



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

BRAC Commission

AUG 08 2005

Received

August 3, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
2005 Defense Base Closure
and Realignment Commission
Suite 600
2521 South Clark Street
Arlington, VA 22202-3920

Dear Chairman Principi:

The purpose of this letter is to express our enthusiastic support for the recommendations of the Secretary of Defense to the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission regarding relocation of aerospace medical and human-effectiveness organizations from Brooks City Base in San Antonio, Texas, and Holloman Air Force Base (AFB), near Alamogordo, New Mexico, to Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton, Ohio. The Ohio State University offers the research and educational resources necessary to help ensure the mission effectiveness of all the organizations proposed for realignment to Wright-Patterson AFB.

The Ohio State University is the largest, most comprehensive single-campus research university in the nation. Ohio State's research program (\$552 million in FY2005) ranks in the top ten of all public research universities in the country. With all of its academic units located in Columbus, Ohio, only an hour away from Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio State is very well positioned to support all of the Department of Defense (DoD) research and education programs proposed for relocation to Wright-Patterson AFB. In fact, Ohio State researchers and scholars already support and collaborate with many of the units at Wright-Patterson AFB, e.g., the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL), including the AFRL Human Effectiveness Directorate; the Air Force Regional Medical Center; the Air Force Institute of Technology; the Headquarters of the Air Force Materiel Command; the Aeronautical Systems Center; and the National Air and Space Intelligence Center.

Much of the ongoing and planned bio-medical research at the units recommended for relocation from Brooks City Base and Holloman AFB, as well as the related research already being accomplished at Wright-Patterson AFB, requires a multi-disciplinary approach. The Ohio State University offers the capability to readily bring together teams of world-class researchers from

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units such as our College of Medicine and Public Health; College of Biological Sciences; College of Veterinary Medicine; College of Mathematical and Physical Sciences; College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences; and College of Engineering to support this important DoD research and development work.

Our researchers are supported by some of the most advanced research facilities and equipment in the country. These include a research nuclear reactor, several Bio-Safety Level 3 laboratories, the Ohio Supercomputer Center, and extensive facilities to conduct research with both human and animal subjects.

Ohio State's considerable research capabilities in the bio-medical and human-effectiveness areas are amplified through collaboration with other research institutions in the region, including the University of Cincinnati, Wright State University, the University of Dayton and the Battelle Memorial Institute, which is located adjacent to Ohio State. Battelle is one of the nation's largest not-for-profit research organizations, with a long history of supporting DoD programs and requirements. In addition, Battelle manages or co-manages five of the Department of Energy's national laboratories. The Ohio State-Battelle team, supported by other universities in the region, offers unmatched research-support capability to the units proposed for realignment to Wright-Patterson AFB.

In 2002, The Ohio State University established a strategic goal to promote research and education related to national security. It recruited Major General Todd Stewart, Ph.D. (United States Air Force, Retired) to lead its university-wide Program for International and Homeland Security. General Stewart, an Air Force civil engineer, was personally involved with all four previous rounds of BRAC. In addition, he served as the Director of Plans and Programs for Air Force Materiel Command, the parent command for both the AFRL and Brooks City Base, and has extensive knowledge of all of the units involved in the proposed realignment. He was the principal architect of the initiative to convert Brooks AFB to Brooks City Base.

We believe that Ohio State and its partners can provide outstanding support to all of the units proposed for realignment to Wright-Patterson AFB. We strongly urge you to approve the Secretary of Defense's recommendations to realign these units to Wright-Patterson AFB.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Karen Holbrook". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karen" and last name "Holbrook" clearly distinguishable.

Karen A. Holbrook
President