

AUG 26 2005

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing this letter to express my serious concerns with the Base Realignment And Closure (BRAC) recommendations that you are currently reviewing. It is recommended that the Crane Division of the Naval Surface Warfare Center have 672 jobs realigned to other activities.

Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane Division has a long history of supporting our nation's Warfighters dating back to the start of World War II in 1941. Crane has demonstrated the ability to evolve to meet the challenging and changing needs of the men and women that wear the uniform of the United States of America. Crane's employees are skilled and highly trained to provide the necessary support today and are engaged in preparing for the future Defense of our Country.

The commitment required to provide such support is in large part due to the sense of ownership Crane's employees feel about Crane and their pride in service and workmanship. Many of the employees are veterans who have supported their country through military service and have elected to return to work as civil servants or support contractors. Many employees possess technical degrees with vast knowledge and experience and have chosen to stay in the workplace past their retirement age due to their dedication to the country during this time of war and threat of terrorism. Crane's recognition as a leader in technical areas has allowed it to recruit new employees, providing the skills, knowledge, and abilities to support the current and the future warfighter.

As highlighted in the BRAC guidance, Military Value is an important criteria being used to determine where work should be performed. Many installations that are scheduled to receive work from realignments scored lower than Crane in Military Value. This concerns me, as it appears that the recommendations concerning Crane stray from the stated evaluation criteria.

Another important BRAC goal is to facilitate Joint operations. Crane is already Joint, with Crane Army Ammunition Activity and the Naval Surface Warfare Center. The two organizations work jointly on numerous tasks related to ordnance and pyrotechnics.

Other factors considered in the BRAC were environmental impact and economic impact to the local community. Crane has no environmental issues and is an exceptional neighbor. Crane is so critical to the economic health of the state that Indiana recently enacted P.L 5-2005, the Military Base Protection Act, protecting Crane from development that would adversely impact its critical missions and preventing future encroachment. The impact of Crane to the immediate surrounding area is even more acute with Crane accounting for over 30% of the direct wages in Martin County.

In summary, Crane truly exemplifies the BRAC criteria of Military Value - rapidly providing innovative, best value solutions to our nation's Warfighters. This high level of service has attracted the most demanding customers from across DoD, including USSOCOM, Navy Strategic Systems, as well as US Army and US Air Force Special Operations Commands. Crane's commitment to superior service and value has kept these customers coming back, allowing for the creation of a Joint, multi-functional set of capabilities that is unequalled in the Department of Defense (DoD).

I understand that during the hearings before your commission in St Louis that the State of Indiana presented alternatives to the current DoD recommendations. These alternatives, if accepted by

the Commission, would provide greater military value, greater return on investment and less risk as well as reducing the negative economic impact of losing nearly 700 positions. I hope that you will take these thoughts into consideration as you go about the difficult decisions on what will be best for the Department of Defense and this great Country. I most strongly support our fellow Hoosiers at Crane and their dedication to our Warfighter's mission and significant contribution to the Global War on Terror.

Thanks for your consideration, as well as for your service.

Sincerely, 