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Parkview Adventist Medical Center
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Brunswick, ME 04011

Anthony J. Principi
BRAC Commission
Polk Building
Suites 600 and 625
2521 South Clark Street
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir:

We write to encourage you to remove Brunswick Naval Station from the current BRAC Commission List for realignment. We feel that this base is very important to the Northeast and the country for defense and safety and it is certainly important to the area economy. Closing the Loring facility would devastate the poorest county in Maine. And why close Portsmouth when they make a great submarine for less than its competitor?

It is unfair to realign Brunswick NAS, close the Loring facility and the Portsmouth facility to the state of Maine and the whole of the Northeast. Why such a heavy hit to Maine, to New England? That leaves only Bath Iron Works as a workplace in Maine still connected to military work and defense, and we can see the handwriting on the wall for this too. Much of their work has been canceled or postponed because the government has no money. The thrid shift was completely closed 2 weeks ago-another 60 lost jobs.

The NASB is a strategic site to routes for ships and aircraft coming from Europe and the Mediterranean and Middle East. It is the preferred re-fueling site for aircraft crossing the Atlantic. Brunswick was a key base following the World Trade building tragedy. NASB is the only airfield in the region that provides a completely secured perimeter for military operations.

Maine people have long been a hard working people. For a state that is primarily service oriented, with little or no industry, keeping these jobs is critical to our economy. NASB alone contributed over \$243 million to the regional economy in the fiscal year 2004.

Our country is broke. The military does need to start consolidating. We know this. But let's be fair about it. Don't punish the Northeast. Keep the Maine and the Northeast as an active defense area.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Anne Richards

Anne Richards

Sandra Shea

Tary Wallace

Valerie Caron