



BARNSTABLE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

P.O. BOX 427
BARNSTABLE, MASSACHUSETTS
02630
(508) 375-6648
FAX (508) 362-4136

HOME RULED CHARTERED
IN 1989

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:
LANCE LAMBROS
Sandwich
MARY J. LECLAIR
Mashpee
WILLIAM DOHERTY
Harwich

RECEIVED
06272005

Resolution in Support of the Otis Air National Guard Base Massachusetts Military Reservation, Cape Cod, Massachusetts

- Whereas:** The Otis Air National Guard Base performs a critical military mission in America's homeland defense by protecting the Northeastern United States from attacks and defends our borders against illegal entry. The 102nd ANG F-15 fighters were the first military aircraft responding to the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center;
- Whereas:** The 102nd Fighter Wing traces its history in Eastern Massachusetts from 1921, serving as the keystone of military operations in support of the many critical missions carried out at the Massachusetts Military Reservation, including hosting the Coast Guard Air Wing that provides vital and irreplaceable protection of our coastal waters from New Jersey to Canada;
- Whereas:** The Base Realignment and Closure Commission is in the evaluation and decision phase of the 2005 round of the Department of Defense's proposed military base closures and realignment, and will be making its recommendations to Congress and the President in September of 2005, and since the Department of Defense has included Otis Air National Guard Base on its proposed closure list to be considered by the Base Realignment and Closure Commission; and
- Whereas:** The loss of the Otis Air National Guard from the Massachusetts Military Reservation, given its critical role as host installation, jeopardizes other military and homeland security organizations at the Massachusetts Military Reservation such as the Army Guard training at Camp Edwards and numerous United States Coast Guard operations, including Air Station Cape Cod. Since this would severely damage the mission of the Base, diminishing homeland security and coastal safety of the Northeast region of the United States, and would substantially and fundamentally impact the economy of the Cape Cod region;

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved: That the Commissioners of Barnstable County Regional government state their overwhelming support for the military mission of the Otis Air National Guard Base, and respectfully and strongly recommend that the Otis Air National Guard Base be removed from consideration for closure by the Base Realignment and Closure Commission, and that this important national resource continue to fulfill its vital role in the protection of our nation.

In Witness Whereof, we have this date, June 22, 2005, hereunto set our hand and caused the great Seal of Barnstable County to be affixed.

William Doherty
Barnstable County Commissioners

Mary J. LeClair

Lance Lambros

BARNSTABLE COUNTY

In the Year Two Thousand and Five

Resolution 05-04

To strongly urge the Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) to reconsider its recommendation to close the Otis Air National Guard Base 102nd Fighter Wing.

WHEREAS, The security that the 102nd Fighter Wing provides at Otis Air National Guard Base is invaluable to the Northeast because of its easternmost location;

WHEREAS, Since September 11, 2001, the unit has been called upon frequently to provide air support to safeguard potential threats, and Otis' alert aircraft can launch and be available in minutes at whatever incident is occurring;

WHEREAS, According to the Defense Department, twelve (12) of the jets at Otis would be sent to a fighter wing in New Jersey, which would result in a fighter jet taking too long to respond to an incident in the Northeast;

WHEREAS, The 102nd Fighter Wing at Otis ANGB has consistently scored "Outstanding" on Operational Readiness Inspections conducted by the Air Force;

WHEREAS, The Otis Air National Guard Base is an integral part of the Massachusetts Military Reservation;

WHEREAS, If the Otis Air National Guard Base is closed, it places the Coast Guard's Air Station Cape Cod in serious jeopardy. The Coast Guard's Air Station Cape Cod shares an airstrip with the Air National Guard, and patrols the waters from the Canadian border to New Jersey, flying search-and-rescue and homeland security missions;

WHEREAS, The Otis Air National Guard Base and the Massachusetts Military Reservation is a model of community involvement and environmental protection and clean-up that should be sustained and emulated across the country; and

WHEREAS, The economic impact to the region if the base were to close would be significant, and could mean the loss of more than 500 jobs.

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates:

Strongly urges the Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) to reconsider its recommendation to close the Otis Air National Guard Base 102nd Fighter Wing.

The Assembly of Delegates supports the efforts of the Otis Coalition, which consists of Upper Cape businesses and civic leaders, working diligently to defend the Otis Air National Guard Base as an integral part of our nation's Homeland Security.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates at a regular meeting held on June 15, 2005.

Attested by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas P. Bernardo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and "B".

Thomas P. Bernardo
Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates