



KEEP CLEVELAND DFAS

Excellent People

Excellent Performance

Excellent Value

June 23, 2005

AN URGENT MESSAGE FOR GENERAL LLOYD W. NEWTON

Dear General Newton,

Good morning and welcome to our home. Your visit today is of the utmost importance to all of us. Over a thousand of our fellow Clevelanders are clocking in at the DFAS-Cleveland office as you read this. They are our friends and neighbors. Their families are here; their homes are here; they pay taxes, contribute to churches and charities, and buy goods and services here with their DFAS paychecks. Their jobs are good jobs, and the salaries they earn ripple through the Greater Cleveland community and help make it stronger for all of us.

And as you know, the millions of paychecks they process at work make America stronger. Our Cleveland DFAS office makes sure paychecks get into the hands of millions of our country's military and civilian personnel, retirees and annuitants all around the world.

Many are fighting for freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan this very moment.

Relocating our office during wartime will impact U.S. military payoperations everywhere, disrupting operational efficiency and customer service. Many of our DFAS-Cleveland friends who you will meet today helped pioneer best practices of the larger DFAS organization. Because of their focus and dedication, our DFAS office is a Reserve Pay Center of Excellence as well as a world center for Navy payroll services and personnel data management.

We are not boasting, we just want you to know how hard our friends work and how committed they are. *To our country and our armed forces. To our mission. To our home.*

As you meet with these good people and review their operations, please know that all of us in Northeast Ohio, with one voice, together urge you to **"Keep Cleveland DFAS."**

Sincerely,
The Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance

KEEP CLEVELAND DFAS

Excellent People
Excellent Performance
Excellent Value

**Defense Finance and Accounting Service-
Cleveland**

**Excellent People • Excellent Performance •
Excellent Value**

**Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance
Fred Nance, Chairman
June 23, 2005**

- There is no issue more emotional and important than pay.
- NASA is doing some critical research and tech development for the Army & the Armed Forces.
- We need to give our men & women in uniform our very best.

Defense Finance and Accounting Service-Cleveland
Excellent People • Excellent Performance • Excellent Value

This document is intended to provide insight into and summarize several things:

- (1) Our reaction to and preliminary analysis of the Pentagon data that led to a recommendation to dismantle the Cleveland office of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service;
- (2) some background on the performance and value of the people who work at DFAS; and
- (3) information about the assets of the Greater Cleveland area that was provided but not considered in the Pentagon evaluation.

It is our profound belief that DFAS Cleveland offers the United States Department of Defense significant military value, and its continued operation is vital to the smooth functioning of our nation's military at this point in our history.

The Cleveland office is a major contributor to accomplishing the DFAS service mission of providing "responsive, professional finance and accounting services for the people who defend America." Working there are dedicated professionals who have pioneered many of the best practices in personnel data management used throughout DFAS, and who hold a record of service quality so valued that the office was named a Reserve Pay Center of Excellence in 2004.

At that time, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld pronounced the pay system for the Reserves and National Guard in need of serious improvement, given these soldiers' extended deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. Consequently, workloads were transferred out of Denver and Indianapolis to Cleveland.

The BRAC recommendation to "realign" the Cleveland DFAS office issued May 13, 2005, was based on inaccurate calculations, flawed data and a questionable rationale. It was an assessment of facilities, not people, functions or customer service and, as such, completely ignores the role this office – and its people – play in delivering military value to DoD.

DFAS Cleveland is, by its very nature, people, functions and service. Ninety percent of its operating costs reside in its intellectual assets, i.e., its personnel, the Navy portions of which have been together as a collaborative work unit at the Cleveland site for decades.

Yet the capabilities and contributions of these human resources were not even considered in assessing the costs to the Pentagon and to our troops of keeping vs. realigning this facility.

A History of Efficient, Dedicated Service, Bolstering Morale

The oldest continuously operating payroll office in DoD, the precursor to the Cleveland operations of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service was founded in 1942 during World War II as the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts and renamed the Navy Finance Center in 1955. It has a long and distinguished history of assuring that our Sailors and their families are paid properly, an essential element of morale.

In 1991, the office centralized under the new DFAS umbrella, and DFAS Cleveland became the world center for Navy pay operations and personnel data management, covering active duty personnel, reservists, and medical and ROTC students. Over time, Cleveland's workload expanded from serving the Navy exclusively to include a full array of services to retirees, annuitants and former spouses of members of the Army, Marine Corps, Air Force and Navy.

Processing pay for military retirees is unique to Cleveland's operation – there is no other DFAS work group trained to do this. In addition, the office has responsibility for garnishment services (for child support and commercial debts, both civilian and military).

A model of operational efficiency and customer service, Cleveland's DFAS office has a track record of success and innovation that has been recognized on more than one occasion by the Pentagon. Not only has it pioneered a number of systems that have become government best practices – including making all payroll transactions paperless and creating an e-portal environment for all employee communications and human resources functions – but it also has been selected as the site for implementation of continuing improvements in the way DFAS operates.

Throughout the organization, military customers have access to innovative and reliable online tools, enabling them to manage their pay account information easily and securely at a lower overall cost to the taxpayer. An online self-service pay system developed by DFAS, "myPay," allows customers to view and print leave, earning and tax statements, as well as update electronic funds transfer information and purchase U.S. Savings Bonds.

In mid-2004, DFAS opened the Reserve Pay Center of Excellence in Cleveland, bringing to it the added responsibility of processing payroll for the Army, Navy and Air Force Reserves and the National Guard. The work had been the responsibility of DFAS offices in Denver and Indianapolis, but the proven efficiency of the Cleveland office was regarded as crucial in making needed improvements to the Pentagon's pay system for the Reserves and Guard, given their extended deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq. The need for this level of customer care is as pronounced now as it was then, if not more so.

In describing the move, DFAS central office stated that "the productivity gains derived from running these operations from an established, centralized pay support site will be significant."

It is not just the accounting and information technology experts who staff Cleveland's DFAS office which drives its efficiency, however. It is also the tools they are given to work with. The City of Cleveland's telecommunications infrastructure, in which SBC Ohio has invested \$155.4 million over the past four years, is one of those significant tools.

Of the total investment, \$101.9 million bought central office hardware and software to bring additional access lines and trunks – the primary arteries of the network – to communities and businesses in the area; \$7.3 million was spent to deploy fiber and allow for the necessary upgrades in equipment to deliver DSL Internet service to local residents and businesses; and \$46.2 million was invested specifically to maintain and sustain the network.

These investments represent a significant step toward the creation of the advanced, high-speed telecommunications network architecture that will allow SBC to adapt to and meet the city's – and DFAS Cleveland's – telecommunications needs for decades to come.

The Problem with the May 13, 2005, Pentagon BRAC Recommendation

Given the high general realignment costs shown in the data we've analyzed, it makes no sense to order an upheaval of what essentially are the back office operations of the Pentagon during a time of war. It will cost DoD far more to replicate the unique capabilities of DFAS Cleveland almost anywhere else than it would to keep the office intact. Worse, moving the operation will very likely have a negative impact on our entire military that is entirely avoidable.

The recommendation to realign Cleveland is particularly unfortunate since the methodology used to arrive at that recommendation had a built-in bias against the Cleveland operation, a bias which was unnecessary and not relevant to civilians. The local community had no opportunity to even mitigate the effects of that bias by offering alternatives that would have made a significant difference in the conclusions reached – even though alternatives existed.

In short, moving DoD civilians around is not the same as moving service personnel. The mission of ensuring that our military personnel are paid on time doesn't change, as purely military missions can and do. There has to be a better solution.

The primary areas of concern – to be detailed at our public hearing in Buffalo – are as follows:

DFAS security – The Pentagon analysis had a preference for facilities that could meet extensive post-September 11 building security requirements and an overall preference for operating on military installations in general. It is completely unclear why this criterion carried so much weight here, but apparently was of no concern when DoD decided to locate the Reserve Pay Center of Excellence in Cleveland last year. Nor is there any similar metric that applies to the 434 privatized civilians who, under the Pentagon recommendations, would continue to do their work in the same building. Finally, if security should be weighted so heavily, why does DoD recommend moving 3,500 people to an off-installation site in Indianapolis?

Anomaly in scoring functions – An important military value attribute – process applications – was scored in a binary fashion when it should have been scored in a linear increasing fashion. Cleveland's relative merit in this category was shortchanged as a result.

Cost of the physical plant – Leaving aside the questionable decision to weight the cost per square foot factor heavily in an operation where 90 percent of the costs are personnel, those costs are fixed by DFAS Cleveland's landlord, the federal General Services Administration. This Catch-22 became an automatic strike against Cleveland since the GSA-contracted cost is higher than the local index for the Cleveland market by a factor of two, and is outside DFAS Cleveland's control. Furthermore, a lower-cost alternative identified and offered by local leaders could not be factored in under BRAC rules at that point in the process.

Return on investment (ROI) – The COBRA data did not adequately account for realignment costs. Specifically, costs to satisfy shortages in leased space at gaining sites were not adequate. The result is an overstated return on investment.

Deep knowledge base – Neither the knowledge required to perform the actual work at DFAS Cleveland nor the quality of the workforce performing it – and the difficulty in replicating that elsewhere – were recognized or appropriately considered in the analysis.

