



DCN: 7822

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AUG 19 2005  
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August 12, 2005

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

Dear Commission members:

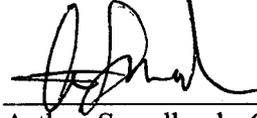
It is our understanding that the Pentagon plans to close Otis Air National Guard Base and split up the 102<sup>nd</sup> fighter wing here on Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

We urge you to reverse the Pentagon's plan for the following reasons:

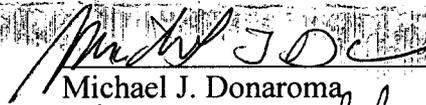
1. The 102<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing is responsible for patrolling the skies of the Northeast coast for homeland defense. It is the closest twenty-four hour alert unit to intercept air traffic coming into the USA, and has been activated on a regular basis. It was among the first on the scene on 9/11 and is one of the top fighter wings in the entire Air National Guard. It makes no sense for our country to dismantle one of its best fighter wings and close one of the nation's most important air defense installations, especially while our nation is at war.
2. Otis ANGB has a direct, indirect and induced annual economic impact of \$82.3 M in Massachusetts, most specifically on the Cape and south shore/coast.
3. Otis ANGB supports the Coast Guard's Air Station Cape Cod which is critical in terms of area sea rescues and emergency medical evacuations on Martha's Vineyard.
4. The General Accounting Office study documents the cost of closing Otis to the Coast Guard is at least \$17 M and 100 new personnel. Cost to all other tenants is not yet known, but there is questionable cost savings. The servicemen and woman of Otis ANGB are neighbors, family, friends and part of our business committee. Their departure will hurt our communities.

Once again, we urge you to remove the Otis Air National Guard Base and save the 102<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing as part of your 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Recommendations.

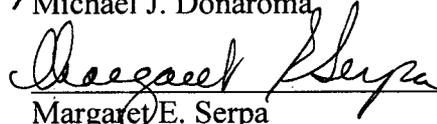
Very sincerely,



Arthur Smadbeck, Chairman



Michael J. Donaroma



Margaret E. Serpa

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BOS:kma