600 Lakeland Crescent
Yorktown, VA 23693
August 11, 2005

2005 Defense Base Closure and
  Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Re: BRAC

Members of the BRAC Commission:

Headquarters' Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC), SDDC
Operations and the SDDC Transportation Engineering Agency are identified to move to
Scott AFB, IL, to be consolidated with USTRANSCOM. SDDC is responsible for all
ground transportation and transportation engineering for the Department of Defense and
is currently extremely visible in their efforts to transport personnel and equipment in
support of OEF/OIF. Ongoing plans had called for relocating the entire command to Ft
Eustis, VA, where it is strategically located to the east coast and many organizations that
it works with. SDDC has already been impacted by many personnel moves, including the
closing of both Bayonne Military Ocean Terminal (MOT) and Oakland MOT, and their
consolidation to northern Virginia at HQ's SDDC. Following that, the operations portion
of the command was relocated to Ft Eustis a number of years ago in a new building in
anticipation of the location of the entire command to Ft Eustis in later years.
Accordingly, the command has already been subjected to significant reorganization
impacts, not to mention reductions in force. Some personnel have already been moved at
least two times.

Anyone who has visited Scott AFB recognizes that it is not in a strategic location. Its
location, significantly east of St Louis, makes access/egress very inefficient and time
consuming. Being an administrative headquarters, USTRANSCOM personnel are
continually traveling to DC and other destinations. Just the one hour trip each way to the
airport in St Louis is a significant loss of work time and TDY costs on each trip. Over
time, the personnel strength of the administrative headquarters of USTRANSOM has
grown to some 1700 personnel, which approaches the strength of the three operating sub-
commands together.

The numbers that the DOD BRAC office determined in cost savings related to relocating
SDDC to Scott AFB are questionable. I believe that the Commission has questioned the
validity of other BRAC savings estimates at hearings that have been held across the
country. The numbers all seem to be underestimated in costs and inflated in potential
savings. Considering the realistic cost of constructing a new building for SDDC at Scott
AFB and relocation costs, not to mention future increased TDY and personnel time costs,
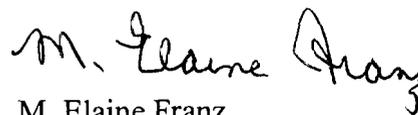
the purported savings are hardly worth the turmoil that once again, would be placed on this valuable and unique command. This is all in addition to the less desirable location.

In light of these issues, it appears more logical to retain SDDC at Ft Eustis, where it just built a new building. Considering the remoteness of Scott AFB, it would appear to be more reasonable to consider relocating USTRANSCOM to Ft Eustis or some other east coast base. Regardless, in this era of instantaneous communication capabilities, the turmoil with relocating SDDC to Scott AFB, particularly in time of war, when SDDC is intensely working the movement of all military equipment and goods in support of the war on terrorism, would not be prudent. It is estimated that about half of SDDC personnel would not relocate; and tremendous experience would be lost, virtually over-night.

Also, if the objective is to attain operational control of all TRANSCOM components at Scott AFB, why wasn't the Military Sealift Command (MSC) considered in the proposal? It appears that the Army is taking the brunt of the proposal.

Your consideration of these points during your final BRAC list deliberations would be appreciated and critical to the moral of SDDC personnel.

Sincerely,

M. Elaine Franz

CF: Senator John Warner
    Senator George Allen
    Congresswoman Jo Ann Davis