



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND  
200 STOVALL STREET  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22332

IN REPLY REFER TO

17 MAR 1980

The Honorable Richard Thornburgh  
Governor  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Governor Thornburgh:

By letter dated October 29, 1943 the Navy Department accepted on behalf of the United States exclusive legislative jurisdiction, as ceded by Act No. 251 of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania approved May 21, 1943, and now exercises the jurisdiction so ceded over 576.7 acres of land, more or less, comprising a portion of the Naval Air Station, Willow Grove, Pennsylvania. Those lands are described by metes and bounds in the Act and depicted in red on Naval Air Station, Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, General Development Map (NAVFAC Dwg. 1308562) attached. The 320 acres, more or less, comprising the balance of the Naval Air Station, have always been held in proprietorial status.

Under the jurisdiction ceded by Act No. 251, the United States Attorney's office has sole authority to prosecute offenses committed by civilians on these lands. Since that office has routinely declined to prosecute lesser offenses due to an overload of those more serious, the commanding officer of the air station has no means to prosecute civilian offenses, other than major. Consequently, there is a serious need to adjust the legislative jurisdiction status to proprietary over the entire installation so as to permit proper and uniform law enforcement. The proposed adjustment in jurisdiction is supported by the Chief of Police, the Township Manager and the Horsham Township Council as indicated by the attached letter.

Section 2683 of Title 10, United States Code authorizes the Secretary of the Navy to relinquish to a State or Commonwealth all or part of the legislative jurisdiction over lands under his control in that State or Commonwealth. Accordingly, on behalf of the United States, and in accordance with the authority given to me by the Secretary of the Navy, I hereby relinquish to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania the legislative jurisdiction which was ceded by the aforesaid Act No. 251 of May 21, 1943.

I would appreciate your acknowledging receipt of this letter and also your advice as to whether the retrocession set forth herein is effective upon your acknowledgment or whether the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania prescribe some further action. If the latter applies, I would appreciate the name and telephone number of your project officer to be contacted.

Sincerely,

F. S. STERNS  
Deputy Assistant Commander  
for Real Estate

Enclosure

Blind copy to:  
ASN(MRA&L)  
CNO (OP-09R)  
CNO (OP-44)  
CNAVRES  
COMFOUR  
NORTHNAVFACENCOM  
NAS Willow Grove