

JIM SAXTON

THIRD DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

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MILITARY PERSONNEL

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

July 20, 2005

BRAC Commission

JUL 25 2005

Received

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

Dear Chairman Principi,

Let me begin by commending you and your staff on the excellent job you have done thus far. Despite the amount of information that needs to be processed in a short period of time, your commission has proven itself to be both thorough and efficient. Nonetheless, as you continue to analyze each of the Secretary of Defense's recommendations, I wanted to take a moment to highlight some important details about the Department of the Navy's recommendation to relocate Navy and Marine Corps reserve squadrons to McGuire Air Force Base (MAFB).

First, the Navy recommendation to relocate Navy and Marine Corps assets is independent from the recommendations pertaining to the Air National Guard assets of both New Jersey and Pennsylvania. I have confirmed with the Department of the Navy that the relocation of these assets is motivated by their analysis of the units' military value at their current location as compared to locating them at MAFB. Ultimately, it is this analysis that resulted in the recommendation to relocate these reserve units to MAFB. Furthermore, the Department of the Navy maintains that any change to the current Air National Guard recommendations does not reverse their determination that the proper location for the affected Navy and Marine Corps Reserve units is MAFB.

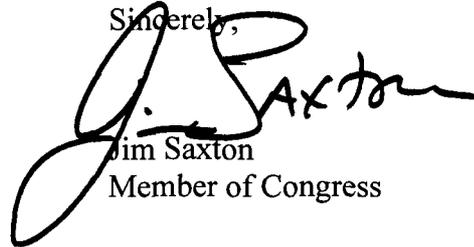
Secondly, the recommendation to move these units to MAFB is in full compliance with the intent of the BRAC process. While achieving the Department of Defense's mandate to eliminate excess infrastructure and to maximize military efficiencies, the recommendation also produces a steady state annual savings of slightly more than \$60 million in associated base operating costs. Furthermore, the scenario capitalizes on the expansion of MAFB's joint environment. Relocating these Navy and Marine Corps units to MAFB further compliments the joint plans for MAFB while properly providing the Department of the Navy with additional joint opportunities.

Lastly, I'd like to highlight that moving these assets does not require the retirement of the New Jersey Air National Guard 108th Air Refueling Wing (ARW). As I stated in my testimony before you and your commission, MAFB has enough room to beddown all of the Navy and Marine Corps assets alongside of the 108th ARW at a reasonable cost. While I presented three possible plans that place 100% of the Navy and Marine Corps units' assets and 12 KC-135 R-model aircraft in the area currently utilized by the 108th ARW, there are other possibilities that exist when considering all of MAFB.

The Honorable Anthony Principi
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Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for including the above facts in your consideration of the Department of the Navy's recommendation to relocate these reserve assets to MAFB.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Saxton". The signature is stylized with large loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jim Saxton
Member of Congress

JS/ms