

BARNSTABLE COUNTY

In the Year Two Thousand and Five

Resolution 05-04

To strongly urge the Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) to reconsider its recommendation to close the Otis Air National Guard Base 102nd Fighter Wing.

WHEREAS, The security that the 102nd Fighter Wing provides at Otis Air National Guard Base is invaluable to the Northeast because of its easternmost location;

WHEREAS, Since September 11, 2001, the unit has been called upon frequently to provide air support to safeguard potential threats, and Otis' alert aircraft can launch and be available in minutes at whatever incident is occurring;

WHEREAS, According to the Defense Department, twelve (12) of the jets at Otis would be sent to a fighter wing in New Jersey, which would result in a fighter jet taking too long to respond to an incident in the Northeast;

WHEREAS, The 102nd Fighter Wing at Otis ANGB has consistently scored "Outstanding" on Operational Readiness Inspections conducted by the Air Force;

WHEREAS, The Otis Air National Guard Base is an integral part of the Massachusetts Military Reservation;

WHEREAS, If the Otis Air National Guard Base is closed, it places the Coast Guard's Air Station Cape Cod in serious jeopardy. The Coast Guard's Air Station Cape Cod shares an airstrip with the Air National Guard, and patrols the waters from the Canadian border to New Jersey, flying search-and-rescue and homeland security missions;

WHEREAS, The Otis Air National Guard Base and the Massachusetts Military Reservation is a model of community involvement and environmental protection and clean-up that should be sustained and emulated across the country; and

WHEREAS, The economic impact to the region if the base were to close would be significant, and could mean the loss of more than 500 jobs.

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates:

Strongly urges the Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) to reconsider its recommendation to close the Otis Air National Guard Base 102nd Fighter Wing.

The Assembly of Delegates supports the efforts of the Otis Coalition, which consists of Upper Cape businesses and civic leaders, working diligently to defend the Otis Air National Guard Base as an integral part of our nation's Homeland Security.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates at a regular meeting held on June 15, 2005.

Attested by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas P. Bernardo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and "B".

Thomas P. Bernardo
Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates