DCN 7343

103-06A – AF10 - Community Input
Air Force– Patrick Air Force Base (Naval Ordnance Test Unit) - FL
BRAC COMMISSION – FY 2005
COFF:_____ DISPOSITION: Permanent

FLORIDA'S SPACE COAST

REALIGNMENT OF NAVAL ORDNANCE TEST UNIT FROM CAPE CANAVERAL, FLORIDA TO KINGS BAY SUB BASE, GEORGIA

July 7, 2005

REALIGNMENT OF NAVAL ORDNANCE TEST UNIT FROM CAPE CANAVERAL, FLORIDA TO KINGS BAY SUB BASE, GEORGIA

DOD RECOMMENDATION:

Realign Nuclear Test and Evaluation Mission at the Naval Ordnance Test Unit (NOTU) to Strategic Weapons Facility Atlantic, Kings Bay, Georgia

BACKGROUND:

Most recent analysis reveals a number of operational and support anomalies that may not have been previously considered in the recommendation to realign NOTU to Kings Bay, GA to gain synergy in Anti-Terrorism Force Protection (ATFP), fleet operational support and operational support infrastructure.

NOTU was postured in its current location on Cape Canaveral Air Force Station to gain synergy from being physically, as well as organizationally, close to Air Force missile launch and test range operations and NASA, and to take advantage of immediate access to open water and close proximity to deep water of the Atlantic Eastern Test Range. The current beddown supporting the Navy's Fleet Ballistic Missile TRIDENT (D-Series) Missile test launch program produces significant savings through cost sharing arrangements with the Air Force, NASA, and the Cape Canaveral Port Authority, and through daily accessibility to expertise associated with other missile and test activities.

Initial DOD COBRA analysis indicated savings could be generated by realigning this **test activity from its 'stand alone' site**, where it has significant synergy with NASA and the Air Force's 45th Space Wing, to an ***'operational' site with a strategic mission***. Closer examination indicates numerous oversights that would actually decrease Military Value in violation of the Secretary of Defense's overarching criteria. This realignment would degrade the SSBN test mission, decrease Anti-terrorism Force Protection, eliminate Joint Service interaction, and prove more expensive in terms of test mission, infrastructure build, and relocation cost.

If realigned to Kings Bay, NOTU test mission operations will be degraded and significantly more costly due to the increase in transit time from pier to test sites on the Eastern Range Complex, and loss of synergism with test and range safety personnel resident at Patrick AFB/Cape Canaveral.

- Test mission operations from Kings Bay will require a 2 1/2-hour surfaced transit down a narrow river to navigable water and a 11-hour transit to a test launch point.
- Lengthy transit stands in stark contrast to the current 45-minute transit to navigable water and three hours to test launch point at Cape Canaveral.
- Longer transit adds 16-20 hours to every test mission--a costly waste of submarine hours that increases fleet operating hours and reduces fleet availability.

- Makes recovery to pier side for missile adjustment, offload of injured personnel, or system emergency lengthy and hazardous due to significant increased transit time.

While the Department's transformation initiatives mandate increased 'Jointness,' this proposed realignment actually eliminates the Joint Service interaction present at NOTU on Cape Canaveral Air Force Station today. That 'jointness' is reflected in the day-to-day, face-to-face coordination and close working relationships between NOTU and the 45th Space Wing personnel and leaders. This interaction is more than a 'buzzword,' it is essential to the safe, successful performance of missile test missions. Realignment would:

- Require extensive temporary duty travel to the Cape to conduct essential face-to-face coordination with mission critical test/safety personnel.
- Necessitate face-to-face coordination for West Coast tests, since 45th Wing range safety management supports both East and West Coast test launches .
- **Move to Kings Bay Submarine Base would simply consolidate 'Navy with Navy.'**

The SSBN mission is one of the least understood of all military missions. For example, the Demonstration and Shakedown Operation (DASO) mission is crucial to conveying requirements, complexities, and nuances to key decision makers, appropriators, and U.S. allies. Doubling transit time to test firing sites would make the DASO mission extremely difficult, if not totally non-feasible. Similarly, the realignment would drive additional beddown costs and transit time for two support ships required in this mission.