It is our understanding that large numbers of Cleveland-based workers are not expected to transfer to the proposed three remaining centers. Assuming this is true – and also assuming there is not a significant pool of workers in Columbus, Denver and Indianapolis who are already trained in federal government accounting and information technology or operating a call center for the military – the costs to retrain several thousand new workers in any one of these locations, as well as the disruption in service quality that can't help but ensue in the interim, are too high. (The flip side of this, of course, is that the Cleveland workers are so specialized in their skill sets that they, too, will require retraining in many instances.)

The Technology Services sector of DFAS Cleveland, just as an example, provides system and software analysis, design, development and documentation to support DFAS application requirements, and has the highest customer satisfaction rating of any similar sectors in the organization – 4.825 on a scale of 5.0. Its well-educated, highly skilled employees have received 12,740 hours of technical training in FY 05 alone.

Cleveland Call Center a DFAS hub – DFAS is currently structured so that the Cleveland Call Center is first point of contact on payroll matters for all active duty and retired members of the Army, Navy and Air Force. On an average day, this center handles 8,000 incoming phone calls and 1,300 incoming e-mails from retired and active duty service members and families. These positions require four months of training followed by three months of on-the-job training before employees can work without supervision. Disruption of this part of the Cleveland operation would have unfathomable repercussions.

The Real Estate Alternative

From the time the 2005 BRAC process was announced, we have known that the cost of the Anthony J. Celebrezze federal building, which houses the DFAS operation in Cleveland, would be problematic. When compared to other DFAS locations, our data showed that the cost per square foot is uncompetitive. Additionally, since our landlord is a federal agency (GSA), we were faced with a situation that required creative, out-of-the-box thinking.

Through a partnership that includes state, local and federal government as well as the private sector, a community response to this "Catch 22" situation was created. The end result is a proposal to construct a stand-alone building to accommodate the current DFAS workforce and allow room for growth.

Such a structure would meet the security needs of DoD and, at the same time, reduce the cost per square foot to a competitive level. The Cuyahoga County Port Authority has agreed to provide a parcel of land that will accommodate this facility and the State of Ohio recently enacted legislation that will provide a municipal income tax credit to lower the cost per square foot significantly.

In Summary

Innovation. Customer service. Cost effectiveness. DFAS Cleveland has consistently demonstrated its commitment to provide outstanding customer service to the men and women who defend America – while lowering the cost of doing business.

Buildings and building locations do not determine quality and value to the military. People do. The millions of transactions DFAS Cleveland performs in support of our military today must be performed correctly tomorrow. That mission hasn't changed.

The Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance appreciates the opportunity to outline for the BRAC Commission the strengths of both the Cleveland Site and the Greater Cleveland region from which its workforce is drawn. We stand ready to work with the Department of Defense to continue our partnership.

A Platform for Growth and Continued Service

In Greater Cleveland, DFAS can find an exceptional quality of life at a reasonable cost, with all of the workforce quality, amenities, recreational opportunities, and educational and healthcare facilities one would expect to find in a large metropolitan area. The area's many strengths may explain why the proposal submitted by NASA's Glenn Research Center to locate NASA's new Shared Services Center here was among the front runners under consideration. These same amenities can help attract and retain additional employees should DFAS Cleveland's workload continue to expand.

Skilled, Diverse, Available Workforce

Greater Cleveland, the 16th largest metropolitan area in the United States with a population of over 2.9 million people, has a large, stable and skilled workforce with skill sets appropriate to DFAS' current and future needs. Out of a 1.4 million-person workforce, the region currently employs more than 187,000 people who are already using the specific base skills DFAS needs (in such areas as accounting, financial administration, personnel management, communications & technology, public administration, and computer science) – a 400-to-1 ratio from which to attract employees.

Northeast Ohio's workforce overall grew by 18,000 workers (1.2 percent of the total workforce) from 2002 to 2003. Over the next 20 years, the available workforce (ages 25-64) is expected to remain extremely stable, providing a consistent talent pool for DFAS. The workforce is generally drawn from an eight-county area consisting of Ashtabula, Cuyahoga (Cleveland), Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage and Summit (Akron) counties.

Northeast Ohio is known for its unusual ethnic diversity, as it is home to 117 ethnic/cultural communities. Of 597,091 Northeast Ohioans who possess college degrees (27 percent of the population over 18 years of age), 87 percent are white and 13 percent are non-white. Almost a quarter of the more than 153,000 students enrolled in area colleges and universities are non-white, reflecting the diversity of the region and providing for a diverse core of trained future workers. Cleveland State University, the most diverse public university in Ohio, has a current enrollment of 21 percent minorities and graduates more minorities with master's degrees than any other Ohio institution.

Business Climate Oriented to Finance and Customer Service

Greater Cleveland has an established corporate culture emphasizing detail-oriented, customer service and collaborative skills. It is home to 11 FORTUNE 500 companies, twelve major financial services companies, and a branch of the Federal Reserve Bank.

Over the past four years, the region has maintained a stable level of employment – greater than 20,000 strong – in the more than 100 customer contact centers located here, an employment segment often regarded as an indicator of an economy's strength. Insurance companies, such as Progressive and Allstate, and financial services companies, such as MBNA and Key Bank, all have call centers located in Northeast Ohio.

Higher Education and Professional Development/Training a Core Strength

One of the region's enduring assets is the abundance, quality and accessibility of higher education. Supplying the region with new workers as well as career "upskilling" and retraining options are six highly rated, affordable public institutions – Cleveland State University, Cuyahoga Community College, Kent State University, Lakeland Community College, Lorain County Community College and The University of Akron, and associated regional campuses – as well as 16 private colleges and universities, among which are the prestigious Case Western Reserve University, with its nationally recognized schools of law, business, medicine and engineering; Hiram College; John Carroll University; Baldwin-Wallace College and Oberlin College.

Almost 600,000 people in the region possess college degrees and more than 150,000 students are currently pursuing higher education locally. Area colleges and universities awarded more than 20,000 associate and higher degrees in academic year 2001-02, of which 9,506, or 45 percent, were in the areas that provide a potential talent pool for DFAS.

The February 2003 edition of *Business Facilities* ranked Ohio eighth in the nation for workforce education. Higher education in Greater Cleveland has long been focused on aligning its curricula and programming on workforce preparedness, both for full and part-time students and for the current and future workforce. One example is the Corporate College® of Cuyahoga Community College, a new \$20 million training and professional development initiative designed to increase the competitiveness and profit potential of business and industry in the region. It delivers affordable, cutting-edge workforce programs at two facilities in Cuyahoga County or via distance learning, and can help organizations identify, develop and retain knowledgeable employees who can enhance bottom line performance.

Strategic Location and Commuting Ease

Although Greater Cleveland's workforce is drawn from eight contiguous counties, virtually everyone lives within easy commuting distance of the downtown area where DFAS has its offices. The average commute of 24 minutes is unusually low for the population size and is below the national average. This is in large part due to a well designed state and interstate highway network, which situates the metropolitan area within a 500-mile radius of 42 percent of the U.S. population.

More than 1,200 miles of highways cross the region including three major interstates (I-90, I-77 and I-71) that intersect in downtown Cleveland, as well as I-80 and I-76 slightly further south. Additional beltways and spurs, such as I-480 and I-271, enable traffic to flow with reduced bottlenecks during rush hours. This infrastructure makes the region a convenient gateway to all parts of the country.

The Regional Transit Authority (RTA), which serves all of Cuyahoga County and flows into Lorain, Medina, Geauga and Lake counties, also eases commuting. Three rapid transit rail

lines with 34 miles of track feed into downtown Cleveland. RTA also operates 110 bus routes. Weekday passenger volume for all RTA services combined is 200,000 riders per day.

Air travelers are afforded 370 daily departures to 73 cities via Cleveland Hopkins International Airport, Ohio's largest airport. A recent \$1.4 billion expansion added an additional runway and a fourth concourse offering extensive regional jet service. Nearly 11 million passengers traveled through Hopkins in 2002, flying on Continental Airlines, which has a major hub here, as well as more than 20 other carriers. Affordable Southwest Airlines is the airport's second largest carrier in terms of passenger volume. General aviation, both private and corporate, is available to downtown Cleveland at Burke Lakefront Airport.

Attractive Quality of Life

For two consecutive years, *Business Development Outlook* selected Cleveland as one of its Q(uality)³² communities based on economic health, arts, housing, education, transportation, healthcare and other factors. In the 2003 ranking, the magazine rated Cleveland's quality of life as one of the top eight cities in the country. The region offers livelihood and lifestyle, combined.

Cleveland's composite cost of living index was 97.7 in 2002, or 2.3 percent below the national average. In nearby Summit County, Akron's comparable index that year was 93.0, or 7 percent below the national average (U.S. = 100). Thus, housing is more affordable in Greater Cleveland than it is in many other parts of the country; the average monthly mortgage payment is \$918, the second lowest among the 20 leading metropolitan areas. Historic ethnic neighborhoods, trendy downtown condos and lofts, prestigious lakefront estates, quiet suburban and even rural developments are available and within easy range of amenities and a short commute from the central city.

