



DCN 9027
Executive Correspondence



Edward M. Kennedy

U.S. Senator for Massachusetts
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Fax Cover Sheet

DATE: 9/2/05 TIME: 11:30 AM

TO: Chairman Principi

FAX: 703 699 2735

FROM: M. Vicki Esyong PHONE: 202.224.4543

FAX: 202.224.2417

RE: _____

CC: _____

Number of pages including cover sheet: _____

Message

DCN 9027
Executive Correspondence

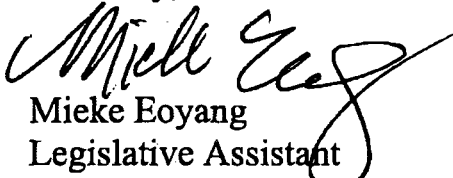
September 2, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi, Chairman
Base Closure and Realignment Commission

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The attached letter is an update of the letter sent and dated yesterday, September 1, 2005. The previous version was sent in error. Please use the attached version of the letter in its place.

Sincerely,



Mieke Eoyang
Legislative Assistant
Office of Senator Edward M. Kennedy

DCN 9027
Executive Form 1000
Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 1, 2005

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As you conclude final drafting of language to implement the restructuring of the Air National Guard, we urge you to ensure that the end strength of the Massachusetts Air National Guard (MAANG) be maintained at its current level, in accord with the anticipated needs of the Massachusetts Air National Guard and any new mission that may be assigned. Keeping the critical mass of manpower in the MAANG is necessary for maintaining safety and security in the Commonwealth.

We believe that in voting to close Otis Air National Guard Base (ANGB), moving the F-15 fighter mission to Barnes Air National Guard Base in Westfield, and moving the A-10 mission out of Massachusetts, the Commission made serious errors in judgment that will cost the nation scarce military capability and millions of taxpayer dollars. We do not believe these actions enhance military value. We also believe that they violate the law, as they were done without the consent of Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, Commander-in-Chief of the MAANG.

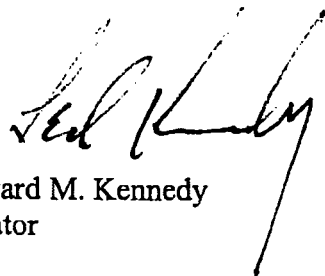
At this point it is important that the Commission not compound these errors by removing Massachusetts Air National Guard personnel from the Commonwealth. Our dedicated men and women have served the Guard well. They are needed to carry out missions the Governor has set to defend and secure the Commonwealth. On the federal level, Defense Department witnesses during the BRAC process testified that future total force missions will be assigned to the Air Guard. Our Massachusetts Guardsmen have the knowledge, skill, and commitment to assume these missions.

Furthermore, we request that the commission direct the Department of Defense to negotiate equitable support agreements among the several federal and state tenants and users of the Massachusetts Military Reservation (MMR), the site of Otis Air National Guard Base. Specifically, the National Guard Bureau should maintain its funding for the base operating support costs at the MMR for at least the next two fiscal years. During this time, MMR tenants would be able to renegotiate agreements to equitably share base operating costs.

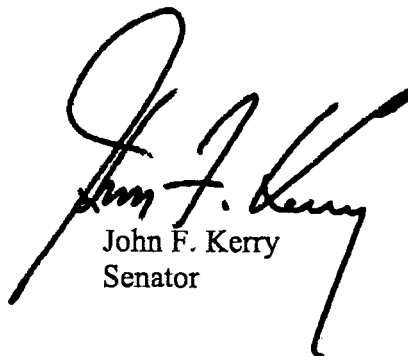
DCN 9027
Executive Correspondence

We ask you to give these requests careful consideration, as leaving our Guardsmen in Massachusetts serves the nation and the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,



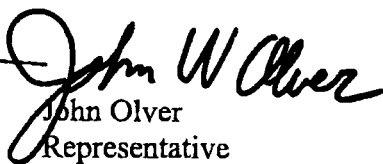
Edward M. Kennedy
Senator



John F. Kerry
Senator



Richard Neal
Representative



John Olver
Representative



William Delahunt
Representative

DCN 9027
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Edward M. Kennedy

U.S. Senator for Massachusetts
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Fax Cover Sheet

DATE: _____

TIME: _____

TO: Chairman Principi

FAX: _____

FROM: Mike Eyang

PHONE: 202.224.4543

FAX: 202.224.2417

RE: _____

CC: _____

Number of pages including cover sheet: _____

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DCN 9027
Executive Order
Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 1, 2005

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2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

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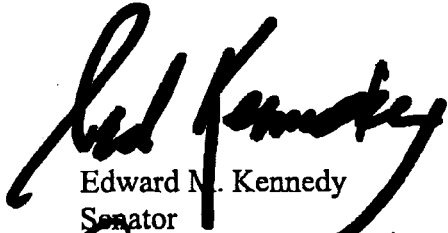
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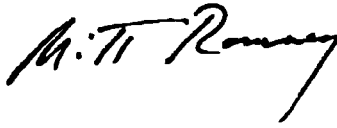
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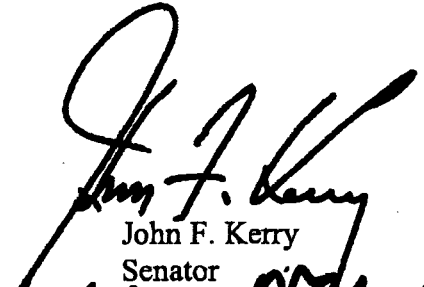
Sincerely,



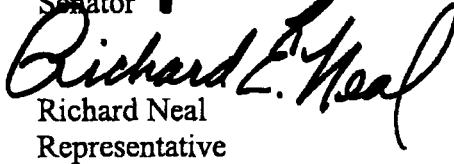
Edward M. Kennedy
Senator



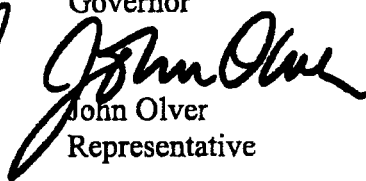
Mitt Romney
Governor



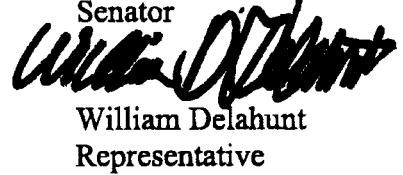
John F. Kerry
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