



BARNSTABLE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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HOME RULED CHARTERED
IN 1989

June 15, 2005

2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202



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Dear Commission Members:

The Barnstable County Commissioners support the effort to keep Otis Air Guard Base in Massachusetts open and remain an important part of our nation's military air defense resources. The Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process has listed Otis for closure. The economy of the Cape, the five hundred civilian workers involved, as well as businesses that service the base and its personal and the effectiveness of homeland defense in New England would be seriously affected by this closure.

Closing Otis would dramatically degrade air fighter coverage for the Boston metropolitan region, not to mention the reduction in the effectiveness of the recruiting possibilities from the population that now provide replacement servicemen and women and it would weaken the joint operations of the Army Guard and Coast Guard at the Massachusetts Military Reservation (MMR) by increasing the necessity of more complex logistical support and time devoted to non mission essential travel and staging of material and personnel.

As you are well aware, the Cape community has participated in an extensive master planning process for MMR. This process was done to ensure that future military training at the base meets modern training needs and respects the Cape's sensitive environmental resources. The Air Guard presence is an important component of the master plan and provides vital support for the installation's infrastructure. It bears repeating that Otis also provides hundreds of civilian jobs, which are very important to the economic health of the Upper Cape region and southeastern Massachusetts.

A coalition of town, state and federal officials, business-people and citizens has formed to oppose the base closure recommendation. We have directed our Cape Cod Commission staff to participate in the economic analysis subcommittee for this group.

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We are available to answer your questions and do what we may to help with this effort.

Sincerely,



William Doherty
Chairman
Barnstable County Commissioners



Mary J. LeClair
Vice-Chairman



Lance Lambros
Commissioner

cc: Senator Edward M. Kennedy
Senator John Kerry
Congressman William Delahunt
Cape Cod Legislative Delegation
Boards of Selectmen: Sandwich, Bourne, Falmouth, Mashpee