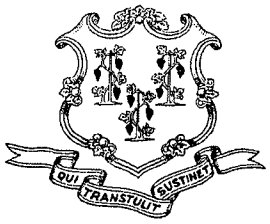
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

UNITED STATES CONGRESS



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July 21, 2005

2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC)
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi and BRAC Commissioners:

First, let us thank you for the opportunity to appear before you in Boston to discuss the Base Realignment and Closing recommendations affecting Connecticut. We hope you found the presentation to be helpful, and look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff as the commission moves forward with its duties.

We write today to express strong support for the arguments presented by Connecticut's acting Adjutant General, Brigadier General Thaddeus Martin, regarding the recommendation to realign the Bradley Air National Guard Base. The Pentagon's proposal to strip the 103rd Fighter Wing of their A-10 Warthogs was based on incomplete data and faulty assumptions, given that:

- DOD gave Bradley credit for only one quarter of the ramp space actually available at the facility and ignored the tangible benefits gained by the relationship between the Flying Yankees and the modern international airport they call home;

- DOD misjudged the feasibility, cost and impact of moving qualified A-10 pilots and personnel from one state to another;

- Despite having had the lowest operating cost for any A-10 base, Bradley was ranked lower in military value than other bases that would need millions of dollars of construction to meet Bradley's capabilities;

- This recommendation would leave Connecticut in the unique – and unfortunate – position of being the only state without a dedicated Air Force flying presence of any kind; and,

- DOD failed to meet apparent legal obligations by not seeking or gaining the approval of Connecticut's governor, and defied common sense by not conducting an inclusive process that involved major stakeholders in the debate on the future of the Air Force and the Air National Guard.

Given the potential impact of this recommendation, Bradley Air National Guard Base deserves consideration based on accurate data. If considered using the corrected data given to the commission, Bradley's ranking among A-10 units increases significantly and makes it one of the best in the nation. As you continue with your deliberations, we are confident that you will recognize the full military value and potential of the base and keep the A-10s based at Bradley.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to our nation as part of the Commission.

Sincerely,

M. Jodi Rell
Governor

Christopher J. Dodd
United States Senator

Joseph Lieberman
United States Senator

Nancy L. Johnson
Member of Congress

Christopher Shays
Member of Congress

Rosa DeLauro
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