



**DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION**

2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600

Arlington, VA 22202

Telephone: 703-699-2950

October 13, 2005

Congressman Adam Smith  
227 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Smith:

Thank you for your letter of October 5, 2005 in which you seek clarification of Commission Recommendation 146 (Headquarters & Support Activities 41) Joint Basing. I will respond separately to Senators Cantwell and Murray and Representative Dicks.

The additional statement adopted by the Commission that related to Secretary of Defense's Recommendation 146 is as titled a "statement" and not an amendment to the recommendation. It was not proffered as, nor meant to be, an amendment. Rather, even though it sounds directive, it is akin to dictum in a court opinion -- declarative and hortative, but not directive or binding. Consequently, the statement is not included in the text of the recommendation. The Commission's amendment to Recommendation 146 altered only the language regarding the Naval Research Laboratory. It did not alter the language in the recommendation regarding Fort Lewis and McChord Air Force Base or any of the other listed installations. The Commission statement was, however, directed at "the entire Joint Basing recommendation."

The full text of Motion 146-3A, which amended Recommendation 146 and is contained on the Commission website ([www.brac.gov](http://www.brac.gov)), is set forth below. The operative part of the amendment is the first paragraph. The two paragraphs that follow are the "statement" reflecting the views of the Commission concerning implementation of the recommendation, as amended.

*I move:*

- that the Commission find that when the Secretary of Defense made Headquarters and Support Activities Joint Cross Service Group Recommendation 41, Joint Basing, he substantially deviated from Final Selection Criteria 1 and 4 and the Force Structure Plan;
- that the Commission strike the language "-Naval Research Laboratory (NRL)," where it appears in paragraph "d", Chapter V, Section 146 of the Bill, and;
- that the Commission find this change and the recommendation as amended are consistent with the Final Selection Criteria and Force Structure Plan.

Chairman: Anthony J. Principi

Commissioners: The Honorable James H. Billray, the Honorable Philip E. Coyle III, Admiral Harold W. Gehman Jr., USN (Ret), the Honorable Jim Hansen, General James T. Hill, USA (Ret), General Lloyd Newton, USAF (Ret), the Honorable Samuel K. Skinner, Brigadier General Sue Ellen Turner, USAF (Ret)

Executive Director: Charles Battaglia

*And, that further, the Commission makes the additional statement: "NRL is a Secretary of the Navy Working Capital Fund Activity. Real property and BOS functions integral to the research and industrial functions at NRL will remain with the Commanding Officer. Because*

*of Navy's centralization of installation management functions, Naval District Washington provides non-mission related services to NRL already, such as Morale, Welfare, and Recreation and food services. This is not intended to alter that relationship."*

*And further, as pertains to the entire Joint Basing recommendation, the Commission states that, "Manpower savings shall not be directed, as they are in the DoD proposal, but must be derived from standard manpower and functional analysis studies, and cooperative joint determinations between the affected installations. Moreover, the Department of Defense must provide DoD-wide standards for delivery of services and common definitions for those services before installation management functions are relocated from the losing activities."*

With regard to Recommendation 171 (Medical 9) McChord Air Force Base, WA about which you commented in your letter, the Commission adopted an amendment that altered language contained in the Secretary of Defense's recommendation. That change in language is an integral part of the recommendation and not a statement and is therefore reflected in the Commission's finding and recommendation.

The full text of Motion 171-4B, which amended Recommendation 171 and is also contained on the Commission website, is:

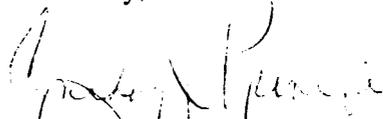
*I move:*

- that the Commission find that when the Secretary of Defense made Medical Joint Cross Service Recommendation 9, McChord Air Force Base, Washington, he substantially deviated from Final Selection Criteria 2, 3 and 4 and the Force Structure Plan;*
- that the Commission strike the language "Realign McChord Air Force Base, WA, by relocating all medical functions to Fort Lewis, WA." and insert in its place "Realign McChord Air Force Base, WA, by reorganizing medical functions under Madigan Army Medical Center, Fort Lewis, WA. McChord Air Force Base medical functions will be reorganized and relocated as directed by the Commander, Madigan Army Medical Center.", and;*
- that the Commission find this change and the recommendation as amended are consistent with the Final Selection Criteria and Force Structure Plan.*

The Department of Defense has in the past given considerable weight to the views of BRAC Commissions expressed in report language, especially statements made in connection with amendments to recommendations. I have no reason to believe that practice will not continue, especially considering the underlying logic and persuasiveness of the Commission's position on implementation of the Joint Basing recommendations.

Thank you for your expression of appreciation for the work of the Commission. The labor has been long and intense but gratifying to us all. I will ensure your comments are conveyed to the other Commissioners and staff.

Sincerely,



Anthony J. Principi  
Chairman



**DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION**

2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600

Arlington, VA 22202

Telephone: 703-699-2950

October 13, 2005

Senator Patty Murray  
173 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murray:

Thank you for your letter of October 5, 2005 in which you seek clarification of Commission Recommendation 146 (Headquarters & Support Activities 41) Joint Basing. I will respond separately to Senator Cantwell and Representatives Dicks and Smith.

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Skinner, Brigadier General Sue Ellen Turner, USAF (Ret)

Executive Director: Charles Battaglia

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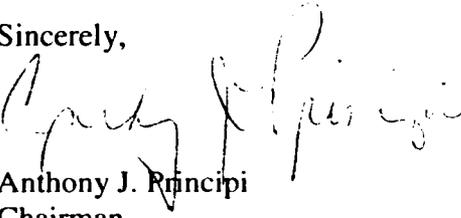
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Anthony J. Principi  
Chairman



**DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION**

2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600

Arlington, VA 22202

Telephone: 703-699-2950

October 13, 2005

Congressman Norm Dicks  
2467 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Dicks:

Thank you for your letter of October 5, 2005 in which you seek clarification of Commission Recommendation 146 (Headquarters & Support Activities 41) Joint Basing. I will respond separately to Senators Cantwell and Murray and Representative Smith.

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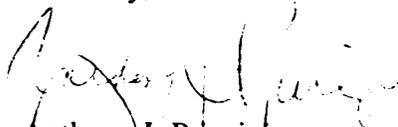
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## DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION

2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600

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Telephone: 703-699-2950

October 13, 2005

Senator Maria Cantwell  
717 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

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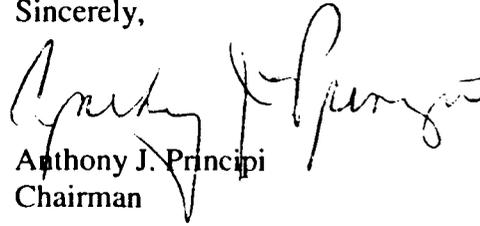
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