An extraordinary concentration of healthcare providers, led by the Cleveland Clinic, University Hospitals and Summa Health System, has gained international recognition for the region through advancements in medical technology and education. One of the most dynamic segments of the regional economy, Greater Cleveland has 47 hospitals with more than 11,300 beds, and employs more than 180,000 healthcare and allied healthcare professionals.

Area residents are well acquainted with the region's vast array of world-class and one-of-a-kind attractions and a broad spectrum of leisure time pursuits, many tied to the region's extraordinary topography and natural features, and its four seasons.

Located on the southern shore of Lake Erie, residents of the region take advantage of boating and fishing; in fact, Lake Erie has some of the best walleye, steelhead, perch and bass fishing in the world. Other popular water sports here include swimming, parasailing, scuba diving, jet skiing and canoeing, all of which can be enjoyed in one of the most comfortable summer climates in the country. North Coast Harbor, located along Cleveland's lakefront, offers access to Cleveland Browns Stadium, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Great Lakes Science Center with its Omnimax theater. In addition, family-oriented recreational entertainment options are plentiful, including Cedar Point and Geauga Lake amusement parks.

The creation of a linear heritage greenway stretching from Cleveland's lakefront to the Tuscarawas River Valley has sparked a revitalization strategy and an unparalleled abundance of open space that Northeast Ohio area residents have come to associate with an exceptional quality of life. Cuyahoga Valley National Park, a 33,000-acre sanctuary along 22 miles of the Cuyahoga River, anchors this development effort. Additionally, 14 reservations consisting of 20,000 acres of natural landscapes constitute the Cleveland Metroparks, an amenity often referred to as the "Emerald Necklace."

Cleveland boasts the nation's largest performing arts venue outside of New York. It is home to Playhouse Square, which operates five beautifully restored 1920s-era theaters, as well as the Cleveland Play House, which also operates five stages under one roof. University Circle, the site of the nation's largest concentration of cultural, educational and medical institutions within one square mile, is home to the Cleveland Museum of Art and the world-renowned Cleveland Orchestra. In Akron, the newly restored Akron Civic Theater, with its spectacular Spanish Baroque Revival architecture, and the E.J. Thomas Hall at the University of Akron, offer unique live performance venues.

Professional sports are robust in the region, with the Indians (Major League Baseball), Browns (National Football League), Cavaliers (National Basketball Association), Barons (American Hockey League), Force (Major Indoor Soccer League), Lake County Captains (MLB class A) and the Akron Aeros (MLB class AA). More than 200 public and private golf courses, including the world-renowned course at Firestone Country Club in Akron, are here. Many high school sports teams in the region rank nationally and have avid fan followings.

Northeast Ohio is home to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the nearby Inventors Hall of Fame and the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

The area is within a day trip's driving distance of numerous points of interest – less than three hours from Pittsburgh, Columbus, Detroit, Windsor, Ontario, and Niagara Falls, and roughly six hours from Chicago, Toronto and Washington, D.C.



City of Bay Village

350 DOVER CENTER ROAD
BAY VILLAGE, OHIO 44140-2299

DEBORAH L. SUTHERLAND
MAYOR

PHONE 440/899-3415 • FAX 440/871-5751
dsutherland@cityofbayvillage.com

June 20, 2005

To: Lloyd W. Newton, General, USAF (Ret) and the
2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission

On behalf of the City of Bay Village, Ohio, I urge you to preserve the Cleveland office of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service as you consider the proposed list of closures and realignments submitted to you by the U.S. Department of Defense on May 13, 2005.

DFAS is currently the fourth largest federal employer in our region. The 1,028 jobs we could lose are vital to the health of Northeast Ohio, and significantly enrich the ranks of our local professional workforce. But repercussions of closing the Cleveland DFAS office far extend the estimated \$128 million cost to our local economy.

The Cleveland DFAS office is an integral part of the system that supports our armed forces in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world, truly a "nerve center" for the entire DFAS organization. It is the world center for Navy payroll services and personnel data management as well as the Reserve Pay Center of Excellence. Many of the best practices of the larger DFAS organization were pioneered by the people who work here.

In FY 2003 the Cleveland DFAS distributed \$101 billion and served 2,745,000 military and civilian personnel, retirees and annuitants. Relocating the Cleveland DFAS during a war will disrupt a cutting edge model of operational efficiency and customer service, thus impacting U.S. military pay operations worldwide.

Sincerely,

Mayor Deborah L. Sutherland
City of Bay Village, Ohio



CITY OF BEDFORD OHIO

DANIEL S. POCEK
Mayor

June 20, 2005

To Lloyd W. Newton, General, USAF (Ret)
and the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission

On behalf of the City of Bedford, Ohio, I urge you to preserve the Cleveland office of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service as you consider the proposed list of closures and realignments submitted to you by the U.S. Department of Defense on May 13, 2005.

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Sincerely,

Mayor Daniel S. Pocek



City of Broadview Heights

GLENN R. GOODWIN, MAYOR

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June 20, 2005

Lloyd W. Newton, General
United States Air Force (Ret.)
and
The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission

Dear Commission Members:

On behalf of the City of Broadview Heights, Ohio, I urge you to preserve the Cleveland office of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service as you consider the proposed list of closures and realignments submitted to you by the U.S. Department of Defense on May 13, 2005.

DFAS is currently the fourth largest federal employer in our region. The 1,028 jobs we could lose are vital to the health of Northeast Ohio, and significantly enrich the ranks of our local professional workforce. But repercussions of closing the Cleveland DFAS office far extend beyond the estimated \$128 million cost to our local economy.

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Sincerely,

Glenn R. Goodwin, Mayor
City of Broadview Heights

:amp

City of Brook Park

Mark J. Elliott, Mayor

June 21, 2005

Lloyd W. Newton, General USAF
2005 Base Realignment and Closure
Commission

On behalf of the City of Brook Park, Ohio, I urge you to preserve the Cleveland office of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service as you consider the proposed list of closures and realignments submitted to you by the U. S. Department of Defense on May 13, 2005.

DFAS is currently the fourth largest federal employer in our region. The 1,028 jobs we could lose are vital to the health of Northeast Ohio and significantly enrich the ranks of our local professional workforce. Repercussions of closing the Cleveland DFAS office far extend the estimated \$128 million cost to our local economy.

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Sincerely,



Mark J. Elliott
Mayor



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

To Lloyd W. Newton, General, USAF (Ret) and the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission

On behalf of the Village of Chagrin Falls, Ohio, I urge you to preserve the Cleveland office of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service as you consider the proposed list of closures and realignments submitted to you by the U.S. Department of Defense on May 13, 2005.

DFAS is currently the fourth largest federal employer in our region. The 1,028 jobs we could lose are vital to the health of Northeast Ohio, and significantly enrich the ranks of our local professional workforce. But repercussions of closing the Cleveland DFAS office far extend the estimated \$128 million cost to our local economy.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lydia F. Champlin".

Mayor Lydia Champlin
Village of Chagrin Falls, Ohio

Resolution No.983-05

Council Members Jackson, Cimperman, Westbrook, Brady, Britt, Zone, Polensek, Sweeney, Coats, Pierce Scott, Reed, Gordon, Lewis, Cintron.

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

Urging the United States Department of Defense and the Defense Finance & Accounting Services office (DFAS) to retain important federal defense jobs in Cleveland and supporting and encouraging the Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance and the Greater Cleveland Partnership in its advocacy efforts to preserve the region's economic vitality by encouraging the retention of these jobs; and further committing Council's support and assistance to the Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance in its efforts to reverse the Defense Department's recommendation to close Cleveland's DFAS office.

WHEREAS, Cleveland City Council has as one of its primary responsibilities improving the health and welfare of the citizens of the City of Cleveland, which is best accomplished through job creation and retention of current jobs in the City of Cleveland; and

WHEREAS, the Defense Finance & Accounting Services (DFAS) employs more than 15,000 people at 25 processing centers worldwide distributing \$101 billion in FY 2003 and serving 2,745,000 military and civilian personnel, retirees and annuitants; and

WHEREAS, the DFAS has operated in Cleveland in different forms since 1942 and is currently the fourth largest federal employer in Greater Cleveland, with a \$65 million annual payroll; and

WHEREAS, the Cleveland DFAS office has been the world center for Navy payroll services and personnel data management since its inception; and

~~WHEREAS, the Cleveland DFAS office has been the world center for Navy payroll services and personnel data management since its inception; and~~

DCN: 1228
Resolution No. 983-05

**Council Members Jackson, Cimperman,
Westbrook, Brady, Britt, Zone, Polensek,
Sweeney, Coats, Pierce Scott, Reed,
Gordon, Lewis, Cintron**

WHEREAS the Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance has announced its intentions to work with community partners, including Cleveland City Council, to fight this recommendation and reverse this decision before the Base Realignment and Closure Commission forwards its recommendations to President Bush in September 2005; and.

WHEREAS, this resolution constitutes an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health or safety, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND:

Section 1. That this Council hereby urges the United States Department of Defense and the Defense Finance & Accounting Services office (DFAS) to retain important federal defense jobs in Cleveland and supports and encourages the Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance and the Greater Cleveland Partnership in its advocacy efforts to preserve the region's economic vitality by encouraging the retention of these jobs.

Section 2. That this Council further commits its support and assistance to the Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance in its efforts to reverse the Defense Department's recommendation to close Cleveland's DFAS office.

Res. No. 983-05

Council Members Jackson, Cimperman, Westbrook, Brady, Britt, Zone, Polensek, Sweeney, Coats, Pierce Scott, Reed, Gordon, Lewis, Cintron.

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

Urging the United States Department of Defense and the Defense Finance & Accounting Services office (DFAS) to retain important federal defense jobs in Cleveland and supporting and encouraging the Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance and the Greater Cleveland Partnership in its advocacy efforts to preserve the region's economic vitality by encouraging the retention of these jobs; and further committing Council's support and assistance to the Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance in its efforts to reverse the Defense Department's recommendation to close Cleveland's DFAS office.

READ FIRST TIME

REPORTS

and referred to
by the council

CITY CLERK

READ SECOND TIME

by the council

CITY CLERK

READ THIRD TIME

by the council

May 16, 2005

PRESIDENT

CITY CLERK

MAY 20 2005

APPROVED

MAYOR

Recorded Vol. **92**

Page **1062**

Published in the City Record **May 25, 2005**

Cuyahoga County Commissioners

Tim McCormack - Peter Lawson Jones - Jimmy Dimora

Resolution

*The Board of County Commissioners of Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Approve a resolution in support of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service,
Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance*

WHEREAS, *the Defense Finance and Accounting Service – Cleveland Site (DFAS-CL) is the largest tenant in the Anthony J. Celebrezze Federal Building and is the world center for the United State Navy pay operations and personnel data management; and*

WHEREAS, *the DFAS-CL is unique in that the center processes pay for military retirees and no other DFAS work group is trained to do so; and*

WHEREAS, *DFAS-CL employing 1,188 fulltime employees, plus 300 private contractors is the fourth largest Federal employer in Greater Cleveland, with a multi-million dollar annual payroll that significantly benefits the regional economy; and*

WHEREAS, *the closure of DFAS-CL as a result of the Business Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Initiative currently being undertaken by the military to reduce their infrastructure, would pose a serious threat to the regional economy and have a profound effect of the families of the nearly 3,000 people that will lose their jobs county-wide as well as another 500 across the State of Ohio; and*

Village of Cuyahoga Heights

Office of Clerk



Village Hall

4863 EAST 71ST STREET

CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS, OHIO 44125

PHONE: (216) 641-7020

FAX: (216) 641-8485

June 21, 2005

To Lloyd W. Newton, General, USAF (Ret) and the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission

On behalf of the Village of Cuyahoga Heights, Ohio, I urge you to preserve the Cleveland office of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service as you consider the proposed list of closures and realignments submitted to you by the U.S. Department of Defense on May 13, 2005.

DFAS is currently the fourth largest federal employer in our region. The 1,028 jobs we could lose are vital to the health of Northeast Ohio, and significantly enrich the ranks of our local professional workforce. But repercussions of closing the Cleveland DFAS office far extend the estimated \$128 million cost to our local economy.

The Cleveland DFAS office is an integral part of the system that supports our armed forces in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world, truly a "nerve center" for the entire DFAS organization. It is the world center for Navy payroll services and personnel data management as well as the Reserve Pay Center of Excellence. Many of the best practices of the larger DFAS organization were pioneered by the people who work here.

In FY 2003 the Cleveland DFAS distributed \$101 billion and served 2,745,000 military and civilian personnel, retirees and annuitants. Relocating the Cleveland DFAS during a war will disrupt a cutting edge model of operational efficiency and customer service, thus impacting U.S. military pay operations worldwide.

Sincerely,

Mayor Louis J. Bacci
Village of Cuyahoga Heights, Ohio



The City of East Cleveland

Saratha A. Goggins
Mayor

To Lloyd W. Newton,
General, USAF (Ret)
2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission

Dear Mr. Newton,

On behalf of the **City of East Cleveland, Ohio**, I urge you to preserve the Cleveland office of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service as you consider the proposed list of closures and realignments submitted to you by the U.S. Department of Defense on May 13, 2005.

DFAS is currently the fourth largest federal employer in our region. The 1,028 jobs we could lose are vital to the health of Northeast Ohio, and significantly enrich the ranks of our local professional workforce. But repercussions of closing the Cleveland DFAS office far extend the estimated \$128 million cost to our local economy.

The Cleveland DFAS office is an integral part of the system that supports our armed forces in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world, truly a "nerve center" for the entire DFAS organization. It is the world center for Navy payroll services and personnel data management as well as the Reserve Pay Center of Excellence. Many of the best practices of the larger DFAS organization were pioneered by the people who work here.

In FY 2003 the Cleveland DFAS distributed \$101 billion and served 2,745,000 military and civilian personnel, retirees and annuitants. Relocating the Cleveland DFAS during a war will disrupt a cutting edge model of operational efficiency and customer service, thus impacting U.S. military pay operations worldwide.

Sincerely,



Saratha A. Goggins, Mayor
City of East Cleveland, Ohio

14340 EUCLID AVENUE • EAST CLEVELAND, OHIO 44112 USA
PHONE (216) 681-2210 • FAX (216) 681-2650
E-MAIL: mayorgoggins@eastcleveland.org

"Working Together For A Better East Cleveland"



12650 DETROIT AVENUE • 44107 • 216/529-6600 • FAX 216/521-1379
WEBSITE: www.ci.lakewood.oh.net

THOMAS J. GEORGE
MAYOR

June 22, 2005

Dear Lloyd W. Newton, General, USAF (Ret) and the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission,

On behalf of the City of Lakewood, Ohio, I urge you to preserve the Cleveland office of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service as you consider the proposed list of closures and realignments submitted to you by the U. S. Department of Defense on May 13, 2005.

DFAS is currently the fourth largest federal employer in our region. The 1,028 jobs we could lose are vital to the health of Northeast Ohio, and significantly enrich the ranks of our local professional workforce. But repercussions of closing the Cleveland DFAS office far extend the estimated \$128 million cost to our local economy.

The Cleveland DFAS office is an integral part of the system that supports our armed forces in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world, truly a "nerve center" for the entire DFAS organization. It is the world center for Navy payroll services and personnel data management as well as the Reserve Pay Center of Excellence. Many of the best practices of the larger DFAS organization were pioneered by the people who work here.

In FY 2003 the Cleveland DFAS distributed \$101 billion and served 2,745,000 military and civilian personnel, retirees and annuitants. Relocating the Cleveland DFAS during a war will disrupt a cutting edge model of operational efficiency and customer service, thus impacting U. S. military pay operations worldwide.

Sincerely,

Mayor Thomas J. George
City of Lakewood, Ohio





The City of Lorain, Ohio

Craig Foltin, Mayor

200 West Erie Avenue, 7th Floor
Lorain, Ohio 44052 • Phone (440) 204-2002 • Fax (440) 246-2276

June 14, 2005

Frederick R. Nance
Chairman, Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance

Dear Mr. Nance:

I am writing to you to show support from the City of Lorain for the Defense Finance and Accounting Service to retain 1,028 important federal jobs in Cleveland, Ohio.

I understand that the DFAS is currently the fourth largest federal employer in Greater Cleveland, which employs approximately 1,200 people from across the region. I believe these jobs are vital to the health of Northeast Ohio, and significantly enrich the ranks of our professional workforce.

The loss of these jobs could cost Greater Cleveland's economy an estimated \$128 million, further eroding our regional and state tax base and endangering money for vital services, such as police and fire protection throughout Northeast Ohio.

Further, Cleveland is one of the nation's preeminent financial service centers, home to the headquarters of several large commercial banks and the regional Federal Reserve, and perfectly situated to continue its track record of excellence here well into the future.

In closing, I urge the Base Realignment and Closure Commission not to remove the Cleveland office of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service from the list of closures and realignments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Craig Foltin".

Craig Foltin, Mayor
City of Lorain, Ohio

CF:kd



Village of Linndale

4016 West 119th Street, Linndale, Ohio 44135
Tel: (216) 251-6000 Fax: (216) 251-2588

Jo Ann Toczek
Mayor

June 22, 2005

To Lloyd W. Newton, General, USAF, (Ret) and the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission

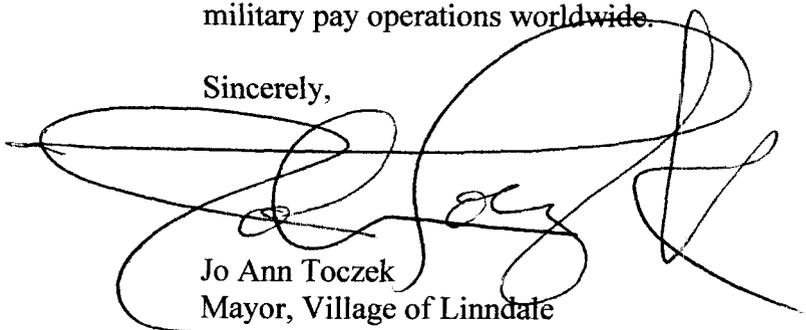
On behalf of the Village of Linndale, Ohio, I argue to preserve the Cleveland office of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service as you consider the proposed list of closures and realignments submitted to you by the U.S. Department of Defense on May 13, 2005.

