

THOMAS H. ALLEN  
1ST DISTRICT OF MAINE



COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET  
COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-1901

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FAX COVER

DATE: 7-27

703-699-2735

TO: BAC COMMISSIONERS

FROM: MAINE DELEGATION

SUBJECT: LETTER ON HOMELAND DEFENSE AND NASB

NUMBER OF PAGES (W/ COVER): \_\_\_\_\_

MESSAGE:

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**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 27, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi  
Chairman, BRAC Commission  
2521 South Clark Street  
Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

The Base Closure and Realignment Commission has been chartered to review the ability of infrastructure to support homeland defense missions. We understand the challenges the Commission faces in evaluating the military value of these missions, given that the Defense Department has not yet defined specific homeland defense requirements.

We have long been concerned that infrastructure decisions under the BRAC process were being made in advance of the establishment of detailed requirements for homeland defense. We expressed our concerns to the Defense Department that the ability of the military to carry out homeland defense missions, when defined, could be jeopardized by the loss of strategic installations currently in the inventory. We believe that the Department acknowledged this risk when the decision was made to retain Naval Air Station Brunswick as a facility strategically located in the Northeast.

The Defense Department is on the path to developing homeland defense requirements. On June 30, the Defense Department formally released its *Strategy for Homeland Defense and Civil Support*<sup>2</sup>, which articulates the strategic goals and objectives that will form the basis for future requirements.

We draw your attention to the maritime aspects of the strategy. It is clear that the Navy's maritime patrol fleet, from today's P-3C Orion aircraft to the next generation Multi-Mission Maritime Aircraft (MMA), will form an indispensable component to the overall homeland defense strategy:

1. Among its strategic goals and key objectives, the strategy states that as part of the layered defense concept, the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security are working to "integrate U.S. maritime defense and to optimize the mutually supporting capabilities of the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard." It quotes the Chief of Naval Operations on the need to identify, track and intercept threats before they reach U.S. shores, and to "extend the security of the United States seaward." The P-3 is perfectly suited for this mission, and has already adopted an array of joint intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance and anti-surface warfare activities. With its extended range, speed, and sensor suite, the MMA will offer even more capability.

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## Homeland defense/NASB, page 2

2. The strategy identifies the need for core capabilities to (a) detect and track potential maritime threats effectively, (b) intercept and defeat threats in the maritime approaches, and (c) direct consequence management.

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The strategy also calls for enhanced international collaboration to establish maritime domain awareness of identification and interdiction of potential threats. The P-3 has already demonstrated its value in this area through its contribution to the multi-national exercises under the Proliferation Security Initiative. NAS Brunswick is integrated as a NATO facility and regularly supports multiple types of foreign aircraft.

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3. The strategy identifies the need for shaping the force structure for homeland defense missions. As mentioned, the maritime patrol fleet is already proven to successfully adapt to multiple missions. The strategy calls for the development of new generations of sensors to enhance domain awareness and maritime defense. Both the advanced sensor suite on board the MMA and the aircraft's planned operational integration with the BAMS UAV meet this goal.

The strategy also observes the critical role for the Naval Reserve in maritime security. The reserve P-3 components have fully integrated with active duty squadrons, forming a seamless operational force. In the case of NAS Brunswick, we note that the planned establishment of a Joint Armed Forces Reserve Center on the base will further enhance the Naval Reserve's role in homeland defense.

Homeland defense/NASB, page 3

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Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

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BRAC Commission  
2521 South Clark Street  
Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

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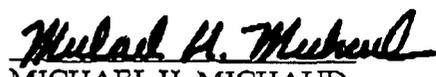
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THOMAS H. ALLEN  
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**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 27, 2005

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BRAC Commission  
2521 South Clark Street  
Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

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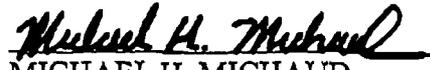
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**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 27, 2005

Admiral Harold W. Gehman, Jr.  
BRAC Commission  
2521 South Clark Street  
Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Commissioner Gehman:

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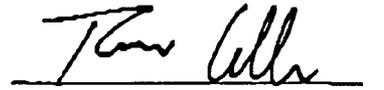
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**Congress of the United States**  
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July 27, 2005

The Honorable Samuel Knox Skinner  
BRAC Commission  
2521 South Clark Street  
Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Commissioner Skinner:

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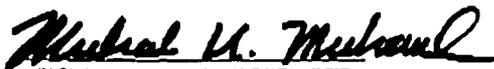
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The strategy also observes the critical role for the Naval Reserve in maritime security. The reserve P-3 components have fully integrated with active duty squadrons, forming a seamless operational force. In the case of NAS Brunswick, we note that the planned establishment of a Joint Armed Forces Reserve Center on the base will further enhance the Naval Reserve’s role in homeland defense.

Homeland defense/NASB, page 3

We welcome the development of the *Strategy for Homeland Defense and Civil Support* as a critical step toward ensuring we have the right strategy, capabilities and force structure to defend the homeland. Given that the strategy has not evolved to the point of requirements development, we believe the prudent choice for the Commission is to preserve assets identified as needed for future homeland defense missions. In that light, we believe that Naval Air Station Brunswick should not be closed and should remain open and fully operational.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

  
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United States Senator

  
SUSAN M. COLLINS  
United States Senator

  
MICHAEL H. MICHAUD  
United States Representative

  
THOMAS H. ALLEN  
United States Representative

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 27, 2005

General James T. Hill  
BRAC Commission  
2521 South Clark Street  
Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Commissioner Hill:

The Base Closure and Realignment Commission has been chartered to review the ability of infrastructure to support homeland defense missions. We understand the challenges the Commission faces in evaluating the military value of these missions, given that the Defense Department has not yet defined specific homeland defense requirements.

We have long been concerned that infrastructure decisions under the BRAC process were being made in advance of the establishment of detailed requirements for homeland defense. We expressed our concerns to the Defense Department that the ability of the military to carry out homeland defense missions, when defined, could be jeopardized by the loss of strategic installations currently in the inventory. We believe that the Department acknowledged this risk when the decision was made to retain Naval Air Station Brunswick as a facility strategically located in the Northeast.

The Defense Department is on the path to developing homeland defense requirements. On June 30, the Defense Department formally released its *Strategy for Homeland Defense and Civil Support*<sup>7</sup>, which articulates the strategic goals and objectives that will form the basis for future requirements.

We draw your attention to the maritime aspects of the strategy. It is clear that the Navy's maritime patrol fleet, from today's P-3C Orion aircraft to the next generation Multi-Mission Maritime Aircraft (MMA), will form an indispensable component to the overall homeland defense strategy:

1. Among its strategic goals and key objectives, the strategy states that as part of the layered defense concept, the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security are working to "integrate U.S. maritime defense and to optimize the mutually supporting capabilities of the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard." It quotes the Chief of Naval Operations on the need to identify, track and intercept threats before they reach U.S. shores, and to "extend the security of the United States seaward." The P-3 is perfectly suited for this mission, and has already adopted an array of joint intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance and anti-surface warfare activities. With its extended range, speed, and sensor suite, the MMA will offer even more capability.

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## Homeland defense/NASB, page 2

2. The strategy identifies the need for core capabilities to (a) detect and track potential maritime threats effectively, (b) intercept and defeat threats in the maritime approaches, and (c) direct consequence management.

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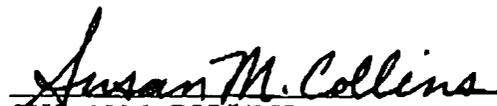
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General Lloyd Newton  
BRAC Commission  
2521 South Clark Street  
Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

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## Homeland defense/NASB, page 2

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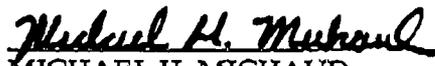
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General Sue Ellen Turner  
BRAC Commission  
2521 South Clark Street  
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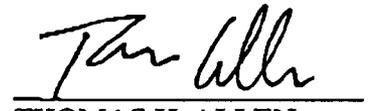
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