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CITY OF JUNCTION CITY

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June 10, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman, BRAC
Polk Building, suite 600 & 625
2521 South Clark Street
Arlington VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

The recent DoD recommendation to the BRAC Commission moving the 142nd Fighter Wing's F-15 aircraft to New Orleans and Atlantic City is an error in judgment. The decision creates a potential national defense circumstance bordering on life and death. It neglects the mission of Homeland Defense. The following discussion of facts clearly demonstrates why this decision places the Pacific Northwest and the Western Region of the United States in jeopardy.

First, the 142nd in Portland, Oregon, protects our homeland with the F-15 Eagle jet fighter. Their present position is geographically strategic; providing both continuous air defense and air superiority capabilities from northern California far into Canada. This is part of the 24-hour continuous alert NORAD system. No other base in the Pacific Northwest covers this range. Without it, we are at risk.

Second, intelligence report consistently reveal Al Queda and its auxiliary terrorist cells are continuing to probe our aviation resources as sources of effective weaponry. Most of the major routes for airline operating between Asia and North America traverse the West Coast airspace, with many flights taking off at Western International Airports heavily "fuel loaded" for the long cross-pacific flights. It would be woefully short-sited, not to mention negligent, if a dedicated fighter wing were not maintained in Portland.

Last, the citizens of the Pacific Northwest and Northern California deserve the same protection afforded the Eastern part of the nation. This decrease in air defense capability, coupled with known current and

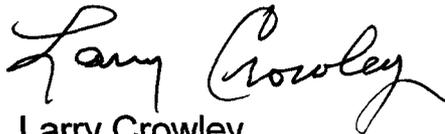


future threats and the likelihood of multiple targets that are widely dispersed becomes a scenario that is more appealing and potentially a very successful opportunity for the terrorist. Realistically, the 142nd, homeland defense mission is more critical now in the Northwest than ever.

The DoD recommendation degrade the homeland security of the Northwest and the entire nation. Please do not ignore this letter. I strongly ask for your help to reverse this DoD recommendation.

I thank you in advance for considering this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Crowley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Larry Crowley
Mayor, Junction City, Oregon

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