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Dear General Newton,

I very much appreciate the important work you and the Commission are doing. The security and defense of our country are essential. DoD can only make recommendations within their span of control. Integrating DoD's recommendations and community, state and regional concerns is extremely important. Observing the testimony from DoD officials, the variables and metrics used to make recommendations for closure, realignment and gain has been very informative. I appreciate the tremendous amount of work DoD has accomplished.

I am respectfully asking you to keep Brunswick Naval Air Station fully operational, for the national security, homeland defense and maritime surveillance of the northeastern region of the US. I find it challenging to believe that Brunswick NAS is simultaneously recognized for its strategic value (rationale for realignment) and yet has little military value. As a military retiree and citizen, I am quite concerned about the realignment of Brunswick NAS, essentially transferring all its aircraft and active duty military to Jacksonville Naval Air Station (JAX NAS). At minimum, how is maritime surveillance of the North Atlantic and northeastern US Atlantic to be conducted?

I realize there are many intricacies to DoD/ DoN Transformation plans, and while moving BNAS to JAX NAS may fit within a particular opinion of that Transformation model, it does not appear to take into account the impact on National Security in the Northeast Region. Brunswick Naval Air Station is the last military airfield remaining in the Northeast region with a population of over 48 million taxpaying citizens; it serves a truly important role in our national security. It has played an important part in Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, Asian and Indian Tsunami Relief. Ironically, during hurricane season, JAX NAS P3 squadrons evacuated to Brunswick NAS. Ironically as well, NAS Brunswick is the only Naval Air Station in the US that can support the P-3 replacement aircraft, the multi-mission maritime aircraft (MMA), and any other base will require millions of dollars to bring them up to standards. With realignment the proverb, "use it or lose it" seems to apply, without adequate use and continued maintenance, the millions of taxpayer dollars already invested to modernize Brunswick NAS will be wasted. *Realignment may make it a candidate for a Golden Fleece award.*

Up to now, our government has wisely chosen to increase funding for constructing new facilities (nearly completed) making Brunswick NAS capable of supporting all manned and unmanned aircraft, domestic and international (including Air Force One), across the full range of Homeland Defense operations and contingencies. Brunswick NAS has incredible potential for multi-mission maritime aircraft (MMA), patrols, interdiction, and future operations. As a comprehensive northeast homeland joint defense and security installation it can support current and future operational and training capabilities on land, sea and air. Pending future capabilities include: Multi-mission maritime aircraft basing and support center, armed forces reserve center, maritime

interdiction center, aerial refueling master base, fighter squadron basing and support, special warfare center of excellence, NASB is well prepared for the future.

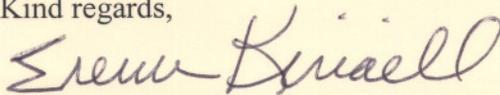
ADM Clark testified about "closing Oceana NAS that he considered moving all of its 240 odd jets to an Air Force base. Clark said leaders concluded that the alternatives were too far from the East Coast or would cost too much." Navy Times, May 30, 2005, pg 15. Perhaps he couldn't see far enough north to Brunswick NAS, ME.

Brunswick NAS is crucial to current and future national security, and homeland defense, and maritime surveillance and interdiction operations. It is immediately adjacent to all major sea lanes in the North Atlantic, and pathways of international flights. BNAS has more than 63,000 square miles of unencumbered airspace for training and exercise missions. Briefly, Brunswick NAS has; versatile, extensive modern facilities, including a new hangar designed specifically for MMA and BAMS and land with no encroachment issues, completely secured perimeter and outstanding force protection layout and capability, an established all-weather training area available for Special Forces and other units, easy access by all forms of transportation, since 9/11 the military value of the base supersedes anytime since WWII. NASB integrates active-duty and reserve forces, Joint national and international military activities including NATO, receiving and deploying over 100 Joint aircraft and over 850 personnel during recent missions. BNAS is integral to the shipbuilding efforts of Bath Iron Works, providing crew support through Supervisor of Shipbuilding (SUPSHIPS) Bath, Maine.

Reading through the BRAC volumes, "The DoN is very concerned about economic impact and has made every effort to fully understand all of the economic impacts its recommendations might have on local communities." However, the DoN used the Portland-South Portland-Biddeford, ME, Metropolitan Statistical Area for its Economic area comparison for Brunswick NAS. The Portland MSA has a population of about 333,500, with the 4266 jobs lost, the percentage is -1.3% (-.0127) loss. Using the Portland MSA significantly minimizes the true effect of BNAS job losses. The Brunswick-Harpswell-Bath-Topsham population represents a more accurate population to assess the 4266 lost jobs from realigning BNAS. With a population of approximately 44,777 and with 4266 jobs lost the percentage is -10% (-.095) jobs lost. In a rural state, with small communities a 10% jobs loss is significant.

With the uncertainty of the ongoing War on Terrorism our nation can not afford to make a mistake and lose, or "mothball" a strategic location and lose the current resources of NAS Brunswick as it will require significant reinvestment to revive the facilities and personnel resources will not easily be available if realignment occurs. The Brunswick, mid-coast Maine regional community strongly supports BNAS mission, personnel and their families. Mainers like other Americans take homeland security and defense of our nation seriously. I thank you for considering my request *to keep Brunswick Naval Air Station fully operational, protecting the national security, homeland defense and maritime surveillance of the northeast region of the US.*

Kind regards,



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