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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

July 12, 2005

BRAC Commission

**JUL 18 2005**

Received

Chairman Anthony J. Principi  
BRAC Chairman  
2521 South Clark St, Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

Thank you for your 1 July 2005 letter highlighting several of the BRAC deliberations. With reference to issue 5, Realignment of Naval Master Jet Base, its clear the Navy also recognizes the high military value of Moody AFB. I fully support the current Air Force proposal which would add 48 A-10 aircraft to Moody AFB. This plan has several joint training synergies that will consolidate training and operations of search and rescue missions with close air support missions. Additionally, the southeast training range complex offers many new joint training opportunities to include the new Maneuver Training Center at Fort Benning.

However, if the Commission moves forward with consideration of the Realignment for Naval Master Jet Base at Moody AFB, and if this plan entails realigning any aircraft currently operating or planned for movement from Moody AFB to Cannon AFB, I urge you to give serious consideration to realigning the 347<sup>th</sup> Rescue Wing at Moody AFB to Robins AFB versus realigning the unit to Cannon AFB. Robins is 137 miles north of Moody and ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in SOF/CSAR mission capability Index (MCI) compared to the 11<sup>th</sup> MCI ranking at Moody AFB and the 63<sup>rd</sup> MCI rating at Cannon. Please see the attached point paper for more specifics on this recommendation.

Additionally on 29 June 05, BRAC Analyst Tim MacGregor visited Robins AFB and was briefed on the vacated former B-1 facilities as well as the soon to be vacated 19<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Group KC-135 facilities at Robins. These turn-key facilities are ready and available to support a substantial flying mission to include the HC-130 and HH-60 rescue missions currently at Moody AFB.

I look forward to future visits and dialogue with your staff, and hope you will keep us advised of new developments particular to Moody AFB.

Sincerely,

Jack Kingston  
Member of Congress

**Talking Paper  
on  
Realignment of the 347th Rescue Wing  
to Robins Air Force Base**

**Background:** The BRAC Commission questioned the DoD regarding BRAC recommendations affecting Oceana, Moody, and Cannon. Specifically, the Commission stated that, “Realigning the Master Jet Base at NAS Oceana, VA, to Moody AFB, GA, would appear to alleviate the severe encroachment which affects NAS Oceana training and operations as well as operations at the outlying field, Fentress OLF. Moody AFB, GA, would appear to have the necessary room for expansion and suffers less encroachment. Cannon AFB, NM, would appear to have ample space and facilities to accommodate any aircraft currently operating or planned for movement to Moody AFB, GA.”

**Issue:** While all of the aircraft movement options being considered may not be fully understood, if the plan entails realigning “any aircraft currently operating or planned for movement to Moody to Cannon”, a clearer and more logical alternative is to realign the 347<sup>th</sup> Rescue Wing from Moody to Robins AFB, just 137 miles north of Moody, versus realigning the unit to Cannon AFB.

**Justification:** The following details the specific justification for realigning the Air Rescue Wing to Robins.

- ***Mission Capability Index:*** Robins’ SOF/CSAR Mission Capability Rating was extremely high as computed by the Air Force when making its BRAC 2005 basing recommendations.

<u>Base</u>	<u>SOF/CSAR MCI Rating</u>	<u>AF Ranking</u>
Robins	61.64	7 <sup>th</sup>
Cannon	41.03	63 <sup>rd</sup>

Note: Moody’s MCI ratings were :      60.72                      11<sup>th</sup>

This strong SOF/CSAR Mission Capability ratings validates Robins’ current and future mission capabilities, condition of infrastructure, access to training areas, favorable operating characteristics, growth potential, cost of operations, and ability to deploy. These unique characteristics make Robins the preferred location for the critical Air Rescue mission.

