

News from:

***EARL BLUMENAUER***

June 17, 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Blumenauer Testifies at BRAC Hearing
Urges Commission to Keep Current Operations at Portland Air Base

Portland, Ore. - Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) testified before the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission today, urging Commissioners to keep current operations intact at the Portland Air Base. Last month the Pentagon recommended to the BRAC Commission that it realign the Air Base by relocating its Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve air wings. The BRAC Commission was in Portland today taking testimony from local officials about the issue.

"To begin with, I want to stress my support for the BRAC process," said Blumenauer in his testimony. "I think it is important for the Pentagon to align and right-size its facilities for the military operations of today and tomorrow. Because of my support for the BRAC process, I am concerned that if this is not done correctly, it undermines the long-term credibility of the BRAC process.

"I have a special responsibility, in this case, because the Portland Air Base is located in my district. Yet the impact of the proposed realignment of the 142nd Air Wing and 939th Air Refueling Wing will affect not only my constituents, but the security of every citizen in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and beyond.

"The greatest risk that we face is terrorism and nuclear proliferation. We know that the Northwest has already been the location of terrorist activity in the run up to the Millennium New Year and since 9/11. The military capacity of the Portland Air Base is something that makes a real difference for the security of Oregonians and represents some of the most effective money we spend on national security. Yet, the Pentagon did not factor homeland security in to its recommendations in any shape or form.

"Under the proposed realignment of the 142nd's F-15s, there would only be two fighters on alert as part of the NORAD air defense alert mission in the entire Northwest United States. This would leave our state and our region unacceptably vulnerable to threats. In fact, it would leave the Northwest with less air defense capacity than we had before 9/11 and unable to respond to any attack that occurred in more than one location, as did the attacks on September 11th.

"The final insult in these recommendations is that the realignment of the Portland F-15s will cost more money than keeping them in place would. I believe that we should be willing to pay to defend our homeland. It makes no sense to pay to make our homeland less secure.

"Members of the BRAC Commission are the only people who can correct this entire problem of the absence of consideration for homeland security needs. Congress can only vote the final list down; we cannot edit it. And, as a proponent of the BRAC process, I trust that you will take homeland defense into account, in a way that the Pentagon didn't, and allow Congress to move this process forward in a way that will ensure the safety and security of our nation."

The BRAC Commission must make its formal recommendations on base closures to the President by September 8th. The President and then Congress will take final action on the recommendations later this year.

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U.S. SENATOR MARIA CANTWELL WASHINGTON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JUNE 15, 2005

CONTACT: CHARLA NEUMAN
202-224-8277
202-309-3447 (CELL)

CANTWELL CALLS ON BRAC COMMISSION TO PROTECT NORTHWEST AIR SPACE

BRAC Commission plan threatens to move fighter jets to East Coast

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell called on the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission to reconsider the Pentagon's recommendation to relocate Portland-based fighter jets that patrol Washington state airspace. The Pentagon recommended moving all fifteen F-15 fighters of the 142nd Air National Guard fighter wing to New Jersey and Louisiana, the same jets that patrolled the Northwest skies for three days after the September 11th terrorist attacks.

"This plan overlooks the critical role these jets play in ensuring the security of the Pacific Northwest and our nation," Cantwell said. **"We should not let our guard down when it comes to defending our citizens against terrorist attacks."**

Last night, Cantwell (D-WA) met with Washington Air National Guard Commander Frank Scoggins, who shares her concerns.

"The realignments proposed for air assets in the State of Washington and the Northwest will have negative impacts on the protection of our homeland," Commander Scoggins said. **"The proposal would have serious unintended long term consequences if fully adopted."**

Cantwell worries that moving the F-15s from Portland will result in slower response times to the Northwest; as the closest permanent fighter wing capable of responding to airborne security threats could be based as far away as Fresno, California.

In a letter to BRAC Commission Chairman Anthony Principi, Cantwell wrote, **"In the midst of another attack on our homeland, fighters would have to be quickly scrambled from more distant bases, possibly compromising the security of major population centers and other high value targets along America's west coast."**

On Friday, the BRAC Commission will meet in Portland to consider the Pentagon's recommendations, including the realignment of the F-15 fighters.

In her letter, Cantwell also asked the commission to reconsider the recommended realignment of tankers that provide refueling support to the F-15 fighter jets and other military aircraft. Eight tankers of the 939th Air Force Reserve refueling wing based in Portland and all eight of the tankers assigned to the 141st Air National Guard wing at Fairchild Air Force Base would be realigned.

