



DCN: 2605

Mayor

David M. Fuller

Council President

Peggy Jo Minter

Councilors

Beverly A. Stone

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June 15, 2005

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The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman, Base Realignment and Closure Commission Polk Building
Suite 600 & 625
2521 South Clark Street
Arlington VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi,

The recent DoD recommendation to the BRAC Commission moving the 142nd Fighter Wing's F15 aircraft to New Orleans and Atlantic City is a mistake. This decision creates a potential life threatening circumstance and neglects the mission of Homeland Defense placing the Pacific Northwest and Western Region of the United States at risk.

The present position of having the 142nd Fighter Wing in Portland, Oregon, is geographically strategic; providing both continuous air defense and air superiority capabilities from northern California far into Canada. This is part of the 24 hour continuous alert North American Air Defense (NORAD) system. No other base in the Pacific Northwest covers this range, and without it we are at risk.

Intelligence reports consistently reveal Al Qaeda and its franchise terrorist cells are continuing to probe our aviation resources as sources of effective weaponry. Most of the major routes for airlines operating between Asia and North America traverse the West Coast airspace, with many taking off at Western International Airports heavily "fuel loaded" for long flights. Reflecting back to 9/11, it would be nothing short of woeful negligence to not maintain a dedicated Air Defense Fighter Wing in protection of the western United States.

We feel that the citizens of the Pacific Northwest and Northern California deserve the same protection afforded the Eastern United States. Realistically, the 142nd Fighter Wing's homeland defense mission is more critical now than previously perceived.

The DoD recommendations degrade the Homeland Security of the Northwest and the entire nation. This cannot and should not be ignored. We believe that a maximum effort must be generated to change the DoD recommendation that transfers Dedicated Air Defense from the Northwest. We strongly ask for your support and leadership to help reverse this DOD recommendation.

Thank you for your help and consideration in keeping the Pacific Northwest and the United States safe.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David M. Fuller", with a large, sweeping initial "D".

David M. Fuller, Mayor
and the Wood Village City Council