



**United Way
of Mid Coast Maine**

Our mission: to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of communities

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June 2, 2005

Anthony J. Principi
BRAC Commission
Polk Building, Suites 600 and 625
2521 South Clark St.
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mr. Principi and Members of the Commission:

I am writing on behalf of United Way of Mid Coast Maine in support of keeping Naval Air Station Brunswick fully operational.

In your deliberations about the strategic and economic impact of downsizing, I urge you to consider the additional effect it will have on the charitable sector and people's human needs. The loss of the proposed number of people from NASB would have an extremely damaging effect on our Mid Coast Maine community: on our economy, our local businesses, our non-profit organizations, and our ability to care for one another.

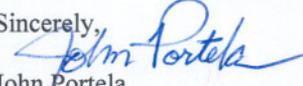
The local Combined Federal Campaign, which our United Way administers, is successful in raising over \$180,000 primarily at NASB. But in addition to these dollars, the navy and civilian personnel on the base have volunteered at United Way and our 35 partner agencies. They've supported the schools, they have helped local elderly citizens, they have been Big Brothers and Sisters. They are generous with their time and their hearts as well as their dollars.

If the proposed downsizing happens, not only will our community lose these dollars and volunteer hours, local businesses will be seriously hurt economically. Their ability to donate to local non-profits will be affected as an unintended consequence. As jobs are lost, human need for services will increase at the same time our ability to generate donations and volunteers and respond to that need is made much more difficult.

The people of Brunswick Naval Air Station are our friends and neighbors, and an integral part of the fabric of our community. Many times we have heard that they have never felt so accepted in a community as they feel in Brunswick. The ripple effect of their generosity affects thousands of our fellow citizens. Their diversity and vitality affects us all. We would all be the poorer if the proposed downsizing should become a reality.

Thank you for your serious consideration of the importance of saving Brunswick Naval Air Station.

Sincerely,


John Portela
Board Chair, United Way of Mid Coast Maine