The loss of the National Guard tankers at Fairchild will leave Washington state without an Air National Guard flying unit assigned with aircraft, reducing the emergency response capabilities currently available to the Governor.

The letter follows below:

June 15, 2005

Anthony Principi
Chairman
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi,

First, allow us to thank you for your work on the Base Realignment and Closure Commission. The task before you and the commission is an important and arduous one. Your willingness to serve our nation in this capacity is appreciated.

We believe that the Defense Secretary's recommendations largely recognize the important military assets we have in the Northwest. The combination of our distinctive geography, unique military assets and dedicated servicemen and servicewomen, position the Pacific Northwest well in the critical protection of our homeland.

However, we are concerned about the proposed realignment of important Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve assets away from the Pacific Northwest. The Department of Defense has recommended the realignment of all 15 F-15 fighters of the 142nd Air National Guard (ANG) fighter wing based at Portland International Airport (PDX). Additionally, the Pentagon has recommend the realignment of 8 tankers of the 939th Air Force Reserve refueling wing based at PDX and all eight of the tankers assigned to the 141st ANG wing at Fairchild Air Force Base.

These realignments overlook the critical role these air assets play in ensuring the security of the Pacific Northwest and our nation. For more than three days after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the fighters of the 142nd ANG wing provided 24-hour air patrols over population centers, major military bases, and other high value targets across a three state region. The patrols helped protect our citizens and provided invaluable security in the very uncertain hours after the terrorist attacks on our nation. The nation continues to require a comparable level of responsiveness to counter potential threats to its Northwest region.

If implemented, the Secretary's recommendations would greatly limit this homeland security capability for our nation. While the Secretary's recommendations would maintain the alert component at PDX through the rotation of fighters from distant bases -- no fighters would be permanently based in Portland. In the midst of another attack on our homeland, fighters would have to be quickly scrambled from more distant bases, possibly compromising the security of major population centers and other high value targets along America's west coast.

We also are concerned about the proposed realignment of eight ANG air refueling tankers assigned to the 141st ANG wing at Fairchild Air Force Base and eight additional tankers assigned to the 939th Air Force Reserve Wing at PDX. Air refueling tankers are vital assets in the rapid projection of forces around the world and have played critical roles in past and present military operations. If implemented, the number of active duty, guard, and reserve air refueling tankers in the Northwest will have been reduced by more than 50 percent since the terrorist attacks of September 11th. These reductions will strain force projection capabilities, limit Air National Guard training capacity, increase the average time to run sorties throughout the Pacific Rim, and will reduce available air refueling capabilities.

In addition to compromising our Homeland Security, the proposed realignments would reduce the important connectivity of the Air National Guard to the citizens and communities of each state. Currently, each of the 50 States have a unit equipped Air National Guard Wing within their borders. Implementing the Department of Defense's proposed plan would leave seven states, including three western states, without a unit equipped ANG flying unit. Enactment of this plan would have the unintended consequences of reducing the historic and philosophical connectivity of the National Guard to the citizens of affected States and would also reduce the emergency response capabilities currently available to Governors.

With these issues in mind, we respectfully request that you carefully examine the realignment of these air assets, in light of their recent critical role in meeting emerging security requirements. Like the Commission, we want to ensure that our nation is well positioned to protect itself from threats, both foreign and domestic. Our military assets in the Northwest remain well positioned to protect the homeland and to help ensure the national security of the United States. We hope to work with you to implement the current base realignment and closure round to ensure the improved security of our great nation.

Sincerely,

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

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Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

June 15, 2005

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Chairman
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

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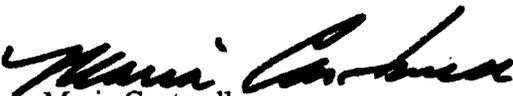
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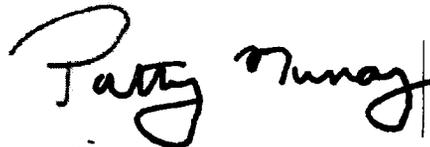
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Sincerely,


Maria Cantwell
United States Senator


Patty Murray
United States Senator


Norm Dicks
Member of Congress


Jim McDermott
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress


Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

AJ
Member of Congress


Dave Reichert
Member of Congress



Brian Baird
Member of Congress


Doc Hastings
Member of Congress


Jay Inslee
Member of Congress

News Release . . .

