

Patrick McNamara  
 P.O. Box 2233  
 Centerville MA 02634

**BRAC Commission**  
 BRAC Commission

JUL 19 2005

Received

BRAC Commission – General “Fig” Newton  
 2521 South Clark Street  
 Suite 600  
 Arlington VA 22202

July 14, 2005

Dear General Newton,

Today is my dad’s 81<sup>st</sup> birthday. He is a WW II fighter pilot. He retired from Otis Air National Guard Base 21 years ago at the age of 60. He had over 8200 hours of safe flying.( F-100, T-33, F-106, U-3A, F-86, F-84, C-131, T-6, P-47, P-51s, and other aircraft). He also was an instructor and helped to teach me how to fly. (I have my private pilot’s license – received the training through the Otis Air National Guard Base Aero club!)

The proposed closing of Otis Air National Guard base has a serious immediate and future consequence. The leadership of the base, State and politicians have stated many reasons not to close Otis ANG Base. Your visit to Otis in June and the July Boston Massachusetts public hearings emphasized these points.

The Otis Air Base has provided my dad, me, AF, Navy, Army, Marine, Coast Guard and other federal agencies an excellent training environment. Otis has been a great source for providing the nation with trained and ready men and women of the military. Otis ANG Base employed my oldest son in his “first job” as a janitor at the BOQ. Last week he graduated from high school and has a delayed enlistment plan with the USMCR and will attend college at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy.

I respectfully ask you and the other BRAC commissioners to remove Otis Air National Guard base from the closure list. It is a facility that I believe could be used as a joint use airfield and continue as a national resource for the future. The base infrastructure and dedicated personnel have continuously proven its worth by outstanding inspection and deployment results. I am assigned to a unit at Otis and have seen the younger airmen that I have helped to train go off to support 2 activations and deployments in the past 3 years. When the C-17s landed and came to pick up and return these troops I said to myself, “thanks to the great facilities and training environment at Otis, I know these men and women are prepared to do their jobs.” Everyone came home safely!

Attached is a recent article published in the “Otis Notice” base newspaper. The Chaplain’s Corner letter says more that I can. It is “right on the mark” about what the Massachusetts Military Reservation and Otis Air National Guard Base are all about.

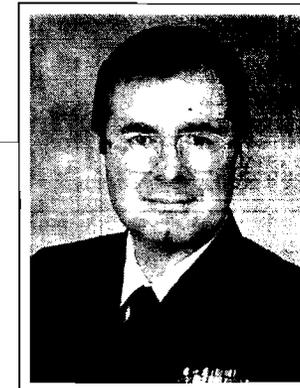
Sincerely,



Patrick J. McNamara

# Chaplain's Column

Chaplain Alan Wilmot



As I drove to my chapel office this morning, I heard a news item on the radio regarding the next meeting related to the Base Realignment And Closure Commission's decision to recommend the closure of Otis Air National Guard Base. This letter gives me the opportunity to reflect a little on this whole situation.

As I understand it, part of the decision was the commission's goal to close all single-use bases, insisting that 'valid' bases are multi-use facilities. Aside from finding this a questionable goal, this does not apply I think to our situation. If you look at Otis by itself, you've missed the clear fact that it is intimately, inextricably part of the larger base we call the Massachusetts Military Reservation. It is SO much a part of it that if you remove or close this part, the rest of the MMR and

it's commands are weakened, and will have to replace the loss with expensive new funding.

To a beaurocrat (I was raised to call them 'bean-counters', in derision) this is not to be expected, it's not desirable. They often think each command should be self-sufficient, providing and paying for everything that it needs and uses. The idea makes some logical sense, but it's flawed in that it's not how the military works, and relationships among the commands developed before these business-school theories were developed. It's not even how life works.

What do I mean by that? Some of us in this world seem to think that we are 'an island, entire unto' ourselves, and that how we live our lives and how we get what we perceive as our needs met does not influence and is not influenced by others. This is often most clear when we get depressed, and draw into ourselves rather than seek the help of conversation and counsel with someone else. The fact is we are not and never have been solitary creatures, we're social beings. Sure, some of us are somewhat introverted, but what we do and who we are radiate out like ripples from a pebble dropped in a pond. How we live our lives determines the nature of the society we live in. Were we all radically self-

centered, our world would be a brutish, nasty place. If we all practiced random acts of kindness (Google that and you find a foundation to promote them!) the would be far healthier.

Those of us at Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod are very grateful, always mindful for the excellent support that has been given us by the 102nd Fighter Wing and Otis Air National Guard Base. To replace it would be prohibitively expensive. We would also be the emptier for it, with that support comes relationships with some of the best human beings we've ever met. Maybe on paper it's not efficient. But in life this kind of relationship is fantastic. I pray it continues.

I also pray we all practice random acts of kindness, and thus improve our world. On the website of the foundation I referred to above I found the following quote of Benjamin Franklin: "Remember not only to say the right thing in the right place, but far more difficult still, to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment."

## THE OTIS NOTICE

VOLUME 25 NO. 7

July 2005

Address all advertising inquiries to:

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Norm Hoppensteadt ..... Editor & Ad Mngr.

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## Save Otis Coalition establishes e-newsletter

The Otis Coalition is a grass roots movement formed in May of 2005 to develop a coordinated community response to the Pentagon's proposed closure of the Otis Air National Guard Base. The list of base closures has been created by the Base Realignment and Closure Commission. The Coalition is comprised of Upper Cape business and civic leaders, who will be working diligently over the next 90 days to respond to the BRAC commission recommendations with a strong case that clearly defends Otis Air National Guard Base as an integral part of our nation's Homeland Security.

This website is designed to provide periodic updates on the work of the Otis coalition, and to be a source of information associated with saving Otis. Meeting notices will also be

posted on this website, and the public is invited to attend these meetings.

People wishing to financially support this grass roots campaign can send donations to the Otis Civilian Advisory Council. OCAC has started this fund with a \$1,000 contribution. All monies received will go directly to this effort. Please help us and send donations to OCAC, PO Box 651, Falmouth, MA 02541. OCAC is a civic organization and therefore contributions are non-tax deductible.

Support the Otis Coalition efforts to Save the Otis Air National Guard Base, and register with the coalition and Join Now! You will find the website at:

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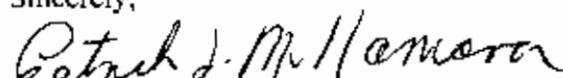
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VOLUME 25 NO. 7 July 2005

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Norm Hoppenssteadt, Editor & Ad Mgr.

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VOLUME 25 NO. 7 July 2005

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