



BAY AREA HOUSTON
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

BRAC Commission

JUL 10 2nd

Received

BRAC Commission
Convention Facilities-San Antonio:
Henry B Gonzales Convention Center
200 F Market St
San Antonio, TX 78205

To the attention of the BRAC Commission:

This letter is being sent as support for the retention of military presence at Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base in Houston, Texas. Specifically, we strongly oppose the proposal to retire the 147th Fighter Wing's F-16s at Ellington Field Air National Guard Stations. With the increased security concerns, I believe we have an obligation to continue the support and protection that Ellington Field provides for the Port of Houston and the Greater Houston Area.

As the fourth largest city in the country, with an enormous amount of assets of regional and national significance to protect, we feel that it is vital to have the opportunity to present the Commission with all the relevant data to consider in your deliberations.

Ellington Field Reserve Base and the 147th Fighter Wing are a key presence in our region's national security efforts and provide the protection for various facilities designated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation as areas of critical infrastructure. Specifically, the Port of Houston, petrochemical and oil refinery industries, Texas Medical Center, South Texas Nuclear Power Plant, UTMB bio-containment Laboratory and various major sports venues all benefit from the services of Ellington Field and the 147th Fighter Wing provide.

We strongly ask that you reevaluate the BRAC recommendations for the retirement of the 147th and vote for a stronger homeland security force located within minutes of protecting our ship channel industries.

Sincerely,

Pam Summers
Executive Director
Bay Area Houston Convention
& Visitor Bureau