U.S. Senator Ron Wyden

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 17, 2005

CONTACT: Andrew Blotky
(202) 669-3912

Wyden Testifies Before BRAC Commission

Senator opposes plans to realign 142nd Fighter Wing at Portland Air Base

Portland, OR – U.S. Senator Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) testified today before the Defense Base Closure and Realignment (BRAC) Commission regarding the potential dangers of proposed changes to the 142nd Fighter Wing at Portland Air Base. Wyden was joined by fellow Oregon leaders and various military experts in opposing a Pentagon plan to realign the Wing by moving all but two alert fighter jets out of Portland; that move would severely compromise the security of Oregon and the entire Northwest.

The BRAC Commission is currently considering Defense Department proposals for base closures and realignments across the country. They are expected to make their recommendations to the President in September of this year.

Senator Wyden's prepared testimony follows:

U.S. Senator Ron Wyden
Prepared Testimony before the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
June 17, 2005

Good morning and welcome to Oregon. Thank you, Chairman Principi and Commissioners Hansen, Coyle and Bilbray for your patriotism and your service. You all will have plenty of welts on your back when you are done trekking around the country on this mission.

As you travel across America, more often than not, the local Congress people will come out to say that if this base, or that installation, in their neighborhood is closed, well, Western Civilization will pretty much come to an end.

I won't say that. But I am going to try to convince you that the initial recommendations for the Portland Air Base will leave the airspace over the Pacific Northwest uniquely isolated, dangerously unprepared, and virtually defenseless if the enemy chooses to attack this corner of the homeland from the air. These recommendations defy common sense.

-2 more-

Here's why:

The first map you see demonstrates how the 142nd Fighter Wing currently patrols and protects the Pacific Northwest;

The second map shows how vulnerable the Northwest will be if our region is left with just two alert fighters.

After removing most of the fighters to Atlantic City and New Orleans, the Pentagon's proposal would make it impossible for the region to respond if a large scale attack or multiple simultaneous attacks are launched here.

Under the Defense Department's plan, it would take additional alert fighters hours to arrive from elsewhere, refuel, and begin responding to any aggression.

It's naïve to act as though our enemies will come at us one at a time. Yet the Pentagon plan seems predicated on that very hope.

I would also like to point out that this sacrifice of the region's security is being proposed with a plan that moves most of the fighters to a facility with a lower military value, at a cost to the taxpayers.

If the goal of the BRAC Commission is to save dollars, let's look at it that way. Sharp-pencil accounting alone provides a plethora of reasons to reject the Pentagon's recommendations. The Secretary's plan for the Northwest simply fails to meet the fundamental goal of saving taxpayer dollars.

I'm on the Senate Budget Committee as well, and let me tell you now: there aren't dollars to spare on sloppy financial management when the whole goal of this process is to keep from breaking the bank. This country can't afford to move bases and units at a loss.

This plan would move the 142nd at a loss. The proposal for the 939th Air Refueling Wing is another poor fiscal decision.

This Wing is in the last phase of a long-term transformation that has already cost the Air Force more than \$60 million. Secretary Rumsfeld's plan would throw away this investment just to move the Wing.

He admits that his plan would cost so much that the Air Force wouldn't break even for seven years. At a maximum, the plan would save only \$42 million in ten years.

Scrapping a \$60 million investment in an attempt to save \$42 million simply doesn't make sense. This proposal will waste, not save, taxpayer dollars.

Other witnesses will be testifying on these issues today, so I won't dwell on them, but I encourage you to keep your green eyeshades on as you examine the Pentagon's plan.

And lastly, I want to conclude by saying that at the end of the day, this is not just about maps, or charts, or dollars: it's about people.

Not long ago Oregonians woke up to this headline in the local paper: "War's Toll Far Worse on Oregon." At the end of 2004, the death rate for Oregon National Guard members in Iraq was nearly three times that of the National Guard as a whole. In the first six months of 2005 our state has lost three more Guard members.

At a time when Oregonians are being asked to make a disproportionately high sacrifice of lives in Iraq, and in the face of the Pentagon's recommendations that simply defy common sense, I strongly encourage the Commission to reject the Pentagon's recommendations.

