May 18, 2005

The Honorable Anthony Principi  
Chairman  
Base Realignment and Closure Commission  
2521 S. Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

Thank you for your hard work and dedication and for that of the members of the commission and your staff, as you undertake the important process of reviewing our nation's military resources in formulating a BRAC recommendation that will ensure the strengthening of our national security. Now that Secretary Rumsfeld and the Department of Defense have issued their recommendations, pursuant to the BRAC process, I am seeking confirmation of the BRAC commission's application of the BRAC review criteria.

Attached is an October 8, 2004 correspondence from Raymond F. DuBois, Deputy-Under Secretary of Defense, to Congressman Duncan Hunter, Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, confirming DOD's policy towards community proposals to invest future resources to improve or expand base infrastructure for consideration within the BRAC process. Secretary DuBois confirmed that such proposals do not constitute certified data upon which DOD will rely.

From a policy perspective, it is important that communities hosting military facilities have confidence that the BRAC commission will not consider offers of monetary, or land or facility enhancements in making its final recommendations. Absent such assurances, communities may needlessly spend countless hours garnering resources in anticipation of a specious opportunity to impact the BRAC process.

Again, thank you for your service and I appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

[Signatures]

Rep. Terry Everett  
Member of Congress

Rep. Michael R. Turner  
Member of Congress

Rep. Mike Rogers  
Member of Congress
The Honorable Duncan Hunter  
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services 
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515 

Dear Mr. Chairman: 

This is in response to your request for consideration of proposals to invest future resources to improve or expand base infrastructure and their consideration within the BRAC process. 

While the Department welcomes any actions that improve military-community relationships and the quality of life for our nation's armed forces, it will not include such proposed considerations within the BRAC process. The statute authorizing the BRAC process requires that the Department review all military installations equally-based on approved, published selection criteria and a force structure plan. The statute also requires that military value be the primary consideration in making recommendations for the closure or realignment of military installations using certified data. Proposals from the public do not constitute certified data that our analysis relies upon. 

I trust you find this information helpful.  

Sincerely,  

Raymond F. DuBois  
Deputy Under Secretary of Defense  
(Installations and Environment) 

cc: The Honorable Ike Skelton  
Ranking Member