



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

County of Plymouth
Sheriff's Department

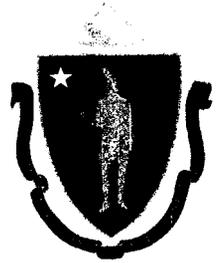
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July 31, 2005

AUG 03 2005

Received

Joseph D. McDonald, Jr.
Sheriff

Christopher A. Coppage
Special Sheriff

Accredited by:



American Correctional Association

Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600,
Arlington, VA 22202



National Commission on
Correctional Health Care

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to request respectfully that the BRAC reconsider the proposed closure of the Otis Air National Guard Base in nearby Cape Cod, Massachusetts and that the Commission instead contemplate strengthening this vital center in our national defense.

For many years, Otis ANG has served as the hub of national defense plans in protecting the Northeast Region of our country. I am certain you are aware the first fighter jets scrambled to assert our homeland defense on September 11, 2001 were based at Otis.

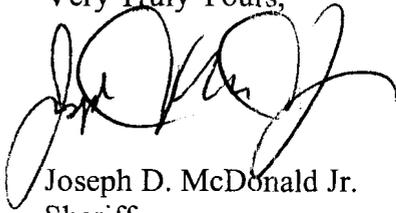
Otis ANG and the 102nd Fighter Wing are strategically situated to respond to any emergency over a large portion of the Eastern seaboard, and operates as an important staging area for our fighting men and women.

As the chief law enforcement officer for neighboring Plymouth County, I am also keenly aware of the importance of Otis ANG in maintaining the security of nearby highly-visible public resources, including the Canal bridges and the Entergy nuclear power plant.

I urge you to re-examine the vital significance of Otis to Massachusetts, and all of New England, in defending America from external and internal threat.

I commend you for your hard work and efforts to streamline and modernize our military, but I believe careful study will reveal that losing Otis will not advance this goal.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe McDonald Jr.", with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Joseph D. McDonald Jr.
Sheriff