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OREGON NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION

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Phone 503 584-3030 FAX 503 584-3052

Email omga@mil.state.or.us

"Ensuring America's Leadership Provides a Strong National Guard"



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"Ensuring America's Leadership Provides a Strong National Guard"



Defending the Northwest - Point Paper

"The US Government has no more important mission than protecting the homeland from future terrorist attacks"

- President George W. Bush

"Since 9/11, the department has a focus on homeland defense"

- Secretary of Defense Testimony to the BRAC commission

We're well postured to meet demands of air sovereignty alert...we keep a presence in virtually every significant geographic area of the United States"

- Acting Secretary of the Air Force Testimony to the BRAC Commission

The DoD recommendations to the Base Re-alignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission compromise the security of the Northwestern United States. A region of 11 million people will be defended by a single fighter alert site equipped with two aircraft and a skeleton maintenance crew. This is less capability than existed prior to 9/11....

1. The USAF BRAC recommendations are designed to consolidate aircraft onto fewer installations and to eliminate excess infrastructure. One goal was to create reserve component fighter units possessing at least 18 aircraft rather than the 15 aircraft standard of today. To determine candidates for closure or re-alignment, the USAF established metrics to rank order every USAF installation - both Active and Reserve. These metrics failed to adequately weight geographic location and a unit's ability to accomplish the primary DoD mission of Homeland Defense. This failure has led to a DoD recommendation that is not in alignment with the US governments' top priority: protecting the homeland from future terrorist attacks.
2. The DoD BRAC recommendation compromises the security of the Northwest United States:
 - a. Reduces air defense capability below September 11th, 2001 levels
 - i. A typical Alert Detachment consists of two fighter aircraft - a 15 aircraft Air Defense Squadron exists today.
 - ii. The lack of other fighters and the distances involved (Klamath Falls, OR; Mt. Home AFB, ID; Fresno, CA; and Hill AFB, UT) makes the timely response of additional resources to major population centers and/or critical infrastructure problematic at best.
 - b. Large population centers with substantial forecast growth
 - c. Hundreds of international aircraft land, depart, or over-fly daily
 - d. Majority of trans-Pacific maritime routes
 - e. Significant foreign terrorist related activity in this region
 - f. Only area in the United States within reach of Pacific-rim threat nations
 - g. Aerial drug smugglers routinely utilize routes through Washington and Oregon

3. The primary goal of BRAC is to save money. The DoD has not provided a cost breakdown of savings generated by the proposed re-alignment at the Portland Air National Guard Base. Our initial analysis of publicly released information indicates that closing F-15 operations in Portland would generate little - *if any* - cost savings over the period mandated by the BRAC law. While an accurate analysis cannot be accomplished until the DoD releases cost information, one thing is clear - Homeland Defense of the Northwest will be compromised.
 - a. Air National Guard fighter units run exceptionally efficient flying operations - on average 10% more efficient than the Active Component (the 142 FW is 20% more efficient). If cost savings is important, it is obvious that the wrong component is being targeted.

Cost Analysis - Typical Flying Year (4000 Flight Hours)

	<u>Active Duty</u>	<u>ANG</u>	<u>142 FW</u>
Cost/Hour	\$10,327	\$9,102	\$8,213
4000 Hours	\$41 Million	\$36 Million	\$33 Million

- b. The Air National Guard brings bases to people - the USAF brings people to bases. While the USAF is able to relocate their force to the bases that remain, the Air National Guard stands to lose a highly skilled force of pilots and maintainers - our people are imbedded in the community, they will not move to New Jersey.
 - c. In addition to losing an existing force of trained individuals, the bases that are growing will need to recruit and train additional people to support the growth. While we cannot find training costs captured in the DoD BRAC recommendation, it is obvious that losing skilled labor and having to train new replacements is not free.
4. Diminishes Governor Kulongoski's manpower pool dedicated to state emergencies:
 - a. Oregon will lose approximately 650 national guardsmen immediately available to assist the state with:
 - i. Wild fires
 - ii. Floods
 - iii. Earthquake / Volcanic eruptions
 - iv. Airport security
 - b. Violates United States Code (Title 10)
 - i. The New Jersey and Illinois congressional delegations are challenging DoD's authority to close ANG facilities without the consent of the Governor (see attached memos)

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2005

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary
Department of Defense
1000 Defense, The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process begins, it has come to our attention that federal law prohibits the closure or relocation of Army National Guard installations or Air National Guard bases without the consent of the governor of the state. This is clearly outlined in Title 10, United States Code, as follows:

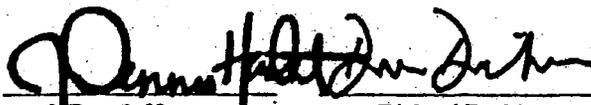
Title 10 USC 18238 (e):

"(e) A unit of the Army National Guard of the United States or the Air National Guard of the United States may not be relocated or withdrawn under this chapter without the consent of the governor of the state or, in the case of the District of Columbia, the commanding general of the National Guard of the District of Columbia."