The Anti-Terrorism Force Protection (AETP) considerations are crucial to operations worldwide, to include those that stage from Homeland portage. While to some it may seem a benign environment, the test mission from Kings Bay will be subjected to significantly greater threat potential than in its current location.

- Test mission at Kings Bay requires 2 ½-hour surfaced transit down a 'river' exposing a submarine to potential terrorist attack when it is most vulnerable.
- Vulnerability during surfaced transit is protracted during the 11-hour movement to a launch point in the Atlantic.
- Current operations emanate from a closed military base with a 45-minute transit to navigable water; landscape is open, providing little cover for terrorist operations.

Other oversights occurred in the Department's COBRA analysis of infrastructure requirement costs and in the cost of relocating mission essential contractors supporting the NOTU mission. Stated requirements for the move to Kings Bay reflected need for 160,000 square foot building. Costing in the COBRA analysis only accounted for 60,000 square feet--a $17 million understatement. Similarly, the Department did not account for the fact that NOTU's workforce is predominantly contractor personnel; the cost of moving these personnel were not included in the realignment analysis. These personnel are largely skilled missile engineers and technicians from the missile/test workforce

resident in the Patrick/Cape Canaveral/Kennedy Space Center locale. If only thirty percent of the 532 contractors move, the cost of this relocation combined with the understated infrastructure cost, drives the COBRA Return on Investment (ROI) beyond 10 years.

Additionally, it should be noted that there are potential environmental impacts associated with this move to Kings Bay. Those involve Wetlands, Water Resources, Threatened & Endangered Species/Crucial Habitat, Marine Mammals/Resources/ Sanctuaries, and Land use constraints. The local area around Kings Bay is relatively rural, small community environment with little capacity to support a large influx of personnel and families. These environmental constraints appear to be overlooked in the Department's final analysis.

SUMMARY:

Closer evaluation indicates relocating the Naval Ordnance Test Unit (NOTU) from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station would not achieve the objectives stated in the Department of Defense report. Instead this action will decrease military value, as it would:

- Degrade test mission accomplishment due to significantly greater transit distance from pier to navigable water and to test sites in the Eastern Range.
- Increase operating hours on critical national submarine assets, reducing availability to meet operational requirements.
- Increase vulnerability to terrorist attack due to long surfaced transit to navigable water and suitable submerge point.
- Increase mission costs and incur greater infrastructure and move costs than reported.
- Eliminate existing daily Joint Service interaction, and test mission coordination.

Analysis indicates that NOTU should remain at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station where Joint Service synergies, test and mission safety coordination, and cost sharing efficiencies combine with close proximity to open water of the Eastern Test Range to produce a high degree of test mission effectiveness.

DCN 7343

JEB BUSH
GOVERNOR

STATE OF FLORIDA

Office of the Governor

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June 20, 2005

Anthony J. Principi, Chairman
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

On behalf of the State of Florida, I write in appreciation of the tremendous challenge the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission faces in its review and evaluation of the BRAC recommendations recently released by the Department of Defense (DoD).

Florida fully supports the BRAC process as a necessary step to transform today's military to the lighter, more mobile operation needed to counter the unique threats of the 21st century, and we have long committed to partner with the DoD to maximize this transformation. From this position, we are proud that Florida continues to provide our nation the necessary environment to build a strong, well-trained and equipped fighting force with a quality of life second to none. Likewise, we are very pleased the DoD recognizes the strategic importance, military value, and cost effectiveness of Florida's installations and missions in ensuring troop preparedness and national security.

In its recent submission, we believe the DoD presented a thoughtful and appropriate set of recommendations for base realignment and closure as they pertain to Florida. However, there are several recommendations and enhancements to the DoD list, as presented by the citizen leaders of the Space Coast in their letter to you, which warrant careful consideration by the Commission.

The Space Coast, which includes Patrick Air Force Base and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, has made significant contributions to our national defense where it has hosted space, defense, and submarine ballistic missile research, development, and training. The proposals supplied by the Space Coast community were developed with the same goals and commitment shared by the BRAC Commission –to ensure the most effective, efficient, well-trained, and committed fighting force in the world. With that in mind, I respectfully urge your careful evaluation of the community's proposals.

