The Honorable Anthony J. Principi  
Chairman  
2005 Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission  
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, Va. 22202

Dear Commissioners:

Mr. Chairman, my name is Marilou Smith and I am the Mayor of Kettering, Ohio. Kettering is the home of Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) Dayton. The 2005 Department of Defense’s BRAC Recommendations has proposed the closure of DFAS Dayton. I would like to request that a commission member make a site visit to the DFAS Dayton location.

According to figures provided by the Department of Defense, there are 230 direct and 195 indirect jobs that will be lost if DFAS Dayton closes. The closure would represent a significant loss of tax revenue to the City of Kettering as well as loss of jobs for Kettering citizens. Moreover, this loss to the City of Kettering comes on top of the closure of Kettering’s Gentile Air Force Station as a result of the decision by the 1993 Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission. That closure eliminated 2,500 employees in the City of Kettering with a total economic loss to the region of $1 billion. The combined two closures is a considerable concern to the citizens of Kettering.

I trust that you will find the following points worthy of further investigation via a site visit:

- The city of Kettering would suffer an annual earnings impact loss of $34 million.
- The 1993 loss of 2500 jobs coupled with the proposed loss of 425 jobs has a crippling effect on the Kettering economy.
- Government Agencies have invested over $40 million in the redevelopment of Gentile Air Force Station into the Kettering Business Park. DFAS Dayton is located within the Park.
- DFAS Dayton operating review standards identify DFAS Dayton as one of the most efficient DFAS operations.
- DFAS Dayton has a very strong military value ranking (10) and is strategically located within 20 minutes of Wright Patterson Air Force Base.
DFAS Dayton's current location offers expansion capacity within its facility and adjacent facilities.

While the number of direct job losses is under the apparent threshold of 300 established by the BRAC commission to qualify for a commissioner visit, Kettering hopes to join St. Louis, Missouri, Rome, New York and Limestone, Maine in receiving a commissioner visit to their DFAS site even though the direct job losses are less than 300. We urge you to look favorably upon our request.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 937-296-2416, or our City Manager, Steve Husemann, at 937-296-2412.

Sincerely yours,

Marilou Smith
Mayor of Kettering, Ohio