



City of Waldport

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October 23, 2014

via email to p.hawker@newportoregon.gov

R.T. Gromlich, Rear Admiral
U.S. Coast Guard
Commander, Thirteenth Coast Guard District
915 Second Avenue, Room 3590
Seattle, WA 98174

Subject: Air Facility, Newport OR

Dear Admiral Gromlich;

I am writing this letter during the open response period after the meeting in Newport held on October 20, 2014, and am forwarding it to the City of Newport for submittal to the Coast Guard. Even though I am writing this in my role as City Manager, I would extend the same comments as a citizen.

Although redundant, I would be remiss if I did not commend the Coast Guard on its efforts in protecting our coastlines, and in serving our communities. With regard to the closing of the Newport facility, many have spoken or written about the potential impacts to life and safety, but to my knowledge nobody has dug deeper into the budget question, which is crucial in ongoing discussions with respect to options for this station. I keep seeing the number \$6 million being bandied about as the annual cost savings. I read this same number in an on-line article regarding the closure of the facility in Charleston, SC, which gives the impression that the combined savings is \$12 million.

However, after reviewing the budget document, the combined savings for both facilities is \$5.081 million (page CG-OE-42, attached). Of this amount, 40 percent of the reduction is in staffing and 47 percent is helicopter maintenance. Staff is therefore being eliminated or reassigned, as are four HH-65 helicopters. I think that it is important to know how much money is projected to be saved and how much resources are being eliminated or reallocated for each facility that is being closed.

I appreciate your time and consideration. Thank you.

Respectfully yours,

Kerry Kemp
City Manager

Enclosure: Budget Excerpt

Air Facilities Charleston, SC and Newport, OR.....(\$5,081)

PPA Breakdown - Air Facilities Charleston, SC and Newport, OR		Total (\$000)
PPA I: Military Personnel (-55 FTP, -28 FTE)		
Military Pay and Allowances		(2,040)
Military Health Care		(272)
Permanent Change of Station		294
PPA III: Training and Recruiting		
Training and Education		(192)
Recruiting and Training Centers		(35)
PPA IV: Operating Funds and Unit Level Maintenance		
7th District		104
13th District		105
Headquarters Directorates		(593)
Other Activities		(6)
PPA V: Centrally Managed Accounts		
Central Accounts		(66)
PPA VI: Depot Level Maintenance		
Aircraft Maintenance		(2,380)
		(5,081)

Coast Guard will consolidate Air Facilities (AIRFACs) by closing seasonal AIRFACs at Charleston, SC, and Newport, OR, and removing their four HH-65 helicopters from service. The operational activities at these AIRFACs will be reintegrated into each of their parent units, Air Station Savannah, GA, and Air Station North Bend. Search and Rescue response times within the AIRFAC Areas of Responsibility (AORs) will remain within minimum national standards when executed from the parent Air Stations.