in doing what we can to keep this important base open for the citizen's safety in New Castle County Delaware.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter. Please feel free to contact us if we can be of any further assistance to you on this matter.

Sincerely,

Bill Betts, Secretary

File: cc:
Senator Joe Biden
Senator Tom Carper
Rep. Mike Castle
General Vavala