



DCN: 7280

## CAPE COD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

3225 MAIN STREET  
P.O. BOX 226  
BARNSTABLE, MA 02630  
(508) 362-8051  
(508) 362-3136  
E-mail: ddray@cape.com

BRAC Commission

**AUG 10 2005**

**Received**

August 2, 2005

Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission  
2521 South Clark Street  
Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Commissioners:

The Cape Cod Economic Development Council opposes the proposed closure of Otis Air National Guard Base. Otis ANG is a critical element of homeland defense throughout New England and an important contributor to the regional economy.

The base's strategic location on the edge of Nantucket Sound and the Atlantic Ocean make it ideal for patrolling and defending the eastern seaboard and for engaging in required air defense exercises to maintain military readiness. Otis is also an important contributor to the economy of Cape Cod through both direct civilian employment and indirect effects on secondary businesses. If Otis ANG were to leave, hundreds of civilians would lose their jobs, thereby threatening the economic stability of the entire Upper Cape region.

Otis ANG's role in funding the cost of shared infrastructure is vital to the continuing operations of the Coast Guard and the Army National Guard. In the event that Otis ANG is closed, it is unlikely that the Coast Guard and the Army National Guard would be able to absorb the cost of the infrastructure needed to continue their operations. The attendant loss of Coast Guard operations and its air/sea rescue capability would have severe consequences for the safety of the region's fishing fleet and recreational boaters, as well as individuals on Cape Cod, Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard who require medical transport to Boston during inclement weather.

Historically, there has been a very close relationship between Otis ANG and the Upper Cape community that surrounds it. That positive relationship has led to a broad coalition of citizens joining with federal, state, county and town officials to oppose the recommendation to close the base. The Cape Cod Economic Development Council—a fourteen-member advisory council that reports to the three commissioners of Barnstable County—has been a part of that effort.



We encourage you to carefully review the facts that surround this issue and to give careful consideration to the arguments that were presented by the legislative delegation at the July 6, 2005 BRAC hearing. It is our sincere hope that your review will lead to a positive recommendation to retain Otis Air National Guard Base.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Pat Flynn". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Mary Pat Flynn  
Chairman

cc: Senator Edward Kennedy  
Senator John Kerry  
Congressman William Delahunt  
Governor Mitt Romney  
Cape Legislative Delegation  
Colonel Paul Worcester  
Boards of Selectmen