

**JOSEPH R. BRESLIN
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BRAC Commission

SEP 06 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Received

SEPTEMBER 1, 2005

JOSEPH R. BRESLIN OF HAVERFORD TOWNSHIP, PA., WHO HAS WORKED WITH GOVERNOR RENDELL'S BRAC COMMITTEE AND THE SUBURBAN HORSHAM VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MILITARY ADVISORY COMMISSION, URGED ALL RESIDENCE OF THE FIVE COUNTY AREA TO WRITE THE WASHINGTON, D. C. BASED BRAC COMMISSION, APPOINTED BY PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH, TO HAVE THE NAS/JRB JOINT RESERVE BASE AT WILLOW GROVE, PA. REMOVED FROM THEIR LIST OF BASE CLOSURES TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE PRESIDENT ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2005.

IT IS NOT TOO LATE FOR THE BRAC COMMISSION TO RECONSIDER KEEPING NAS/JRB WILLOW GROVE OPEN SINCE THE LIST HAS YET TO BE SENT TO THE PRESIDENT OR THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES. THERE ARE ONLY THREE JOINT RESERVE BASES IN THE UNITED STATES: WILLOW GROVE, PENNA.. ONE IN NEW ORLEANS; WHICH HAS BEEN VACATED DUE TO THE RECENT FLOODING BY THE HURRICANE; AND ONE IN TEXAS WHERE TEXAS IS SUBJECTED TO TORNADO OR HURRICANES COMING IN FROM THE GULF COAST. SINCE 1944 THERE HAS BEEN SOME \$157.46 BILLION DOLLARS DAMAGE IN THE AREA FROM FLORIDA TO SOUTH CAROLINA ALONE. PENSACOLA, FLA. WAS ALMOST DESTROYED IN A HURRICANE IN 2004. WILLOW GROVE IS NOT LOCATED IN THESE HURRICANE OR TORNADO ALLEY'S, YET IT IS THE ONLY JOINT BASE TO BE CLOSED BY THE DOD AND THE PENTAGON.

THE RECENT HURRICANE HAS FORCED THE EVACUATION OF THE JOINT RESERVE BASE IN NEW ORLEANS TO SHUT DOWN. WILLOW GROVE IS NOT SHUT DOWN AND WAS THE ONLY OPERATIONAL AIR STRIP DURING THE SNOW STORM WHICH HIT THE PHILADELPHIA AIRPORTS DURING THE SNOW STORM OF 2004. WILLOW GROVE, PA. IS ALSO THE ONLY MILITARY AIR BASE WITH A LANDING STRIP OF 8,000 FEET IN THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA. ALSO, THERE ARE 16,000 HOSPITAL BEDS AVAILABLE IN THE FIVE COUNTY AREA OF THE BASE THAT WOULD BE AVAILABLE IN A TERRORIST ATTACK IN THE AREA.

CHAIRMAN ANTHONY PRINCIPI IS WELL AWARE OF THE FALSE DOCUMENTATION PRESENTED TO THE BRAC COMMISSION REGARDING THE NAS/JRB JOINT BASE AT WILLOW GROVE, PA. ; WHICH WAS NOT EVEN PRESENTED AS A JOINT BASE IN THE REPORT TO THE COMMISSION. HOW THIS COMMISSION REJECTED KEEPING THIS BASE OPEN IN THEIR 8-1 VOTE IS BEYOND COMPREHENSION.

I'M REQUESTING ALL RETIRED AND ACTIVE MILITARY PERSONNEL (NUMBERING SOME 50,000 RETIRED VETS) AND CIVILIANS IN THE FIVE COUNTY AREA OF THE BASE TO WRITE COMMISSIONER ANTHONY PRINCIPI AT THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS: BRAC COMMISSION, 2521 S. CLARK STREET, SUITE 600, ARLINGTON, VA. 22202 AND PRESIDENT BUSH AT: THE WHITE HOUSE, 1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW, WASHINGTON D. C. 20500, TO KEEP WILLOW GROVE NAS/JRB JOINT RESERVE BASE OPEN AND TO REMOVE IT FROM THE LIST THE BRAC COMMISSION IS CONSIDERING SENDING TO THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS.

