

IT'S NOT TOO LATE

BASING DECISIONS CAN BE CHANGED

Facts:

- Military missions and aircraft basing often change.
- Aircraft basing can be (and have been) cancelled or changed at any time — even after the official basing decision has been made and the Record of Decision (ROD) signed.
- Basing can be (and has been) changed even after the aircraft arrive at their locations.
 - This has occurred at Active Duty and Air Guard locations in other states.
- Senators, citizens, and lawsuits have caused the military to change basing decisions.
 - **A single U.S. Senator* has stopped military basing decisions; e.g., Alaska, 2012.**
 - **Lawsuits have changed military basing decisions; e.g., Virginia, 2007 and Florida, 2010, 2014.**
 - **Citizen activism has changed basing decisions; e.g., Virginia, 2007 and North Carolina, 2008.**
 - A quick online search found evidence that the Air Force and Navy changed basing decisions (sometimes multiple times) as a result of citizen opposition at Eglin AFB, FL, Oceana NAS, VA, Eielson AFB, Alaska, and Washington County, NC. Some of these citizen efforts led to lawsuits, others did not. Some led to Senatorial involvement. There are more examples.

Documentation supporting the facts:

1. Eglin AFB, FL F-35A basing decision was changed after a lawsuit was filed.
 - F-35 flying operations were significantly reduced
 - F-35 runway use was changed
 - Some F-35s were re-assigned
 - *“Valparaiso settle suit with F-35 noise concerns”* Meaghan O’Halloran, WJGH.com Mar 2, 2010
 - *“Air Force to impose limits on F-35 training flights at Eglin”*. Dan Cohen, defensecommunities.org, July 9, 2014
 - *Addendum to the 26 June 2014 Record of Decision, for the Final Supplemental EIS ROD F-35 Beddown at Eglin AFB, FL, 23 April 2015*
 - *“Up in the air: F-35 training program remains strong despite reduction in aircraft, students”* Kelly Humphrey, NWFDailynews.com, April 23, 2016

2. Oceana Naval Air Station, VA Navy plans to base the F-35 were cancelled when citizen opposition groups took action.

- *“F-35C not likely to be based at NAS Oceana, The Virginian, Dianna Cahn, 19 Nov 2013”*

3. Oceana Naval Air Station, VA F-18 flight operations were changed after homeowners objected.

- F-18 flights were reduced significantly
 - *“Jet noise can make you rich” Defense Tech, 16 May 2007*

4. Washington County, NC Navy plans to build an outlying landing field were cancelled after opposition from residents.

- *“Environmental Law Center to file suit challenging Navy’s OLF plan” wrap.com, Jan 9, 2004*
- *Hundreds drawn to celebrate ruling on OLF” The Virginian Pilot, Kate Wiltrout, Mar 30, 2008*
- *“Notice of Intent to Terminate the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement” Federal Register, Vol 73, No 69, Wednesday, April 9, 2008*

5. Air Force plans to move F-16s from Eielson AFB to Joint Base Elmendorf in June 2013 were stopped when Senator Mark Begich (D-AK) objected.

- *“F-16 transfer debate highlights flaws in Senate’s decision-making” Robert F. Dorr, Air Force Times, July 9, 2012, page 5*
- *Press Release, U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski, Alaska, March 1, 2013*

*Under Senate rules, one senator can block actions by the entire deliberative body. Senators use this to pressure the military to stop basing actions. Most often, Senators block approval of senior officer promotions until the military acquiesces to their demands.

- *“F-16 transfer debate highlights flaws in Senate’s decision-making” Robert F. Dorr, Air Force Times, July 9, 2012, page 5*

Rosanne Greco
6 February 2018