DFAS is currently the fourth largest federal employer in our region. The 1,028 jobs we could lose are vital to the health of Northeast Ohio, and significantly enrich the ranks of our local professional workforce. But repercussions of closing the Cleveland DFAS office far extend the estimated \$128 million cost to our local economy.

The Cleveland DFAS office is an integral part of the system that supports our armed forces in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world, truly a "nerve center" for the entire DFAS organization. It is the world center for Navy payroll services and personnel data management as well as the Reserve Pay Center of Excellence. Many of the best practices of the larger DFAS organization were pioneered by the people who work here.

In FY 2003 the Cleveland DFAS distributed \$101 billion and served 2,745,000 military and civilian personnel, retirees and annuities. Relocating the Cleveland DFAS during a war will disrupt a cutting edge model of operational efficiency and customer service, thus impacting U.S. military pay operations worldwide.

Sincerely,



Jo Ann Toczek
Mayor, Village of Linndale



The City of Lyndhurst

5301 MAYFIELD ROAD • LYNDHURST, OHIO 44124
(440) 442-5777 • FAX (440) 442-5812

JOSEPH M. CICERO, JR., MAYOR

June 9, 2005

To General Lloyd W. Newton USAF (Ret) and the 2005 Base Closure and Realignment Commission:

On behalf of the City of Lyndhurst, I urge you to preserve the Cleveland Office of the Defense Finance and Accounting Services as you consider the proposed list of closures and realignments submitted to you by the U.S. Department of Defense on May 13, 2005.

DFAS is currently the fourth largest federal employer in our region. The 1,028 jobs we could lose are vital to the health of Northeast Ohio, and significantly enrich the ranks of our local professional workforce. But repercussions of closing the Cleveland DFAS Office far extend the estimated \$128 million cost to our local economy.

The Cleveland DFAS Office is an integral part of the system that supports our armed forces in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world, truly a "nerve center" for the entire DFAS organization. It is the world center for Navy payroll services and personnel data management as well as the Reserve Pay Center of Excellence. Many of the best practices of the larger DFAS organization were pioneered by people who work here.

In FY 2003, the Cleveland DFAS distributed \$101 billion and served 2,745,000 military and civilian personnel, retirees and annuitants. Relocating the Cleveland DFAS during a war will disrupt a cutting edge model of operational efficiency and customer service, thus impacting U.S. military pay operations world wide.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Cicero, Jr.
Mayor

JMC:cjw

MICHAEL G. CIARAVINO
MAYOR



CITY HALL
5353 LEE ROAD
MAPLE HEIGHTS, OHIO 44137
(216) 662-6000
FAX (216) 587-9012

June 20, 2005

**To Lloyd W. Newton, General, USAF (Ret) &
The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission**

On behalf of the City of Maple Heights, Ohio, I urge you to preserve the Cleveland office of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service as you consider the proposed list of closures and realignments submitted to you by the U.S. Department of Defense on May 13, 2005.

DFAS is currently the fourth largest federal employer in our region. The 1,028 jobs we could lose are vital to the health of Northeast Ohio, and significantly enrich the ranks of our local professional workforce. But repercussions of closing the Cleveland DFAS office far extend the estimated \$128 million cost to our local economy.

The Cleveland DFAS office is an integral part of the system that supports our armed forces in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world, truly a "nerve center" for the entire DFAS organization. It is the world center for Navy payroll services and personnel data management as well as the Reserve Pay Center of Excellence. Many of the best practices of the larger DFAS organization were pioneered by the people who work here.

In FY 2003 the Cleveland DFAS distributed \$101 billion and served 2,745,000 military and civilian personnel, retirees and annuitants. Relocating the Cleveland DFAS during a war will disrupt a cutting edge model of operational efficiency and customer service, thus impacting U.S. military pay operations worldwide.

Sincerely,

**Mayor Michael G. Ciaravino
City of Maple Heights, Ohio**

cc: Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones



CITY OF MAYFIELD HEIGHTS

6154 MAYFIELD ROAD • MAYFIELD HEIGHTS, OHIO 44124-3296

www.mayfieldheights.org
TELEPHONE 440/442-2626
FAX 440/442-3818

ADMINISTRATION

MARGARET A. EGENSPERGER
Mayor/Safety Director

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

MICHAEL J. BALLISTREA
GREGORY S. COSTABILE
GENO MANFREDI
SAM C. MERCURIO
DIANE M. SNIDER
HOWARD SONENSTEIN
GAYLE M. TERESI

June 15, 2005

Ms. Elisa Benson
Edward Howard & Co.
1360 E. 9th Street, 7th Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

Dear Ms. Benson:

Enclosed is a copy of Resolution No. 2005-42 pertaining to the retention of the Defense Finance & Accounting Service in downtown Cleveland. The Council of the City of Mayfield Heights adopted this resolution on June 13, 2005. I am forwarding copies to the officials listed in Section 3, also.

Sincerely,

Lisa A. Benedetti
Deputy Clerk of Council

Enclosure

Village of Moreland Hills

4350 S.O.M. CENTER ROAD • MORELAND HILLS, OHIO 44022

PHONE: 440-248-1188 • FAX: 440-498-9588

Office of the Mayor

CHARLES M. DEGROSS

June 22, 2005

Lloyd W. Newton, General
USAF (Ret)
2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission

Dear General Newton:

On behalf of the Village of Moreland Hills, Ohio, I sincerely urge you to preserve the Cleveland office of Defense Finance and Accounting Service as you consider the proposed list of closures and realignment submitted to you by the U.S. Department of Defense this past May.

DFAS is currently the fourth largest federal employer in our region. The 1,028 jobs we could lose are vital to the economy of Northeast Ohio. These jobs also enrich the ranks of our local professional workforce. Repercussions of closing the Cleveland DFAS office far extend the estimated \$128 million cost to our economy.

The Cleveland DFAS office is an integral part of the system that supports our armed forces in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world, truly a "nerve center" for the entire DFAS organization. It is the world center for Navy payroll services and personnel data management as well as the Reserve Pay Center of Excellence. Many of the best practices of the larger DFAS organization were created by the people who work here.

IN FY 2003 the Cleveland DFAS distributed \$101 billion and served 2,745,000 military and civilian personnel, retirees and annuitants. Relocating the Cleveland DFAS during a war will disrupt a cutting edge model of operational efficiency and customer service, impacting U.S. military pay operations worldwide.

Sincerely,



Charles M. DeGross
Mayor of Moreland Hills, Ohio

**CITY OF NORTH OLMSTED
RESOLUTION NO. 2005 – 97**

By: Mayor O'Grady and All of Council

A RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION TO RETAIN 1,028 IMPORTANT FEDERAL DEFENSE JOBS AT THE DEFENSE FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING SERVICE IN DOWNTOWN CLEVELAND; SUPPORTING AND ENCOURAGING THE CLEVELAND DEFENSE INDUSTRY ALLIANCE AND THE GREATER CLEVELAND PARTNERSHIP IN THEIR ADVOCACY EFFORTS TO PROTECT THE REGION'S ECONOMIC VITALITY BY APPEALING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO REALIGN THESE JOBS TO OTHER CITIES AND ENCOURAGING THEIR RETENTION; FURTHER COMMITTING COUNCIL'S SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE IN THIS UNDERTAKING; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the City of North Olmsted has as one of its primary responsibilities improving the health and welfare of its citizens, which includes ensuring the availability of a diverse selection of employment opportunities in the Greater Cleveland area; and

WHEREAS, the Defense Finance & Accounting Service (DFAS) in downtown Cleveland is currently the fourth largest federal employer in Greater Cleveland, with a \$65 million annual payroll; and

WHEREAS, DFAS employs some 1,200 people from throughout the region, and provides jobs that are vital to the health of the regional workforce and enriches the ranks of professionals in Northeast Ohio; and

WHEREAS, in FY 2003 the Cleveland DFAS office was the world center for Navy payroll services and personnel data management as well as the Reserve Pay Center of Excellence, distributing \$101 billion and serving 2,745,000 military and civilian personnel, retirees and annuitants; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland's DFAS office is an integral part of the system that supports our armed forces, and is a cutting edge model of operational efficiency and customer service for U.S. military pay operations around the world; and

WHEREAS, the loss of these jobs could cost Greater Cleveland an estimated \$128 million, further eroding our regional and state tax base and endangering money for vital services, such as police and fire protection through Northeast Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the Pentagon will spend approximately \$282 million dollars to close various DFAS sites and shuffle around thousands of DFAS jobs in order to save \$158 million in the next five years; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland is one of the nation's preeminent financial service centers, home to the headquarters of several large commercial banks and the regional Federal Reserve, and perfectly situated to continue its track record of excellence here well into the future; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Defense (DOD) has recommended to the Base Closure and Realignment Commission that 1,028 jobs currently performed by the Cleveland DFAS in the Anthony J. Celebreeze Federal Building be relocated to the other cities, and the recommendation is not a final one; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution constitutes an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health or safety.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH OLMSTED, COUNTY OF CUYAHOGA, AND STATE OF OHIO:

SECTION 1: That this Council hereby urges the Base Realignment and Closure Commission to remove the Cleveland office of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service from the list of closures and realignments proposed on May 13, 2005, and retain the 1,028 important federal defense jobs here in Cleveland.

SECTION 2: That this Council encourages the Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance and the Greater Cleveland Partnership in their advocacy efforts to preserve the region's economic vitality by working to reverse the U.S. Department of Defense's recommendation to realign these professional jobs to other cities.

SECTION 3: That the Clerk is hereby directed to transmit copies of this Resolution to President George W. Bush, Congressional Representative Dennis Kucinich, and Senators Mike DeWine and George Voinovich; the appropriate representatives from the Base Realignment and Closure Commission, and the members of the Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance.

SECTION 4: That this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure immediately necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety and welfare, and further for the reason that it is necessary that this Resolution go into effect immediately so that it may be transmitted before the Base Realignment and Closure Commission acts on the May 13, 2005 proposal of the Defense Department; and further provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all members of Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor.

PASSED: June 21, 2005

First Reading: 6/21/05
Second Reading: Suspended
Third Reading: Suspended
Committee: Suspended

ATTEST:

Barbara L. Seman
BARBARA L. SEMAN
Clerk of Council

Kevin M. Kennedy
KEVIN M. KENNEDY
President of Council

APPROVED: 06/22/05

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

Thomas E. O'Grady
MAYOR THOMAS E. O'GRADY

/s/ James M. Dubelko
JAMES M. DUBELKO
Director of Law

I hereby certify this to be a true and accurate copy of Ordinance or Resolution No. 2005-97 passed 6/21/05 by the Council of the City of North Olmsted, Ohio.

Barbara L. Seman
Barbara L. Seman, Clerk of Council



City of North Royalton

Mayor Cathy Luks

13834 Ridge Road
North Royalton, Ohio 44133-4896

440-237-4300
fax: 440-582-6334

June 17, 2005

To: Lloyd W. Newton, General, USAF (Ret) and the 2005 Realignment and Closure Commission

On behalf of the City of North Royalton, Ohio, I urge you to preserve the Cleveland office of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service as you consider the proposed list of closures and realignments submitted to you by the U. S. Department of Defense on May 13, 2005.

DFAS is currently the fourth largest federal employer in our region. The 1,028 jobs we could lose are vital to the health of Northeast Ohio, and significantly enrich the ranks of our local professional workforce. Repercussions of closing the Cleveland DFAS office far extend the estimated \$128 million cost of our local economy.

The Cleveland DFAS office is an integral part of the system that supports our armed forces in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world, truly a "nerve center" for the entire DFAS organization. It is the world center for Navy payroll services and personnel data management as well as the Reserve Pay Center of Excellence. Many of the best practices of the larger DFAS organization were pioneered by the people who work here.

In FY 2003 the Cleveland DFAS distributed \$101 billion and served 2,745,000 military and civilian personnel, retirees and annuitants. Relocating the Cleveland DFAS during a war will disrupt a cutting edge model of operational efficiency and customer service, thus impacting U.S. military pay operations worldwide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mayor Cathy Luks". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Mayor" and "Luks" being capitalized and prominent.

Mayor Cathy Luks
City of North Royalton, Ohio

CL/mb

City of Parma Heights, Ohio

Office of Mayor Martin K. Zanotti

6281 Pearl Road

(440) 884-9600

Parma Heights, Ohio 44130

June 14, 2005

General Lloyd W. Newton, (Ret)
United States Air Force
2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission

Dear General Newton:

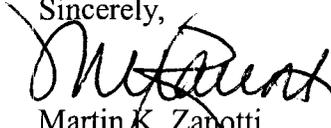
On behalf of the City of Parma Heights, Ohio, I urge you to preserve the Cleveland office of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service as you consider the proposed list of closures and realignments submitted to you by the U.S. Department of Defense on May 13, 2005.

DFAS is currently the fourth largest federal employer in our region. The 1,028 jobs we could lose are vital to the health of Northeast Ohio, and significantly enrich the ranks of our local professional workforce. But repercussions of closing the Cleveland DFAS office far extend the estimated \$128 million cost to our local economy.

The Cleveland DFAS office is an integral part of the system that supports our armed forces in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world, truly a "nerve center" for the entire DFAS organization. It is the world center for Navy payroll services and personnel data management as well as the Reserve Pay Center of Excellence. Many of the best practices of the larger DFAS organization were pioneered by the people who work here.

In FY 2003 the Cleveland DFAS distributed \$101 billion and served 2,745,000 military and civilian personnel, retirees and annuitants. Relocating the Cleveland DFAS during a war will disrupt a cutting edge model of operational efficiency and customer service, thus impacting U.S. military pay operations worldwide.

Sincerely,


Martin K. Zanotti

MKZ:sk



CITY OF RICHMOND HEIGHTS

THE CITY WITH THE FORWARD LOOK

457 Richmond Road • Richmond Hts., OH 44143 • (216) 486-2474 • FAX: (216) 383-6320

Daniel J. Ursu
Mayor

June 17, 2005

To: Lloyd W. Newton, General, USAF, (Ret) and
2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission

On behalf of the City of Richmond Heights, Ohio, I urge you to preserve the Cleveland office of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) as you consider the proposed list of closures and realignments submitted to you by the U. S. Department of Defense on May 13, 2005.

DFAS is currently the fourth largest federal employer in our region. The 1,028 jobs we could lose are vital to the health of Northeast Ohio, and significantly enrich the ranks of our local professional workforce. But repercussions of closing the Cleveland DFAS office far extend the estimated \$128 million cost to our local economy.

The Cleveland DFAS office is an integral part of the system that supports our armed forces in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world, truly a "nerve center" for the entire DFAS organization. It is the world center for Navy payroll services and personnel data management as well as the Reserve Pay Center of Excellence. Many of the best practices of the larger DFAS organization were pioneered by the people who work here.

In FY 2003, the Cleveland DFAS distributed \$101 billion and served 2,745,000 military and civilian personnel, retirees and annuitants. Relocating the Cleveland DFAS during a war will disrupt a cutting edge model of operational efficiency and customer service, thus impacting U.S. military pay operations worldwide.

Very truly yours,

Daniel J. Ursu, Mayor
City of Richmond Heights, Ohio

C:\MD\Mayor's\Corres\2005\ClevelandDefenceIndustryAlliance\06-17-05

Cc: Council Members



City of Seven Hills Ohio

7325 SUMMITVIEW DRIVE · SEVEN HILLS, OHIO 44131 · PHONE 216/524-4421

June 15, 2005

To Loyde W. Newton, General, USAF (Ret) and the Base Realignment and Closure Commission

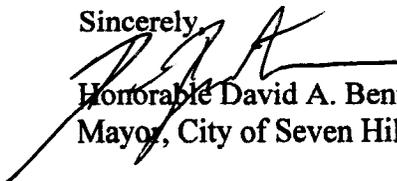
On behalf of the City of Seven Hills, Ohio, I urge you to preserve the Cleveland office of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service as you consider the proposed list of closures and realignments submitted to you by the U.S. Department of Defense on May 13, 2005.

DFAS is currently the fourth largest federal employer in our region. The 1,028 jobs we could lose are vital to the health of Northeast Ohio, and significantly enrich the ranks of our local professional workforce. But repercussions of closing the Cleveland DFAS office far extend the estimated \$128 million cost to our local economy.

The Cleveland DFAS office is an integral part of the system that supports our armed forces in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world, truly a "nerve center" for the entire DFAS organization. It is the world center for Navy payroll services and personnel data management as well as the Reserve Pay Center of Excellence. Many of the best practices of the larger DFAS organization were pioneered by the people who work here.

In FY 2003 the Cleveland DFAS distributed \$101 billion and served 2,745,000 military and civilian personnel, retirees and annuitants. Relocating the Cleveland DFAS during a war will disrupt a cutting edge model of operational efficiency and customer service, thus impacting U.S. military pay operations worldwide.

Sincerely,



Honorable David A. Bentkowski, Esq.
Mayor, City of Seven Hills, Ohio

City of Warrensville Heights

4301 WARRENSVILLE CENTER ROAD
WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS, OHIO 44128
(216) 587-6500



Marcia L. Fudge
Mayor

June 20, 2005

Lloyd W. Newton
General, USAF (Ret)
2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission

Dear General Newton:

On behalf of the City of Warrensville Heights, Ohio, I urge you to preserve the Cleveland office of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service as you consider the proposed list of closures and realignments submitted to you by the U.S. Department of Defense on May 13, 2005.

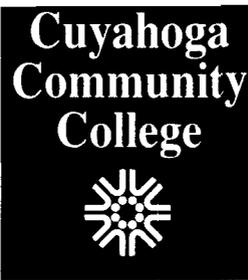
DFAS is currently the fourth largest federal employer in our region. The 1,028 jobs we could lose are vital to the health of Northeast Ohio, and significantly enrich the ranks of our local professional workforce. However, repercussions of closing the Cleveland DFAS office far extend the estimated \$128 million cost to our local economy.

The Cleveland DFAS office is an integral part of the system that supports our armed forces in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world, truly a "nerve center" for the entire DFAS organization. It is the world center for Navy payroll services and personnel data management as well as the Reserve Pay Center of Excellence. The people who work here pioneered many of the best practices of the larger DFAS organization.

In FY 2003, the Cleveland DFAS distributed \$101 billion and served 2,745,000 military and civilian personnel, retirees and annuitants. Relocating the Cleveland DFAS during a war will disrupt a cutting edge model of operational efficiency and customer service, thus impacting U.S. military pay operations worldwide.

