



SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
88 BROADWAY ♦ TAUNTON, MA 02780-2557

Acushnet
Attleboro
Berkley
Carver
Dartmouth
Dighton
Fairhaven
Fall River
Freetown
Lakeville
Mansfield
Marion
Mattapoisett
Middleborough
New Bedford
N. Attleborough
Norton
Plainville
Raynham
Rehoboth
Rochester
Seekonk
Somerset
Swansea
Taunton
Wareham
Westport

August 8, 2005

Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

BRAC Commission

AUG 11 2005

Received

Gentlemen:

The Commission of the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) voted unanimously on July 27, 2005 to oppose the Department of Defense's proposed closure of Otis Air National Guard Base.

SRPEDD serves 27 cities and towns in southeastern Massachusetts and the Commission is comprised of representatives of those communities. Although the base is not within our jurisdiction (the Town of Wareham sits in our southeast corner), we are very concerned about the effect the closure would have on the economy of our region as well as the upper Cape. A large part of the estimated annual direct, indirect and induced economic impact of \$82.3M in of the base is felt on our side of the Cape Cod Canal.

As the regional planning that staffs and provides fiduciary services to the Southeast Regional Advisory Council for Homeland Security, we are further concerned that the closing of Otis would undermine the effectiveness of homeland defense in New England. Closing Otis would reduce air fighter coverage for the Boston metropolitan region and would weaken the joint operations of the Army National Guard and Coast Guard at the Massachusetts Military Reservation.

We urge the BRAC to remove the Otis Air National Guard Base and save the 102nd Fighter Wing as part of its 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Recommendations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Lorri-Ann Miller, Chair

cc: Senator Edward Kennedy
Senator John Kerry
Congressman William Delahunt
Governor Mitt Romney