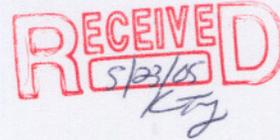


DCN: 1107

DCN-1107

May 19, 2005

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Marylyn Coffin
96 Gurnet Landing Rd.
Harpswell, ME 04079



Dear Mr. Principi,

I am writing to you regarding the "realignment" of the Brunswick Naval Air Station. As the wife of a retired Navy LCDR and a taxpayer, I find the decision to transfer out all the squadrons and basically make the base minimally open to be incompetent. This base has a strategic location as far as being easily accessible from the ocean side, it played an important role after 9/11 and could certainly be an asset in future terrorist threats. The P-3's can quickly reach shipping lanes and patrol the whole mid and northern coast line. It's a first line of defense for any planes coming from Europe. Instead of sending the planes out, I think they should be bringing in a group of jets that could be easily deployed if Boston, New York or anywhere in the Northeast were threatened or attacked. Also it's a perfect location for a multi-service reserve training station. I know there was talk of bringing in more services than already train here and it's a great idea. It's a central location and they have plenty of room.

As a taxpayer I find it ludicrous that they recently built a multimillion dollar hangar that I understand is the ONLY one that can accomodate the new aircraft that will replace the P-3 Orions in the future, they built a new air traffic control tower, not to mention the new housing that opened last year, and as I write, they are building new barracks on base. Why spend another \$30 million or more on a new hangar in Jacksonville when there is one right here not being used? And since the base would be still open, the town can't use the housing even though there wouldn't be any military to live in it, or very few.

The base employs numerous civilians and the military personnel contribute greatly to our small community, through housing sales and rentals, buying from the stores and businesses as well contributing to the community in sports and other activities that use volunteers. The school systems would suffer as a result of less students and government support. In Maine there aren't a lot of big employers, it's mostly small businesses and so the realigning of the base would prove to be a great hardship on many, many people in the community. There are a vast number of retired military people like my husband and myself as well because it's a great place

to live. I'm sure they may be considering cutting back services like the commissary and that would certainly affect us in a negative way. Maine is one of the highest taxed states and we save a lot of money by shopping at the commissary.

All I ask is that you carefully reconsider realigning Brunswick Naval Air Station. It just doesn't make fiscal sense to have spent all that money building the new facilities only to abandon them. If you check with Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins as well as the BNAS task force I'm sure they can show you actual figures that disprove the Pentagon's projection of savings.

Thank you for listening. This is the first letter I have ever written any government member but I felt it was an important enough issue to get involved. Good luck in your investigation, I know it's not an easy task, but I heard you were willing to be fair and not "rubber stamp" the original list, which I feel is swayed by politics. May God bless you and guide you to the right decision.

Sincerely,

Marylyn Coffin

Marylyn Coffin