Sincerely,

Marcia L. Fudge
Mayor



June 20, 2005

TO: Lloyd W. Newton, General, USAF (Ret)
2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission

On behalf of the Downtown Cleveland Partnership, I urge you to preserve the Cleveland office of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service as you consider the proposed list of closures and realignments submitted to you by the U.S. Department of Defense on May 13, 2005.

DFAS is currently the fourth largest federal employer in our region. The 1,028 jobs we could lose are vital to the health of Northeast Ohio, and significantly enrich the ranks of our local professional workforce. But repercussions of closing the Cleveland DFAS office far extend the estimated \$128 million cost to our local economy.

The Cleveland DFAS office is an integral part of the system that supports our armed forces in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world, truly a "nerve center" for the entire DFAS organization. It is the world center for Navy payroll services and personnel data management as well as the Reserve Pay Center of Excellence. Many of the best practices of the larger DFAS organization were pioneered by the people who work here.

In FY 2003 the Cleveland DFAS distributed \$101 billion and served 2,745,000 military and civilian personnel, retirees and annuitants. Relocating the Cleveland DFAS during a war will disrupt a cutting edge model of operational efficiency and customer service, thus impacting U.S. military pay operations worldwide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lawrence J. Simpson".

Lawrence J. Simpson, Ph.D.
Campus President

City of Cleveland, Ohio

Campus President/College Vice President

Metropolitan Campus

2900 Community College Ave.

Cleveland, Ohio 44115-3196

216•987•4034 FAX 216•987•4026



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thomas W. Adler
Chairman
Mark R. Stornes
Chairman-Elect
Joseph A. Marinucci
President and CEO

Dennis Burnside
John Carney
Oliver Henkel
Ronald Keller
Daniel Klimas
Allan Krulak
Dennis Lehman
Patrick Mullin
Brooke Spectorisky
Kurt Treu

BOARD MEMBERS

Paul Allison
Douglas Bennett
William Bolton
Joseph Calabrese
John Collins
Ronald Copfer
Malcolm Donley
Gary Failor
Art Falco
Paul Fissel
David Goldberg
Jeffrey Jeney
Mary Ann Jorgenson
Jerry Kelsheimer
Stephen Knerly
Joseph Krysh
Joseph Lazzaro
Robert Long
Bruce McCrodden
James McGill
Douglas Miller
Andrew Natale
Janice Parham
Zachary Paris
Edward Ptaszek
Brian Ratner
Alan Ritchie
Dennis Roche
Chris Ronayne
Jonathan Sandvick
Michael Schwartz
Lawrence Simpson
Howard Steindler
Terry Stewart
John Stoner
Jerry Sue Thornton
Paul Voinovich
William West

June 17, 2005

The Honorable Lloyd W. Newton
General
2005 Defense Base Closure Commission
2521 S. Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear General Newton:

On behalf of the Downtown Cleveland Partnership, I urge you to preserve the Cleveland office of the Defense Financing and Accounting Service as you consider the proposed list of closures and realignments submitted to you by the U.S. Department of Defense on May 13, 2005.

DFAS is currently the fourth largest federal employer in our region. The 1,028 jobs we could lose are vital to the health of Northeast Ohio, and significantly enrich the ranks of our local professional workforce. But repercussions of closing the Cleveland DFAS office far extend the estimated \$128 million cost to our local economy.

The Cleveland DFAS office is an integral part of the system that supports our armed forces in Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the world, truly a "nerve center" for the entire DFAS organization. It is the world center for Navy payroll services and personnel data management as well as the Reserve Pay Center of Excellence. Many of the best practices of the larger DFAS organization were pioneered by the people who work here.

In FY 2003 the Cleveland DFAS distributed \$101 billion and served 2,745,000 military and civilian personnel, retirees and annuitants. Relocating the Cleveland DFAS during a war will disrupt a cutting edge model of operational efficiency and customer service, thus impacting U.S. military pay operations worldwide.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Marinucci
President & CEO of Downtown Cleveland Partnership
City of Cleveland, Ohio

DOWNTOWN PROPERTY OWNERS COUNCIL

An Affiliate of Downtown Cleveland Partnership

825 Terminal Tower ♦ 50 Public Square ♦ Cleveland, OH 44113

Tel.216.736.7799 ♦ Fax.216.736.7792

June 17, 2005

The Honorable Lloyd W. Newton
General
2005 Defense Base Closure Commission
2521 S. Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear General Newton:

On behalf of the Downtown Property Ownership Council, I urge you to preserve the Cleveland office of the Defense Financing and Accounting Service as you consider the proposed list of closures and realignments submitted to you by the U.S. Department of Defense on May 13, 2005.

DFAS is currently the fourth largest federal employer in our region. The 1,028 jobs we could lose are vital to the health of Northeast Ohio, and significantly enrich the ranks of our local professional workforce. But repercussions of closing the Cleveland DFAS office far extend the estimated \$128 million cost to our local economy.

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In FY 2003 the Cleveland DFAS distributed \$101 billion and served 2,745,000 military and civilian personnel, retirees and annuitants. Relocating the Cleveland DFAS during a war will disrupt a cutting edge model of operational efficiency and customer service, thus impacting U.S. military pay operations worldwide.

Sincerely,



John Carney
Chairman of Downtown Property Owners Council
City of Cleveland, Ohio

Bruce A. McCrodden
Senior Vice President

June 20, 2005

Lloyd W. Newton, General, USAF (Ret)
2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission

As a board member of the Downtown Cleveland Partnership, I urge you to preserve the Cleveland office of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service as you consider the proposed list of closures and realignments submitted to you by the U.S. Department of Defense on May 13, 2005.

DFAS is currently the fourth largest federal employer in our region. The 1,028 jobs we could lose are vital to the health of Northeast Ohio, and significantly enrich the ranks of our local professional workforce. But repercussions of closing the Cleveland DFAS office far extend the estimated \$128 million cost to our local economy.

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In FY 2003 the Cleveland DFAS distributed \$101 billion and served 2,745,000 military and civilian personnel, retirees and annuitants. Relocating the Cleveland DFAS during a war will disrupt a cutting edge model of operational efficiency and customer service, thus impacting U.S. military pay operations worldwide.

Sincerely,





PLAYHOUSE SQUARE
FOUNDATION
1501 EUCLID AVENUE
SUITE 200
CLEVELAND, OH 44115-2197
(216)771-4444
FAX (216) 771-0217

June 20, 2005

www.playhousesquare.com

Lloyd W. Newton, General
USAF (Ret) and the
2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission

Dear General Newton and BRAC Commission:

On behalf of Playhouse Square Center, the second largest performing arts center in the country and as a member of the Downtown Cleveland Partnership, I urge you to preserve the Cleveland office of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service as you consider the proposed list of closures and realignments submitted to you by the U.S. Department of Defense on May 13, 2005.

DFAS is currently the fourth largest federal employer in our region. The 1,028 jobs we could lose are vital to the health of Northeast Ohio, and significantly enrich the ranks of our local professional workforce. But repercussions of closing the Cleveland DFAS office far extend the estimated \$128 million cost to our local economy.

The Cleveland DFAS office is an integral part of the system that supports our armed forces in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world, truly a "nerve center" for the entire DFAS organization. It is the world center for Navy payroll services and personnel data management as well as the Reserve Pay Center of Excellence. Many of the best practices of the larger DFAS organization were pioneered by the people who work here.

In FY 2003 the Cleveland DFAS distributed \$101 billion and served 2,745,000 military and civilian personnel, retirees and annuitants. Relocating the Cleveland DFAS during a war will disrupt a cutting edge model of operational efficiency and customer service, thus impacting U.S. military pay operations worldwide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Art J. Falco".

Art J. Falco
President & CEO



**The Greater Cleveland
Regional Transit Authority**

Main Office
1240 West 6th Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44113-1331
Phone 216 566-5218
Fax 216 781-4043
email: jcalabrese@gcrta.org
website: www.rideRTA.com

June 20, 2005

The Hon. Lloyd W. Newton, General, USAF (Ret)
2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 S. Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear General Newton:

On behalf of the 180,000 Clevelanders who use public transit each weekday, I urge you to reconsider the proposed closure of the Cleveland office of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), as part of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure process.

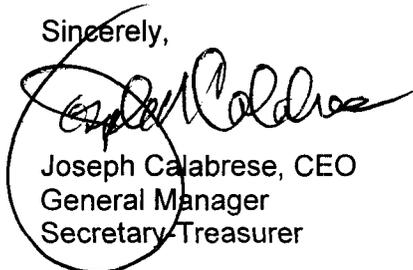
Joseph A. Calabrese, CEO
General Manager/
Secretary-Treasurer

DFAS is the fourth largest federal employer in our region, and the devastating loss of 1,028 high-wage jobs would significantly impact Greater Cleveland and RTA. Many of those workers are our customers, and this loss of revenue could impact our ability to provide quality transportation for other customers. The loss would also erode our regional and state tax base, and endanger needed money for vital services, such as police and fire protection

But the impact of closure goes farther than the \$65 million annual payroll or the \$128 million loss to our local economy. Cleveland DFAS serves our armed forces around the world, and is a center for Navy payroll services and personnel data management.