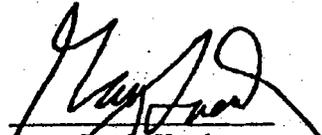
This language has been discussed with the United States House of Representatives Legislative Counsel and it is their opinion that nothing in the BRAC provisions neither amends nor calls for the amending of the above Title 10 provision, which is part of the general and permanent law applicable to the National Guard.

Therefore, pursuant to Title 10 section 18238(e), we respectfully request that any and all actions taken under BRAC against Air and Army National Guard bases without the consent of the governors of those states be stopped immediately. We appreciate your prompt attention to this request, as the BRAC process continues.

Respectfully,


Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the House

Richard Durbin
United States Senator


Ray LaHood
Member of Congress



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HARRISBURG

THE GOVERNOR

May 26, 2005

The Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
1155 Defense Pentagon
Arlington, VA 20301

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

The Department of Defense recommendations for the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process included a recommendation to deactivate the 111th Fighter Wing, Pennsylvania Air National Guard, Willow Grove Air Reserve Station.

I am writing to advise you officially that, as Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I do not consent to the deactivation, relocation, or withdrawal of the 111th Fighter Wing.

The recommended deactivation of the 111th Fighter Wing has not been coordinated with me, my Adjutant General, or members of her staff. No one in authority in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard was consulted or even briefed about this recommended action before it was announced publicly.

The recommended deactivation of the 111th Fighter Wing appears to be the result of a seriously flawed process that has completely overlooked the important role of the states with regard to their Air National Guard units.

Sincerely,

Edward G. Rendell

Edward G. Rendell
Governor

Cc: The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
The Honorable Arlen Specter
The Honorable Rick Santorum
The Honorable Allyson Schwartz
The Honorable Michael Fitzpatrick

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 17, 2005

Mr. Anthony Principi
Chairman
BRAC Commission
The Polk Building, Suite 600 and 625
2521 South Clark Street
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

We encourage you to rescind the recent Department of Defense (DoD) recommendation to the BRAC Commission moving the 142nd Fighter Wing's F-15 aircraft from the Portland Air National Guard Base to New Orleans, Louisiana and Atlantic City, New Jersey. We believe it compromises the security of the Northwestern United States.

The President's National Security Strategy, National Defense Strategy and National Military Strategy all recognize that our first priority must be to protect the homeland. The 142nd Fighter Wing in Portland currently protects 11 million American citizens in the Pacific Northwest. Its present position allows them to provide continuous air defense and air superiority capabilities from northern California to Canada, a range no other base in the area can cover. Reducing this region's capacity for response from fifteen F-15s to two is a dangerous proposal that exposes citizens of the Pacific Northwest to unnecessary risk.

The 9-11 Commission recommended that the United States fund an increase reserve presence within this growing Pacific Northwest region. Under the BRAC recommendations, the Northwest is the only region of the country that would realize a reduction in air defense capability; lowering its response capability below September 11th, 2001 levels.

The Pacific Northwest's large population centers are forecast to face substantial growth in the coming decade. Already, the region experiences hundreds of international aircraft departing, landing or flying over the airspace on a daily basis; including the majority of trans-Pacific maritime routes. Further, the Pacific Northwest is the only region of the country within missile range of Pacific-rim threat nations, making air defense capability critical to the Homeland Security mission of the entire country. The proposed reduction to two fighter jets on alert makes it virtually impossible to provide sufficient protection of the region.

Additionally, no data has been provided to support the potential for cost savings from the recommended realignment, nor have we been apprised of what data was used to craft this recommendation. On average, the Air National Guard fighter units are 10% more efficient than the active components and the 142nd Fighter Wing is 20% more efficient.

The Air National Guard also stands to lose a highly skilled labor force of pilots and maintenance personnel as they will not likely move with the aircraft. This has the potential to increase the cost of additional training. In fact, we have been presented with analysis that

suggests the recommended realignment will come at an overall cost to taxpayers of \$1.6 million dollars. We urge the Commission to carefully consider accurate and comprehensive data with regard to the full cost of this training recommendation and to provide us with that complete data.

We acknowledge your job is difficult and the need for adjusting fiscal investments into initiatives that will produce a stronger defense. However, we do not believe that realignment of the 142nd Fighter Wing accomplishes that goal. The BRAC recommendation to move the 142nd Fighter Wing from Portland, Oregon is not cost effective and compromises the homeland security of the entire Pacific Northwest. For these reasons, we urge you to reject the BRAC realignment proposal.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



DARLENE HOOLEY
Member of Congress



PETER DeFAZIO
Member of Congress



EARL BLUMENAUER
Member of Congress



DAVID WU
Member of Congress



GREG WALDEN
Member of Congress



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
900 COURT ST NE
SALEM, OREGON 97301**

June 9, 2005

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

Dear Chairman Principi and BRAC members,

We have received the Department of Defense's proposal to remove the 142nd Fighter Wing F-15 aircraft from the Portland Air National Guard Base.

We are alarmed at how this recommendation renders the Pacific Northwest's eleven million people vulnerable to a terrorist-controlled airplane or offshore cruise missile attacks.

The 142nd Fighter Wing provides the only operational fighters with air-to-air capability to defend American skies from the California to Canadian borders. McChord Air Force Base, Whidbey Island Air Station and Kingsley Air National Guard Base do not provide that.

Only the Portland Air National Guard Base does.

Therefore, the DOD's recommendation to reduce the number of jets that defend the Pacific Northwest from 15 planes – to just two – is completely unacceptable.

The leadership of the Oregon Air National Guard and our congressional delegation will provide more specific details at your June 17 hearing in Portland on intelligence reports and logistical evidence for protecting this region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Minnis".

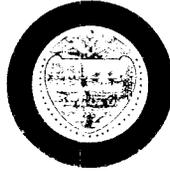
Speaker of the House of Representatives Karen Minnis

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne Scott".

House Republican Leader Wayne Scott

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Merkley".

House Democratic Leader Jeff Merkley



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
900 COURT ST NE
SALEM, OREGON 97301

June 9, 2005

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Chairman, Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark St.
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Only the Portland Air National Guard Base does.

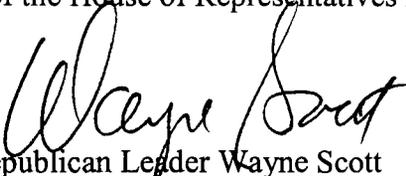
Therefore, the DOD's recommendation to reduce the number of jets that defend the Pacific Northwest from 15 planes – to just two – is completely unacceptable.

The leadership of the Oregon Air National Guard and our congressional delegation will provide more specific details at your June 17 hearing in Portland on intelligence reports and logistical evidence for protecting this region.

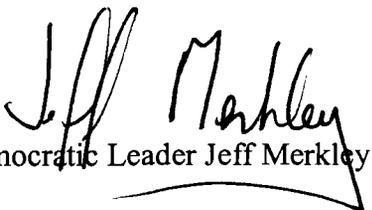
Sincerely,



Speaker of the House of Representatives Karen Minnis



House Republican Leader Wayne Scott



House Democratic Leader Jeff Merkley



BRIAN J. BOQUIST

State Representative

DISTRICT 23



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Committees:

Vice-Chair:
Agriculture & Natural
Resources

Member:
Revenue

Member:
Veterans' Affairs

June 8, 2005

BRAC Commission
The Polk Building, Suite 600
2521 South Clark Street
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Commissioners:

Respectfully request the BRAC Commission recommend against the closure of the Portland Air National Guard Base and the transfer of the 142nd Fighter Wing to the East Coast of the United States. The closure and transfer will leave the 11 million citizens of the Northwest at risk to air attack from terrorist organizations and conventional geopolitical threats from Asian nation states.

Since the 142nd Fighter Wing will be transferred, not inactivated, there is absolutely no cost savings to the citizens of this country. From a strategic point of view, it appears the U.S. Government is willing to sacrifice the security of the citizens in Oregon, Washington and Idaho to the benefit of the population densities in the Eastern United States. Given the international air and sea routes in the Northwest this is a serious strategic and practical mistake that endangers the citizens of Oregon. Further, it appears to leave the Northwest defenseless to growing nation state nuclear and conventional threats in Asia.

I join nearly sixty of my colleagues in the Oregon House of Representatives in imploring your Commission to recommend against closing the Portland Air National Guard Base and transferring the 142nd Fighter Wing to the East Coast. The 142nd is the only fighter interceptor aircraft defending this nation from Central California to Southern Alaska.

Respectfully requested,

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Brian J. Boquist
Vice Chair
State & Federal Affairs



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Brian J. Boquist

Vice Chair

State & Federal Affairs



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