Thank you for all that you continue to do in service to our nation. I am always available for your consultation, and welcome your contact at any juncture.

Sincerely,

Jeb Bush

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0905

June 21, 2005

The Honorable Anthony Principi
Chairman
2005 Defense Base Closure
and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark Street, Suite. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you for this opportunity to address the Commission and share our views of the Defense Department's recommendations regarding Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida and the relocation of the Naval Ordnance Test Unit (NOTU). Congress granted authority for the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure to protect and enhance the military value of our national defense infrastructure and, without compromising that value, save precious defense dollars in the cost of owning and operating our bases.

We are convinced that on balance the Department's recommendations are a strong and complete endorsement of the current and future military value of Florida's bases and our training and testing air, land and sea ranges. However, we are also convinced that the recommendation to move the Naval Ordnance Test Unit off of Cape Canaveral Air Force Station does not look far enough into the future taking into account mission optimization and best military and economic value. The Department's recommendation can be perfected by the BRAC Commission's determination to leave the Naval Ordnance Test Unit at Cape Canaveral Air Station. Accordingly, we urge the Commission to fully evaluate and accept the Brevard County and Melbourne community's proposals.

The Department recommends consolidating east coast strategic ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) activities at the Strategic Weapons Facility Atlantic, Kings Bay, Georgia. On its face, consolidation of all SSBN activities and functions may have intuitive appeal; analytically, however, the location of developmental or, as in this case, vital nuclear weapons system operational testing is always enhanced and costs controlled best when management and execution activities and functions are consolidated at the test range. The Department's recommendations across a variety of developmental and operational test and evaluation activities fairly consistently reflect this analysis. Unfortunately, the recommendation to move NOTU to Kings Bay breaks this important operational and economic connection and will undermine mission accomplishment at greater cost.

The Commission should also know about an industrial development over the last year that the Department's analysis and recommendation may not have taken into consideration, but that we believe is important to any decision to relocate onsite management and execution of operational testing away from its testing range. Over the last year the Navy's industrial partner of over fifty years in the production, maintenance and testing of the TRIDENT missile has conducted an exhaustive analysis on where to relocate its Post Production Center of Excellence from California closer to the SSBN fleet concentrations on the east and west coast. This industrial partner took into consideration mission, facilities, the incremental costs of consolidation and subsequent recurring operating costs once established. The State of Florida has offered this industrial partner a very attractive package of economic incentives to locate its Center of Excellence with the Naval Ordnance Test Unit at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station The industrial partner closely examined both Kings Bay and Cape Canaveral and their analysis lead them to conclude that the Cape was indeed the optimal site.

The recommendation to relocate the Naval Ordnance Test Unit, therefore, not only breaks the current efficiency and effectiveness of collocating a testing agency and its testing location, but it also breaks the future efficiency and effectiveness of collocating with its industrial partner and support. Moving NOTU to Kings Bay will generate significant indirect costs by forcing the industry partner to change the location decision it had already made after an exhaustive mission, operations and economic analysis. No doubt this industry partner will be forced to pass on to its Navy customer the costs associated with lost economic incentives and the increased recurring costs they too will bear located away from the testing site.

We urge the Commission to reject the Department's recommendation and keep the Naval Ordnance Test Unit at Cape Canaveral Air Station.

We appreciate the very difficult and important task that lies ahead of the Commission. There is much work to do and little time to do it. We assure you that, along with the State of Florida and its many military communities, we are eager to assist you in any way to ensure that the 2005 BRAC process provides the best possible defense infrastructure at the best possible cost and enhances our national security today and for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you through the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Bill Nelson

Mel Martinez

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House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

DAVE WELDON, M.D.
15TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE:
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SUBCOMMITTEES:
VA, HUD, INDEPENDENT AGENCIES
LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

June 24, 2005

The Honorable Anthony Principi
Chairman
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

I fully recognize the task that you and your eight colleagues have in adjudicating the base realignment and closure recommendations of Secretary Rumsfeld is enormous. With that said and with my appreciation of you taking on this task, I am writing to ask that you look very closely at the recommendation to realign the Naval Ordnance Test Unit (NOTU) from Cape Canaveral, Florida to Kings Bay, Georgia.

