

## Fighter Jets to Stay in Portland

(AP) - A federal commission Friday blocked a Pentagon plan that would have transferred 15 F-15 fighter jets patrolling the Northwest's skies from an Oregon Air National Guard base at Portland International Airport.

Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski and the state's congressional delegation welcomed the commission's vote against sending the 142nd Fighter Wing's 15 F-15 jets to Air Force bases in New Jersey and Louisiana.

"Had the commission accepted the proposal to relocate this premier air defense unit from the Portland Air National Guard Base, Oregon - and our nation's - homeland security would have been compromised," Kulongoski said in an e-mailed statement.

"This is a big victory for Oregon, a big victory for the Pacific Northwest and a big victory for the security of the entire nation," said Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore. "The (base-closure) commission clearly took to heart the testimony of Oregonians and defense experts, and agreed that it would be inexcusable to leave our region a security sacrifice zone."

Sen. Gordon Smith, R-Ore., said the decision by the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission "will help keep Oregonians safe and fulfill our commitment to national security. Our community and local military leadership made an ironclad case to the commission, and this is proof that Oregon's security trumps government streamlining."

Under the Pentagon plan, two jets from an undetermined base would have been sent to Portland to be on alert status, but the nearest permanent fighter base would be in Fresno, Calif. - 750 miles away, Air Guard officials say.

Kulongoski had threatened to sue to prevent the loss of the 15 fighter jets.

The Portland base would have lost 452 civilian and 112 military employees under the plan. Another 1,200 part-time Guard airmen and reservists who train at the Portland base would have reported to other units.

But the region's main argument against transferring the jets was that it could endanger the region's security, Smith has said the plan would have left just a couple of planes to defend "a target-rich environment" that includes numerous dams along the Columbia and Snake Rivers, the Umatilla Chemical Weapons Depot in Oregon and the Hanford nuclear site in Washington.



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Curtis Kimbrough, left, and Larry Jury speak with youth participating in the Dream Team Basketball Basic Skills Day Camp, held at the Portland Community College Cascade Campus last week.

## Basketball Camp Aims High

Youth wanting to improve their aim, learn about teamwork and have fun attended the Dream Team Basketball Basic Skills Day Camp last week at Portland Community College Cascade Campus.

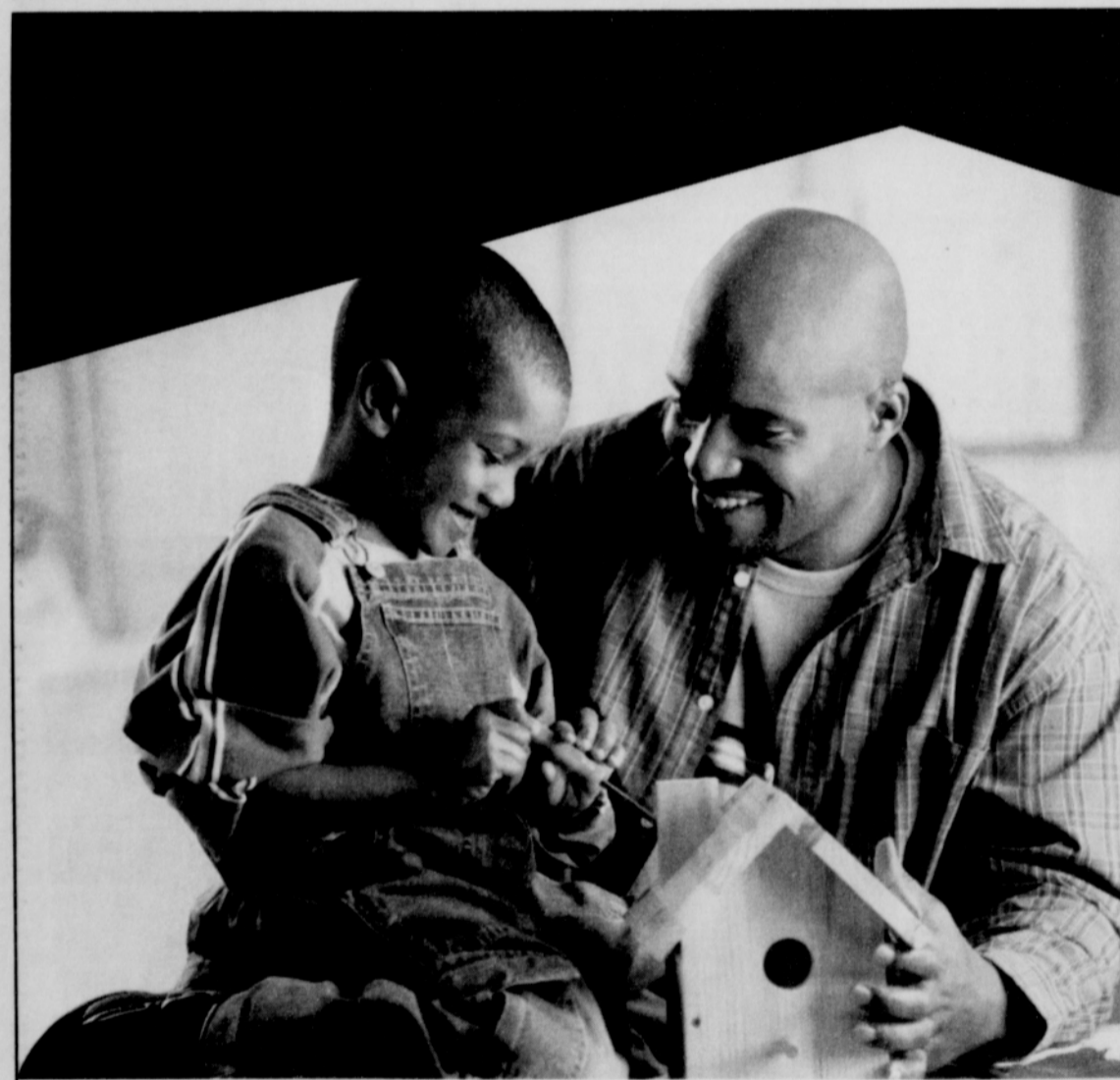
The day camp has been hosted at various courts in the Portland-metro area since 2002, when coaches Larry Jury and Curtis Kimbrough founded the program. Over the last three years, the camp has grown

from eight children to more than 150 participants.

Through a non-competitive atmosphere, youth ages 6 to 18 are taught the fundamentals basketball, stressing the importance of teamwork, respect

and discipline on and off the court. There will be four more camps held at other area locations until late December.

For more information, visit [www.dreamteamcamp.com](http://www.dreamteamcamp.com).



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## Diane Linn PUSHES BACK

continued ▲ from Front

With the repeal of the county's temporary three-year income tax, which provided an estimated \$128 million to county school districts and programs providing mental health, disabled and senior services, Linn said dealing with this lack of funding will be difficult, but not impossible.

"It'll take a lot of creativity, a lot of tough choices, a lot of using up reserves," Linn said.

One way to keep local children afloat, she said, is through the SUN (Schools Uniting Neighborhoods) program, which has been reaching out to more and more area schools over the last year.

SUN encourages after-school academic and recreational programs, social services and parental involvement to keep children on the right track between 3 to 6 p.m., which are considered the most vulnerable hours of a

*I'm worried about my hometown. We're disinvesting in our education. We're making it harder to buy homes and making it harder for the middle class.*

—Diane Linn, Chair of the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners

youth's day, with many parents away at work.

"How is a kid supposed to make the right choice when they're out and about?" Linn asked. She noted that it's often hard for youth to go against the negative pressures they experience from peers and home life.

Linn noted that while data is

still coming in regarding the success of SUN, which affects more than 10,000 local kids, test scores are improving, parental involvement is higher, and school staff "finally feel like there's someone there to help them."

Linn hopes her work will make the people of Multnomah County feel the same way.

## Killingsworth Chapel Closes

continued ▲ from Front

ity," said Hinton.

All prearrangements made at the Killingsworth establishment have been transferred to Ross Hollywood

and Killingsworth St. Johns Lombard Little Chapel of The Chimes.

The Killingsworth structure is currently for sale, however Hinton assures it is being maintained on a daily basis.

"While there are no funerals or arrangements being performed there, the crematory is running there is still

staff on the premises and the yard and property will be maintained until a sale is made," Hinton said.

The property will not be sold to another funeral home as the chapel will only execute a sale with a non-compete clause. Currently there are a number of perspective buyers interested in the property, most of them churches, according to Hinton.

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