

STATE OF DELAWARE



Office of the Lieutenant Governor

John C. Carney, Jr.
Lieutenant Governor

FAX

Date: *July 25, 2005*

TO: *Honorable Anthony J. Principi*

FROM: *Pat LaRae*

Scheduler

FAX #: *703-699-2735*

Number of pages including cover _____

COMMENTS:

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STATE OF DELAWARE
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNORJOHN C. CARNEY, JR.
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

July 25, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
BRAC 2005 Independent Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi,

I am writing to add my voice to the long list of those Delawareans who strongly oppose the realignment of the New Castle County Air Guard Station. As Lt. Governor of Delaware, my daily focus is on the citizens of this great state. Realigning the New Castle County Air Guard Station would have a negative impact on those citizens.

I support the arguments forwarded by Governor Ruth Ann Minner and others that clearly point out that inaccurate data was used to calculate the Mission Compatibility Index; that the COBRA model used to evaluate costs and savings was flawed; and that the recommendation for realignment appears to violate the law. They are all solid reasons for reconsidering this recommendation.

My biggest concerns, however, focus on how such a realignment would affect Delawareans every day. The data used fails to consider the homeland security needs of Delaware and the Mid-Atlantic region. To execute such a realignment without considering these needs, particularly in this time of uncertainty around the world, seems irresponsible. I also believe the economic impacts of the realignment are higher than identified by the Department of Defense and a great number of individuals and small businesses as well as the county and the state will be negatively affected.

I strongly urge you to reconsider this recommendation and move to preserve the New Castle County Air Guard Station. Its continued existence is critical to keeping individuals and small businesses economically viable, and Delaware and the region safe.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of John C. Carney, Jr.
John C. Carney, Jr.
Lieutenant Governor