I believe that Florida's Space Coast is the right place to house this most important test and evaluation operation of the United States Navy given the strategic location to the Eastern Test Range, the 45th Space Wing at Patrick AFB, and NASA. The synergy that exists among these three organizations ensures that the mission of NOTU is conducted with the proper amount of coordination, safety, and security.

At its current location the submarines that are being tested have immediate access to the Atlantic Ocean and the aforementioned Eastern Test Range, where the tests and evaluations take place. This immediate access allows for tests and offshore missile firings to be accomplished within a short period of time. The current facilities and those being planned with the Air Force provide for a more than a sufficient level of security and mission accomplishment. While I am sure that the facilities that the Navy will provide at Kings Bay will be acceptable, one only has to look at the geographic location of Kings Bay to realize that the submarines to be tested by NOTU in the future will have a very long transit time to the Eastern Test Range. Test and evaluation missions that now are accomplished in less than 10 hours will take over 24 hours to accomplish, thereby increasing cost and impacting sailors and those involved in the operations.

Additionally, from a security standpoint the Cape Canaveral location allows for quick access to the open waters of the Atlantic Ocean while the Kings Bay location will require submarines to navigate inland waterways.

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Most interesting of all criteria is that only a few months ago, Lockheed Martin, the longtime Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile contractor made the strategic decision to not only keep NOTU at Cape Canaveral, but to expand NOTU's footprint and work on the D5 missile at Cape Canaveral. Lockheed Martin and the Navy did a serious, in-depth analysis on whether to expand the D5 mission at the Cape or to move to Kings Bay, Georgia. In the final analysis, the decision was made to go with Florida. I think the fact the Navy and D5 contractor made this decision on their own speaks volumes. It also casts some serious doubt into the flawed decision making process that OSD underwent in making the faulty decision to realign NOTU to Georgia.

I know that you, the other BRAC Commissioners, and your staff are paying very close attention to all of Secretary Rumsfeld's recommendations. You have a very daunting job at hand, and the American people respect and applaud your willingness to take on this task.

Mr. Chairman, after this thorough analysis I believe you will come to the same realization as our community has, the NOTU mission should remain because to do otherwise would adversely affect the mission, it would not increase military value, and it would be a waste of much needed resources that could be applied toward the warfighter. It is quite obvious to me that the Secretary has deviated substantially from the BRAC criteria that he proposed, Congress approved, and by which he was suppose to make recommendations.

Sincerely,

Dave Weldon, M.D.
Member of Congress

DCN 7343

Florida House of Representatives

Brevard Legislative Delegation

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400 South Street, Suite 1C
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June 28, 2005

The Honorable Anthony Principi, Chairman
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi,

The Brevard Legislative Delegation supports all our military and understands how important realignment of our bases is in order to reduce costs and improve efficiency.

We do feel however, that having the Naval Ordinance Test Unit (NOTU) in Port Canaveral is not only beneficial to the people and industry related to space and the military, but also feel it is strategically located between Jacksonville and Key West, making it very important as a small but deep water port that is easily accessible.

We ask that you strongly consider leaving the NOTU intact and in Port Canaveral. We appreciate your consideration on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Ralph Poppell, Chair
Brevard Legislative Delegation

Cc: The Honorable James H. Bilbray
The Honorable Phillip Coyle
Admiral Harold W. Gehman, Jr.
The Honorable James V. Hansen
General James T. Hill
General Lloyd W. Newton
The Honorable Samuel K. Skinner
Brigadier General Sue Turner

SPACE COAST
DEFENSE ALLIANCE

June 30, 2005

Honorable Anthony Principi
Chairman
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mr. Principi:

On behalf of the Space Coast Defense Alliance, we write in appreciation of the tremendous challenge the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission faces in its review and evaluation of the BRAC recommendations recently released by the Department of Defense (DoD). We sincerely appreciate your service to our great country.

It is important for us to share with you that Florida and the Space Coast fully support the BRAC process as a necessary step to transform today's military to the lighter, more mobile operation needed to counter the unique threats of the 21st century. From this position, we are proud that Brevard County, Florida continues to provide our nation the necessary environment to support our war fighters and provide a quality of life second to none.

