

From  
Gloria Welch  
52 Pinehurst Drive  
Plymouth , Ma 02360

July 29 , 2005

BRAC Commission

To  
All B.R.A.C. Commissioners : Anthony J. Principi , James H. Bilbray , Philip Coyle ,  
Adm. Harold W. Geisman , Jr. , James V. Hansen , Gen. James T. Hill , Gen. Lloyd W.  
Newton , Samuel K. Skinner and Brig. Gen. Sue E. Turner

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Received

This letter is a plea for you to save Otis Air National Guard Base . Please urge the Pentagon to reverse its plan to close this vital base and split up the 102<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing .

The 102<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing is responsible for patrolling the skies of the northeast for homeland defense and it is the closest 24 hour alert unit to intercept air traffic entering the U.S.A. and has been activated on a regular basis . It was among the first on the scene on 9/11 . It is one of our nation's most important air defense installations , especially while we are at war .It is on Cape Cod which juts out into the Atlantic Ocean and provides almost immediate and unencumbered access for fighter jets .

We , also , have nuclear energy plants here in the northeast that most certainly can be targeted .

Otis , also , has a direct and indirect and induced economic impact of \$82.3 Million in Massachusetts , most specifically on the Cape and south coastlines .

Otis ANG Base operates the base airport and provides its many services ; it supports the Coast Guard's Air Station Cape Cod , Coast Guard fisheries training , center and marine safety and new port security personnel ; and Camp Edwards , to name a few .

If Otis closes , then all military , homeland defense and public safety operations including the Coast Guard are at risk .

Otis , also provides numerous vital services , if itemized here , would increase my letter considerably , so I'm not writing them all down .

The point I'd like to make is that this is certainly not the time to close any of our nation's bases , and especially not one that would increase our vulnerability so greatly . So , again I urge all of you Commissioners to SAVE OTIS .

Yours truly ,  
Gloria Welch