

Governor Vilsack talking points before BRAC Commission  
Regional Hearing  
20 June 2005

- Thank the Commissioners and staff for their time today and for answering the call for service to the Nation, especially after they have already given so many years to military and public service. As an active member of the National Governors Association, you know the importance of their BRAC deliberations to Iowa as well as to the governors of all states.
- The Rock Island Arsenal workers are the best. There are approximately 3200 Iowans working at the Arsenal. The two states have worked hard to cooperate in a manner to best support these great workers as well as our National defense. Examples of such bi-state cooperation are:
  - The Iowa/Illinois cities and counties all work together and make up the Quad Cities Development Group and the Rock Island Arsenal Task Force that ensures that the communities fulfill their responsibilities to the Rock Island Arsenal and its employees.
  - There are very few issues that will unite a bi-partisan, bi-state congressional delegation; Rock Island Arsenal is probably the best example of 4 Senators and 3 House Members (Evans, Hastert and Nussle) working together for the good of the Arsenal and military.
  - The Iowa/Illinois Congressional delegation have worked together to approve construction of the new Child Development Center and to develop and fund programs such as the Arsenal Support Program Initiative that encourages private sector employers to locate offices/work sites on the Arsenal, thereby lowering the overhead rates.
- Thank the Commissioners for allowing the opportunity to briefly tout the creativity and effectiveness of the Iowa workers, and the efficiency of the partnership with our Illinois neighbors.