In its recent 2005 BRAC round, we believe the DoD presented a thoughtful set of recommendations for base realignment and closure as they pertain to Florida. We would, however, call your attention to the proposed realignment of the Naval Ordnance Test Unit from Cape Canaveral to Kings Bay, Georgia. This particular action seems to run counter to the Secretary's overarching goal of enhancing military value and jointness while decreasing cost of the Department's operation.

In its current location, this critical submarine missile test unit has immediate access to the Atlantic Ocean and the Eastern Test Range. It's close proximity to off-shore firing sites enables the mission to be accomplished with short transit times from its relative secure port facilities on Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. If moved to Kings Bay, long transit down a hazardous river to open water and increased distance to test firing sites combine to increase an 8-10 hour mission to 26-30 hours. This increase clearly has the potential to negatively impact costs and reduce operating hours available to meet worldwide commitments. Additionally, the synergism of working closely with the collective Air Force and NASA expertise present on the Cape would be lost. With these factors in mind, I respectfully urge your careful evaluation of the community and State's position on retaining the Naval Test Ordnance Unit at Cape Canaveral.

Thank you for all that you continue to do in service to our nation. We are available for your consultation, and welcome your contact at any juncture.

Sincerely,

M. Randall Harris, Chairman
Space Coast Defense Alliance

Lynda L. Weatherman, President & CEO
Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast

cc: James H. Bilbray
Phillip Coyle
Admiral Harold W. Gehman, Jr.
James V. Hansen
General James T. Hill
General Lloyd W. Newton
Samuel K. Skinner
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DCN 7343

BREVARD County

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

FLORIDA'S SPACE COAST

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June 28, 2005

The Honorable Anthony Principi, Chairman
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Mr. Principi:

The BRAC 2005 recommendations released by the Department of Defense in May reaffirm the significant importance of the military value of the bases located in Florida. Brevard County supports the BRAC process as a necessary step in transforming today's military and we are committed to partnering with DOD to maximize this transformation.

We are concerned, however, with your decision to realign the Naval Ordnance Test Unit (NOTU) currently located at Port Canaveral to Kings Bay, Georgia, as we believe the proposed realignment does not meet the strict criteria Secretary Rumsfield published for this BRAC round provided in the community analysis and assessment provided.

This Naval Mission is extremely important and includes an extremely educated, talented and dedicated contractor pool that may choose not to move to Kings Bay thereby depriving the military of a specialized expertise. They and their families are an integral part of this community. There is also a strong connection between NOTU and the 45th Space Wing and NASA to ensure the highest technical support possible for this critical test mission. That synergy would be eroded if a move were to occur.

We urge the BRAC Commission to carefully consider our community's assessment of this proposed realignment. This consideration will ensure the best interest of our military and cost savings to the taxpayers of Florida and the United States.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our concern and interest.

Sincerely,

Ron Pritchard, D.P.A.
Chairman
Brevard County Commission

cc: Brevard County Commission
BRAC Commission Members
Peggy Busacca, County Manager
Lynda Weatherman, President, EDC of the Space Coast

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DCN 7343

City of Cape Canaveral

June 27, 2005

Honorable Anthony Principi
Chairman
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mr. Principi:

The City of Cape Canaveral commends you for answering the President's call in service to our Nation's defense needs as a member of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC). We applaud your dedication in undertaking this challenging task to ensure our future structure will support our forces, while ensuring today's warfighters are supported in the manner they desire.

While we also strongly support the Department of Defense's thrust to transform our military to meet challenges we face in the world, we believe the proposed realignment of the NOTU to Kings Bay, Georgia does not meet the criteria Secretary Rumsfeld published for this BRAC round, as represented in the community's analysis and assessment. With that said, I am pleased to voice the strong support of this community for the Naval Ordnance Test Unit (NOTU) operating at Cape Canaveral Air Station, Florida.

This important Navy mission and the skilled, highly educated contractor pool supporting it represents a national treasure drawing on the synergy of the 45th Space Wing and NASA to insure highest technical support for this critical test mission.

In addition, the people of this community highly value the Navy presence along with the space and missile personnel of NASA and the United States Air Force – jointness in daily practice. They and their families are an integral part of this community.

