

ERAC Commission

AUG 08 2005

received

August 3 2005

283 Casco Rd

Brunswick ME

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Dear Mr. Principi:

Closing the Brunswick Naval Air Station is a bad idea. Here is why:

- It is the only fully activated airfield in the northeastern U.S.
- It is near major coastal cities & population.
- Facilities are modern and versatile
- All weather training units are available

Since there is a war on terrorism, I believe our base is of strategic and military importance.

My husband is a 100% service connected disabled veteran. We believe closing the BNAS would sacrifice a base that has a strategic location in protecting this country.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Durkin

AUG 15 2005

8/4/05

Chairman Principi, Commissioners Bilbray, Coyle, Gehman, Hansen, Hill, Newton, Skinner, and Turner,

I appreciate your collective service to the country as you go about the difficult task of reviewing the Pentagon's recommended list of base closures and realignments.

Regarding your recent vote to add Brunswick Naval Air Station (BNAS) to the list of facilities to be closed, I am quite certain you will receive ample testimony as to the strategic value of BNAS and why closure is not the answer.

Please also note the cultural value BNAS brings to this area of the country. The men and women from the Navy who live in Brunswick bring with them cultural and political diversity that would otherwise not exist here in Maine. I truly appreciate the perspectives brought by the service men and women who call this small town home.

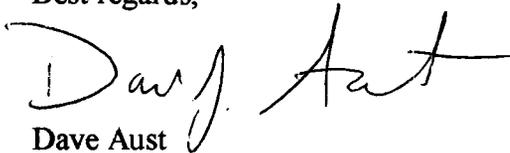
Regarding the realignment scenario, the proposed cost savings does not appear to offset the significant reduction in patrol capability here in the Northeast, particularly when considering the revised numbers proposed by Senators Snowe and Collins. The incremental cost of keeping patrol aircraft stationed in Brunswick seems like a small price to pay for border security.

Regarding the cost savings estimate, it would appear that moving all aircraft to Jacksonville would require building infrastructure that, in part, is already in place in Brunswick (ex: hangars pre-configured for the future multi-mission aircraft). This makes a realignment scenario in which the P-3s move from Jacksonville to Brunswick a more cost effective scenario. With the planes single-sited in Brunswick, the Navy would realize the savings from a reduction in duplicate personnel, but with a lower infrastructure investment vs. that required in Jacksonville. Bottom line - if the projected realignment savings are based on consolidating aircraft at one location, why not consolidate at the location where your initial investment is lower.

Anything less than keeping the P-3s in Brunswick would be a mistake.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns.

Best regards,



Dave Aust
Brunswick, ME