

DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION
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MEMORANDUM OF MEETING

DATE: 29 Jul 05

TIME: 1300

MEETING WITH: Delegation representing 108th Air Refueling Wing (ARW), New Jersey Air National Guard (NJANG), McGuire AFB, NJ

SUBJECT: Recommendations impacting 108th ARW (NJANG), McGuire AFB, NJ

PARTICIPANTS:

Name/Title/Phone Number:

Congressman Jim Saxton, New Jersey 3rd District, (202) 225-4765
Michael J. Silvestro, Military Legislative Asst, CM Saxton, (202) 225-4765
Barry Rhoads, Consultant, The Rhoads Group, (202) 637-0040

Commission Staff:

Frank Cirillo, Director of Review and Analysis, (703) 699-2950
*Tim MacGregor, Senior Air Force Analyst, (703) 699-2950
Michael Delaney, Senior Joint Issues Team Analyst, (703) 699-2950

MEETING SUMMARY:

BRAC Commission Review and Analysis staff members met with a delegation representing the 108th Air Refueling Wing (ARW) New Jersey Air National Guard (NJANG), McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey. Discussion centered on DOD BRAC recommendation DoN-21, "Recommendation for Closure and Realignment of Naval Air Station (NAS) Joint Reserve Base (JRB) Willow Grove, PA, and Cambria Regional Airport, Johnstown, PA." DoN-21 refers to the programmatic retirement of the 108th ARW's 16 KC-135E Primary Assigned Aircraft (PAA) at McGuire, and receives forces and functions from NAS JRB Willow Grove, PA and New Castle Count Airport Air Guard Station, DE.

Congressman Saxton began the meeting with a discussion of the historical actions and funding that transformed the McGuire AFB Air National Guard facility specifically and purposefully into a tanker base. He emphasized that McGuire is an ideal tanker base and should have 12 KC-135Rs assigned. CM Saxton noted that the Northeast was considered "tanker lean" in the 1990's, and that's partially why the Air Force brought in KC-135s and KC-10s to McGuire (including the active duty and reserve units stationed there). He supports the Navy and Marine Corps moves out of Willow Grove regardless of decisions impacting McGuire ANG, noting that the

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Willow Grove moves make sense and will fit perfectly into McGuire both operationally and physically.

CM Saxton and Mr. Silvestro discussed and presented several handouts (which will be submitted to the BRAC E-library).

The "Tanker Plan" paper noted several strengths of McGuire AFB, and compared McGuire ANG manning to that of other regional ANG tanker units. It notes that "McGuire is a modernized and unique 'tanker base' with over \$74M invested into it."

The "Navy and Marine Plan" discusses why the Willow Grove recommendations are good, and how the Willow Grove mission can be moved to McGuire. The paper recommends a review of the BRAC recommendations for McGuire AFB with consideration to assigning 12 KC-135R tankers to the 108th ARW in conjunction with relocating the Willow Grove units to McGuire.

The "DOD Recommended Redistribution of Active and Reserve KC-135R" paper discusses the aircraft moves affiliated with several KC-135 relation recommendations. The paper cites four concerns with DOD tanker recommendations overall,

1. Inconsistent end strength;
2. Geographically grouped in the middle of the country;
3. Converts units that are at less suitable locations;
4. Interweaves Guard redistribution of frames with reserve to achieve numbers."

CM Saxton also presented and discussed several graphics, including charts depicting post-BRAC KC-135R distribution, regional air terminals, and ANG end strength; aerial photos of McGuire AFB; and schematic diagrams of potential aircraft parking and bed down locations depicting combinations of KC-135s and Navy fixed and rotary wing aircraft at the ANG facility. CM Saxton noted that ANG recruiting is going well at McGuire, and that McGuire will retain good ANG and reserve force recruiting demographics to support the Willow Grove move.

CM Saxton noted that approximately 25% of Army National Guard and Army Reserve manning lives within a 200NM radius of McGuire. Following conversations with ANG personnel, CM Saxton's staff estimates that there is a similar (though unconfirmed) percentage for Air Guard units as well.

Lastly, though not related specifically to the 108th ARW, CM Saxton submitted materials on behalf of Fort Monmouth, NJ. Though the post is not in CM Saxton's district, the Congressman noted that approximately 500 Fort Monmouth employees do reside in his district, and he feels that Fort Monmouth should be retained as an active, viable installation.

* Denotes individual responsible for completing the memorandum