I urge you to carefully consider the community assessment of this proposed realignment to ensure the best interest of our military and true cost savings to the taxpayers of this nation are served in the context of 'Keeping America Strong!'

We truly value NOTU's contributions to national defense and to our local community!

Sincerely,

Rocky Randels
Mayor

cc:
James H. Bilbray
Phillip Coyle
Admiral Harold W. Gehman, Jr.
James V. Hansen
General James T. Hill
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Samuel K. Skinner
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June 27, 2005

Honorable Anthony Principi
Chairman
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mr. Principi:

On behalf of the City of Cocoa Beach, allow me to offer my sincerest thanks to you for offering your service to our Nation's defense needs as a member of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC).

We whole-heartedly support your efforts as you continue securing a solution that will ensure a structure to meet our military's future needs as well as one that will guarantee our current military force is supported in a manner it deserves. To that end, I would like to assert my support of this community for the Naval Ordnance Test Unit (NOTU) operating at Cape Canaveral Air Station, Florida.

Though we understand the need for periodic restructuring of the military, it is this community's contention that the proposed realignment of the NOTU to Kings Bay, Georgia does not meet the criteria Secretary Rumsfeld outlined for this BRAC round, as represented in our community's analysis and assessment.

Additionally, the State of Florida has moved aggressively during the past several years to make our state more "military friendly" to not only the warfighter, but to their families as well. We have passed an enormous about of legislation to directly address the concerns of our military men and women and have enhanced our culture to support them. We are proud that Florida continues to provide our nation the necessary environment to build a strong, well-trained force with a quality of life second to none.

As our friends and neighbors and as critical elements within the defense of our country, the citizens of Cocoa Beach are honored to have the men and women of NOTU a part of our community!

I respectfully request you reconsider the decision to relocate NOTU taking into account the community assessment of this proposed realignment. In doing so, you will make certain our military's best interests are taken to heart and ensure fiscal responsibility.

Sincerely,

Skip Beeler
Mayor

cc:
James H. Bilbray
Phillip Coyle
Admiral Harold W. Gehman, Jr.
James V. Hansen
General James T. Hill
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DCN 7343

CITY OF SATELLITE BEACH, FLORIDA

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INCORPORATED 1957

June 27, 2005

Honorable Anthony Principi
Chairman
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mr. Principi:

May I offer my sincere thanks on behalf of the City of Satellite Beach for your dedication to this most difficult call to the service of our Nation's defense as a member of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC).

We commend your resolve to determine the very best possible solutions to the structuring of our military and to ensuring our military's men and women are afforded the best opportunities and support. For that reason, we declare our support of this community for the Naval Ordnance Test Unit (NOTU) operating at Cape Canaveral Air Station, Florida.

Although we support strategic actions taken by the Department of Defense aimed at ensuring the stability and future successes of our military, we believe the proposed realignment of the NOTU, presently located in Cape Canaveral, to Kings Bay, Georgia does not meet the criteria specified by Secretary Rumsfeld, as represented in the community's analysis and assessment. Community assets include:

- **Workforce**: The highly critical Navy missions taking place at NOTU require a highly skilled workforce. As the nation's leading spaceport, we have a community of educated contractors to support the Navy's operations. Moving NOTU to Kings Bay would result in the loss of a large degree of intellectual capital, which is not easily replaced.
- **Synergy**: There is a strong connection between this installation and the 45th Space Wing and with NASA ensuring the highest technical support possible for critical test missions. This synergy will be eroded if a move occurs.
- **Support**: The State of Florida has historically chosen to aggressively support initiatives aimed at making life for military personnel and their families enjoyable. These initiatives include legislation focused on the concerns of military men and women.

I respectfully request you reconsider the decision to relocate NOTU taking into account the community assessment of this proposed realignment. In doing so, you will make certain our military's best interests are taken to heart and ensure fiscal responsibility.

The efforts of those involved with NOTU are regarded very highly in our community!

Sincerely,

Mark A. Brimer
Mayor

cc:

James H. Bilbray
Admiral Harold W. Gehman, Jr.
General James T. Hill
Samuel K. Skinner
Phillip Coyle
James V. Hansen
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