- ***Facilities Available:*** Large aircraft facilities, along with related associated mission complex requirements, are available at Robins. The turn key ready, modern “B-1 mission complex” is ready today. Also, BRAC 2005 recommendations called for the 19th Air Refueling Group and its KC-135s to relocate to McConnell Air Force Base. Currently, the only unit recommended for relocation to Robins is the 42<sup>nd</sup> Marine Aircraft Group at NAS Atlanta. The former B-1 facilities and/or those vacated by the 19<sup>th</sup> are suitable for this mission.
- ***Mission Coordination:*** Relocation to Robins keeps the unit in close proximity to the parent Major Air Command at Hurlburt and the AF Reserve Rescue Wing at Patrick AFB, FL. This attribute significantly enhances mission coordination and Total Force training and capability integration.
- ***Joint Training Opportunities:*** The defense rich environment of the Southeast United States not only provides unequaled access to training ranges and areas but to joint forces as well. The close proximity to ground forces at Ft Benning and

- Ft Stewart, naval forces in the Jacksonville area, and air forces at Moody, Beaufort, Jacksonville, and Robins provide unique joint training opportunities.
- **Collocation with the AF Special Operations and C-130 Centers of Excellence for Sustainment:** The Warner Robins Air Logistics Center (WR-ALC) is the designated Center for both Special Operations and C-130 aircraft integrated weapon system sustainment. Collocation with these System Program Managers would provide unmatched synergies in enhancing weapon system availability for this low density, high ops tempo fleet due to integrated modification planning/installation, synchronized supply chain management, and immediate engineering access. Additionally, the WR-ALC is the primary source for C-130 & SOF aircraft programmed depot maintenance. Collocation would in itself enhance aircraft availability as flight time to and from the depot is eliminated plus collocation enables innovative programmed depot maintenance processes such as smaller time phased packages and simultaneous completion of organizational and depot level maintenance. Creative cross-servicing initiatives for the HH-60G fleet could lead to even further savings and enhanced aircraft availability.
  - **Reduced Cost of Realignment:** Realigning the Rescue Wing and its personnel 137 miles to Robins versus 1450 miles to Clovis NM is a tremendous cost savings. Plus the realignment period should be dramatically shortened thus reducing the impact on readiness. Additionally, Robins is a large, multi-mission installation (25,000 military, civilian, and contractor personnel) fully supported by one Mission Support organization, to include a Medical Group: a tooth-to-tail ratio enabler.
  - **Community Infrastructure:** Middle Georgia is a vibrant, focused defense community clearly poised to support additional military missions at Robins, a fact validated by the 2005 BRAC process. Growth is not new to Middle Georgia. The community has fully supported growth at Robins for over 65 years; the most recent examples being during the mid to late '90s with the simultaneous stand up of an Air National Guard B-1 unit, an active duty JSTARS unit, and a growth of some 3000 personnel in the Air Logistics Center. Between 1990 and 2004, the host county has experienced a 39% increase in population. Furthermore, the host city is now the 10th largest in the State and the second fastest growing MSA in Georgia. Sustained investment in infrastructure capacities such as transportation, utilities, schools, and other amenities have supported this substantial growth. Today, additional capacity exists to support future growth. As an example, the host county is currently completing a \$115M school construction/land acquisition/technology upgrade program that includes two new elementary schools (one just outside the gate at Robins, adjacent to the privatized housing area), two new middle schools, major renovations at eight campuses, and classroom additions at 12 campuses. Overall, the construction program provides 432 new classrooms and 305 new acres for expansion, all funded by a special local option sales tax, local funds and State grants. An additional school system expansion and upgrade program is planned for 2007-2012 that will include two new elementary schools, two new middle schools, one new high school, renovations to existing campuses and land purchases. This \$123M program is to be funded by continuation of the special local option sales tax. Additionally, an \$80M funded road improvement project is currently on going. Affordable housing is available for all ranks in a housing market priced 20% less expensive than the national average. Medical Care is readily available through three Medical Centers and six hospitals with over 90% of the physicians being

TRICARE providers. Middle Georgia is ready to support the Rescue Wing mission at Robins.

***Bottom Line:*** *If the Commission moves forward with consideration for realignment of Naval Master Jet Base at Moody AFB, then realignment of the 347th Rescue Wing from Moody AFB to Robins AFB makes sense: both militarily and economically.*