

G. K. BUTTERFIELD
1ST DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA

ASSISTANT WHIP

DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE ON
STEERING AND POLICY

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEES:
READINESS

TACTICAL AIR AND LAND FORCES

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

SUBCOMMITTEES:
CONSERVATION, CREDIT, RURAL
DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH

GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES AND
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DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS, OVERSIGHT,
NUTRITION AND FORESTRY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC

June 24, 2005

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The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

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Dear Mr. Principi:

Please accept this letter for the June 28, 2005 hearing of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) commission. I thank you for your work on this issue. As you may know, my district include much of Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station, and the Cherry Point Depot.

Seymour Johnson Air Force Base

I commend the decision of the commission to realign KC-135 tankers to this air station. This base is a critical strategic asset on the East Coast and a short flight to Washington, DC.

On January 30, 2005, men and women from Seymour Johnson Air Force Base flew missions to protect and support the historic elections in Iraq. F-15's from Seymour Johnson were the first ones in combat in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom flying 3,200 combat sorties and dropping over 5,000 tons of ordnance. They have also flowing in support of Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Enduring Freedom, the Global War on Terror, and have been critical in protection of the Iraqi "No-Fly Zone." The strategic value of this base cannot be understated and merits the additional responsibility that will arrive with additional tanker aircraft.

Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point / Cherry Point Depot

Cherry Point Depot is the premier repair and maintenance facility in the United States. Currently home to repair and maintenance for the H-53, H-46, and H-1 rotorcraft, this will be the site for all repair and maintenance for the V-22 Osprey, completed Test and Evaluation on Tuesday, June 21, 2005.

The Hon. Principi
June 24, 2005
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The Depot at Cherry Point has the fastest turnaround time of any facility of its kind, returning some aircraft to service in as little as four months. At a time when rotorcraft air assets are old and seeing considerable use, I do not believe that it is wise to realign work away from this depot. The Depot is the only facility in the nation to earned the ISO9001, ISO9002, AS9100, ISO14001, and Occupational Safety System 18001 certifications.

Please be aware that while I disagree with some decisions related to the Cherry Point Depot, I support the goals of the BRAC Commission. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. K. Butterfield". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a prominent vertical stroke at the end.

G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress