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COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

FRANCIS J. SULLIVAN, STAFF DIRECTOR

September 22, 1977

Vice Admiral James D. Watkins
Chief of Naval Personnel
Department of the Navy
Washington, D.C. 20370

Dear *Jim* Admiral Watkins:

Having just reviewed information provided to the Armed Services Committee staff concerning the Navy music program, I am deeply concerned with the future of the Navy Band now assigned to the Naval Air Station at Corpus Christi, Texas.

I fully understand the need for certain adjustments in order to accommodate the ten percent reduction required by the DOD Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 1978. Nonetheless, I am at the same time mindful of the language reflected in the Appropriations Committees' Conference Report which directs "an equitable geographic distribution of bands consistent with base locations." The Navy Band at Corpus Christi is utilized by the three Navy installations in South Texas. The loss of this organization will virtually eliminate the availability of a Navy Band to perform in support of Navy activities and recruiting programs in my state.

Any consideration you can give to alternative adjustments to the Navy music program in order to retain a band of at least some size at Corpus Christi will be deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

John
John Tower