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BRAC Commission

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Anthony J. Principi
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Received

Chairman Principi:

When I could, I either watched or listened to the BRAC proceedings and I found them to be very interesting and educational. You, as well as the other members of the Board were patient and understanding of the various issues raised for the base closure/realignment candidates.

The only issue that I have some concerns with is the closing of NAS Brunswick and the resultant move of the maritime patrol squadrons to Jacksonville. It is obvious to me that the Navy did not do a very good job of analyzing the issue before recommending the relocation of the squadrons. It appears the Navy only looked at today and not into the future.

As a result of a Multi-Mission Maritime Aircraft (MMA) site survey that was conducted earlier this year, it was determined that Jacksonville could only handle three squadrons (presently located in Jacksonville) and the Fleet Readiness Squadron. Any additional MMA squadrons (aircraft) could not be accommodated. I respect ADM Gehman's enthusiasm for relocating the Brunswick squadrons to Jacksonville. However, he, as well as the Commission, did not have sufficient information from the Navy to make an intelligent decision.

The MMA aircraft is much larger than the present P3 Orion maritime patrol aircraft. There are no hangars at Jacksonville that will accommodate the MMA and there is limited ramp space. There is only one hangar in the Navy that can accommodate the larger MMA aircraft and that is in Brunswick. Hangar 6 was just completed a year ago at a cost of \$60M. That hangar can accommodate four MMA aircraft. The Navy will have to construct appropriate size hangars at any base that the MMA will be stationed. With the anticipated number of MMA aircraft to be located at NAS Jacksonville, eight hangar bays will be required to support that aircraft.

The other issue that I have some concerns with is locating all the East coast maritime patrol squadrons in Jacksonville. They will all be located on one base with a single usable (adequate) runway. I believe this was one of the concerns about locating all the B-1's to Dyess. The only alternative to relocating the squadrons to Jacksonville would be to have them located at NBVC Pt. Mugu, CA or NAS Whidbey Island, Washington. Even the latter base is questionable since all the VQ (reconnaissance) aircraft will also be located at NAS Whidbey.

Sincerely,



William G. Klett
CAPT., USN, Ret.