



ORIGINAL

THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
GOVERNOR

May 25, 2005

Secretary of Defense
Donald H. Rumsfeld
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am formally requesting that the Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) reconsider its recommendation to reassign units currently located at the Portland Airbase to bases outside of Oregon.

Portland has a significant role in the defense of our nation with its 24/7 alert mission from the North American Air Defense Command. Portland is also home to the 939th Air Force Reserve Refueling Wing, which is in the final phase of its \$60 million dollar military construction project undertaken when this unit began operations five years ago.

As Governor of the State of Oregon and Commander in Chief of the Oregon National Guard, it is incumbent on me to make the best assessment possible of the federal assets entrusted to the state and take a position most favorable for the Guard to ensure it is capable of fulfilling its constitutional role. I also have an obligation to ensure that our citizens are safe.

I understand that the goal of the BRAC is to re-direct resources presently utilized for maintenance and upkeep of the Guard flying fleet toward the more expensive future aircraft procurement of the F-22 and the F-35. While advancing the technological capabilities of our air force is good policy, I am concerned that in the case of the 142nd Fighter Wing, that the BRAC recommendations extract trained and ready forces necessary to carry out critical homeland security missions for the Northwest. Given Oregon's geographic location and the unquestionable need for air sovereignty in this region of the United States, standing down the Portland Air National Guard Base or the mission of the 142nd Fighter Wing does not make strategic sense.

RECEIVED
153/05

DC#: 1194

Donald H. Rumsfeld
May 25, 2005
Page 2

The 142nd Fighter Squadron is the premier F-15 unit in the nation and has proven that it is not only capable, but critical to carrying out the rule of homeland air defense for the Pacific Northwest since September 11, 2001. I therefore look forward to ongoing discussions with commission members.

Sincerely,



THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
Governor

TRK:cc/ua

RECEIVED
RIS/3/05