

12 Potter Street
Brunswick, ME 04011
June 6, 2005



06102005

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

Dear Commissioner,

I am torn between the real need for the Federal Government to save my tax dollars and the desire to keep Naval Air Station Brunswick as we know it. I concur in the Department of the Navy's conclusion that our P-3's (and P-8's) can probably be more efficiently maintained in Jacksonville, but I think it is a shortsighted view. While the submarine threat from the White Sea has shrunk to near zero, there is nothing to say that other threats will not target the mid and north Atlantic coasts of the US. I see the P-8 as being much more of an MPA as opposed to an ASW aircraft, and it is ridiculous to assume that MPA aircraft can cover the North Atlantic from Jacksonville. Whether the squadrons attempt to handle this mission through deployments to NASB, or from direct flights out of JAX, neither solution is cost effective, particularly at \$55 a barrel for oil. In sum, I suspect the Department of Defense will be able to realize their projected savings of \$12 million per year over 20 years in terms of maintenance and siting, but that increased operational costs will eat away at the balance sheet.

Additionally, I am appalled by the Department of the Navy's seeming disregard for the cost of recent upgrades to the NASB facilities. It seems they have taken into account the longer runway, the new control tower, and the new hangars, but they have ignored the millions of my tax dollars that have been spent upgrading the family and bachelor quarters, both on base and off. Are the quarters currently available in Jacksonville sufficient for an influx of several thousand families from the redeployed wing? Or will they be forced to spend millions more of my tax dollars to build new quarters? I can find nothing in the hundreds of pages of the DOD report that spells out Jacksonville's available housing situation. (It heaps insult on injury to think that some \$55.8 million have been spent on new housing at NASB in the last few years that will be dumped on the town of Brunswick with a total tax base valuation of \$1.2 billion in the next four years. As these units are sold off, it is a foregone conclusion that my property value will suffer, i.e. my tax dollars will have gone towards materially reducing the value of my house. Not exactly living the American Dream.)

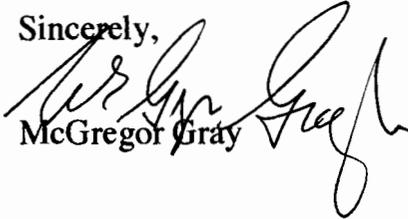
I also disagree with JPAT 6's lumping of NASB into the Portland-South Portland-Biddeford metropolitan statistical area. While there are some who commute to Portland from Brunswick, the vast majority do not. It is therefore

unrealistic to assume that the economic impact on Brunswick-Topsham-Bath, with a total population of around 45,000, is really an insignificant 1.3% of the work force. The loss amounts to a total of 10% of the entire population (not just work force). I recognize that these are not overly significant factors in determining which facilities to cut and which not to cut, but the methodology is still wrong.

I trust your visit to Brunswick has born out what I have spelled out above.

If I can be of any assistance, I can be reached at the above address,

Sincerely,


McGregor Gray