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06092005



COUNCIL

June 1, 2005

WILLIAM J. TANSEY
COUNCILMAN THIRD DISTRICT
Chairman: Special Services Committee
Member: Executive Committee
Administration Committee
Land Use Committee
Community Services Committee
Personnel Committee

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United States Department of Defense
2005 Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission
The Honorable Anthony J. Principi, Chairman
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Mr. Chairman,

I write today to ask that the B.R.A.C. reconsider its recommendation for the realignment of the Delaware Army-Air National Guard Base currently located at the New Castle County Airport, in New Castle, Delaware. I am a retired Brigadier General in the Delaware National Guard. I now serve as a County Councilman representing the interests of the Guard and the citizens of New Castle County. I am intimately familiar with and wholeheartedly dedicated to the Base's preservation and continued service to New Castle County and our Country. Neither realignment nor closing of the Base will prove as cost effective or productive to our nation and its citizenry as sustaining its present allocation of resources and personnel.

Enclosed with this letter, Mr. Chair, you will find a Resolution, which I sponsored and which was adopted unanimously by our thirteen member County Council, in opposition to your Committee's recommendation for the Base's realignment. We believe that the proposed realignment will imperil public safety and severely adversely affect the economic well being of the citizens of New Castle County. Therefore, on behalf of those directly threatened by your decision, I implore the Commission to reconsider its recommendation and allow Delaware's sole Army-Air National Guard Base to continue in the proud tradition of service to the State, the surrounding region, and our Country.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this letter or the accompanying Resolution, I urge you to contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'William J. Tansey', is written over a faint background of a letterhead template.

William J. Tansey

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Introduced by: Mr. Tansey
Date: May 24, 2005

RESOLUTION NO. 05-112

06092005

URGING THE FEDERAL BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE COMMISSION TO REMOVE THE DELAWARE NATIONAL GUARD BASE IN NEW CASTLE COUNTY FROM CLOSURE CONSIDERATION

WHEREAS, the federal Base Realignment and Closure Commission (the "B.R.A.C.") has identified the Delaware National Guard Base (the "Base") in New Castle County as under consideration for closure and/or realignment; and

WHEREAS, the B.R.A.C. has recommended that the New Castle County Air National Guard Base be realigned resulting in a loss of all currently possessed aircraft, 47 full time military personnel, 101 full time civilian personnel, 485 Guard military positions, and the relocation of 39 firefighters; and

WHEREAS, the realignment would result in a direct economic loss of over of \$28.7 million annually for civilian, fulltime military, and Guard military positions as well as operations and maintenance expenditures; and

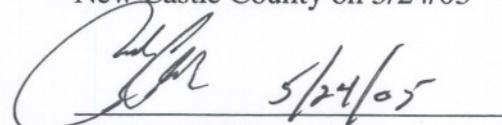
WHEREAS, the financial well being of an assortment of businesses surrounding the Base relies heavily on services provided to Base personnel and infrastructure and the Base is therefore an integral component of the local economy; and

WHEREAS, the transfer of Base firefighters would create serious voids in fire service delivery in New Castle County, adversely impact the Federal Aviation Administration's rating allowing commercial air service at the New Castle County Airport, and create significant safety risks for the County in the event of natural or other disasters; and

WHEREAS, the realignment and/or closure of the Base would have a considerable negative economic and social impact on the public welfare, safety, and standard of living of the citizens and workforce of New Castle County that would be felt for decades to come;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the County Council of New Castle County hereby most strongly urges the federal B.R.A.C. to reconsider its recommendation and consideration for the closure and/or realignment of the Delaware National Guard Base at the New Castle County Airport.

Adopted by County Council of
New Castle County on 5/24/05


President of Council
New Castle County

Synopsis: Same as Title

Fiscal Note: There will be no discernable fiscal impact upon the adoption of this Resolution.

Michael Stone
By *EM*