In FY 2003, Cleveland DFAS distributed more than \$101 billion to more than 2.7 million military and related personnel. It does not make sense to relocate this office during a time of war.

Sincerely,



Joseph Calabrese, CEO
General Manager
Secretary-Treasurer

JAC/jem

RESOLUTION NO. 05-61
INTRODUCED BY: Reese

A RESOLUTION
URGING THE UNITED STATES BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT
COMMISSION TO RETAIN THE DEFENSE FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING
SERVICE IN DOWNTOWN CLEVELAND, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Bay Village, Ohio has as one of its primary responsibilities improving the health and welfare of its citizens, which includes ensuring the availability of a diverse selection of employment opportunities in the Greater Cleveland area; and

WHEREAS, the Defense Finance & Accounting Service (DFAS) in downtown Cleveland is currently the fourth largest federal employer in Greater Cleveland, with a \$65 million annual payroll; and

WHEREAS, DFAS employs some 1,200 people from throughout the region, and provides jobs that are vital to the health of the regional workforce and enrich the ranks of professionals in Northeast Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the Cleveland DFAS office is the world center for Navy payroll services and personnel data management as well as the Reserve Pay Center of Excellence, distributing \$101 billion and serving 2,745,000 military and civilian personnel, retirees and annuitants in FY 2003; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland's DFAS office is an integral part of the system that supports our armed forces, and is a cutting edge model of operational efficiency and customer service for U.S. military pay operations around the world; and

WHEREAS, the loss of these jobs could cost Greater Cleveland an estimated \$128 million, further eroding our regional and state tax base and endangering money for vital services, such as police and fire protection throughout Northeast Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland is one of the nation's preeminent financial service centers, home to the headquarters of several large commercial banks and the regional Federal Reserve, and perfectly situated to continue its track record of excellence here well into the future; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Defense (DOD) has recommended to the Base Closure and Realignment Commission that 1,028 jobs currently performed by the Cleveland DFAS in the Anthony J. Celebrezze Federal Building be relocated to other cities; and

WHEREAS, the recommendation is not a final decision; and

Resolution No. 05-61 Urging Support of the DFAS in downtown Cleveland
-2

PASSED: June 20, 2005

/s/ T. Richard Martin
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

/s/ Joan T. Kemper
CLERK OF COUNCIL

APPROVED: June 21, 2005

/s/ Deborah L. Sutherland
MAYOR

hh

6/10/05

The City of Bedford Heights



5661 PERKINS ROAD • BEDFORD HEIGHTS, OHIO 44146-2597

PHONE (440) 786-3200
FAX (440) 786-3276

MAYOR DEBORA A. MALLIN

WARD COUNCIL

BARBARA L. MacKENZIE – WARD 1
HARVEY L. BROWN – WARD 2
ALTON A. TINKER – WARD 3
KAREN L. GILLIAM – WARD 4

PHILIP D. SAUNDERS – COUNCIL AT LARGE
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

COUNCIL AT LARGE
FLETCHER D. BERGER, JR.
WENDOLYN J. GRANT

PATRICIA F. STAHL
CLERK OF COUNCIL

CERTIFICATION

I, PATRICIA F. STAHL, Clerk of Council of the City of Bedford Heights, State of Ohio, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 2005-102 as introduced and adopted at the meeting of the Council of the City of Bedford Heights held on June 21, 2005 and published according to ordinance and recorded in the Book of Record.

Sincerely,

Patricia F. Stahl
Patricia F. Stahl
Clerk of Council

DATE: June 22, 2005

RESOLUTION NO.: 2005-102
INTRODUCED BY: Mayor Mallin and Council Members Saunders,
Berger, Brown, Gilliam, Grant, MacKenzie, Tinker

A RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION TO RETAIN 1,028 FEDERAL DEFENSE JOBS AT THE DEFENSE FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING SERVICE IN DOWNTOWN CLEVELAND, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the Bedford Heights City Council has as one of its primary responsibilities improving the health and welfare of its citizens, which includes ensuring the availability of a diverse selection of employment opportunities in the Greater Cleveland area; and

WHEREAS, the Defense Finance & Accounting Service (DFAS) in downtown Cleveland is currently the fourth largest federal employer in Greater Cleveland, with a \$65 million annual payroll; and

WHEREAS, DFAS employs some 1,200 people from throughout the region, and provides jobs that are vital to the health of the regional workforce and enrich the ranks of professionals in Northeast Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the Cleveland DFAS office is the world center for Navy payroll services and personnel data management as well as the Reserve Pay Center of Excellence, distributing \$101 billion and serving 2,745,000 military and civilian personnel, retirees and annuitants in FY 2003; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland's DFAS office is an integral part of the system that supports our armed forces, and is a cutting edge model of operational efficiency and customer service for U.S. military pay operations around the world; and

WHEREAS, the loss of these jobs could cost Greater Cleveland an estimated \$128 million, further eroding our regional and state tax base and endangering money for vital services, such as police and fire protection throughout Northeast Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland is one of the nation's preeminent financial service centers, home to the headquarters of several large commercial banks and the regional Federal Reserve, and perfectly situated to continue its track record of excellence here well into the future; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Defense (DOD) has recommended to the Base Closure and Realignment Commission that 1,028 jobs currently performed by the Cleveland DFAS in the Anthony J. Celebrezze Federal Building be relocated to other buildings; and

WHEREAS, the recommendation is not a final decision; and

WHEREAS, the Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance has announced its intentions to work with community partners to fight and reverse DOD's proposal before

the Base Realignment and Closure Commission forwards its recommendations to President Bush in September 2005; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the City of Bedford Heights desire to urge the United States Base Closure and Realignment Commission to retain 1,028 important federal defense jobs at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service in downtown Cleveland and to support and encourage the Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance and the Greater Cleveland Partnership in their advocacy efforts to protect the region's economic vitality by appealing the recommendation of the United States Department of Defense to realign these jobs to other cities and to encourage their retention and to further commit their support and assistance in this undertaking.

NOW, THEREFORE, Be It Resolved by the Council of the City of Bedford Heights, State of Ohio, that:

Section 1: Mayor Debora A. Mallin and Council hereby urge the Base Realignment and Closure Commission to remove the Cleveland office of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service from the list of closures and realignments proposed on May 13, 2005, and retain the 1,028 important federal defense jobs here in Cleveland.

Section 2: Mayor Debora A. Mallin and Council encourage the Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance and the Greater Cleveland Partnership in their advocacy efforts to preserve the region's economic vitality by working to reverse the U.S. Department of Defense's recommendation to realign these professional jobs to other cities.

Section 3: The Clerk be and she is hereby directed to transmit copies of this resolution to President George W. Bush; Congressional Representatives Stephanie Tubbs Jones, Dennis Kucinich, Sherrod Brown and Steven LaTourette, and Senators Mike DeWine and George Voinovich; the appropriate representatives from the Base Realignment and Closure Commission; and the members of the Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance.

Section 4: This Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and, provided it receives the necessary affirmative vote of the elected members, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Mayor; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED: JUNE 21, 2005

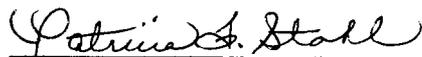

Debora A. Mallin, Mayor

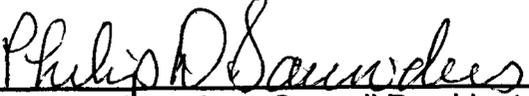
APPROVED: JUNE 21, 2005

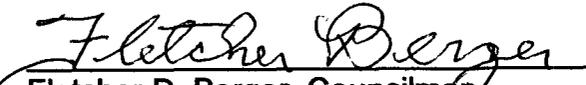
EFFECTIVE: JUNE 21, 2005

ATTEST:

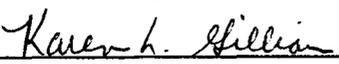
PUBLISHED: JUNE 30, 2005

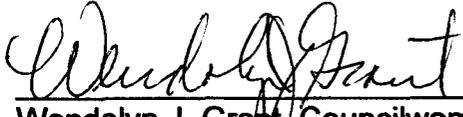

Patricia F. Stahl, Clerk of Council

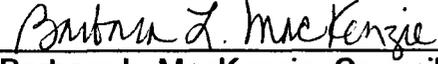

Philip D. Saunders, Council President

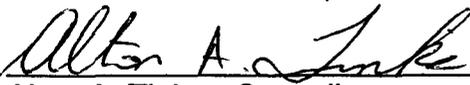

Fletcher D. Berger, Councilman


Harvey L. Brown, Councilman


Karen L. Gilliam, Councilwoman


Wendolyn J. Grant, Councilwoman


Barbara L. MacKenzie, Councilwoman


Alton A. Tinker, Councilman

CITY OF BROOKLYN, OHIO
RESOLUTION NO. 2005 - 9

INTRODUCED BY: Mayor Patton, *Balbir, Pucci, Brown, Gallagher, Gayne, J. Fray*

URGING THE UNITED STATES BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION TO RETAIN 1,028 IMPORTANT FEDERAL DEFENSE JOBS AT THE DEFENSE FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING SERVICE IN DOWNTOWN CLEVELAND AND SUPPORTING AND ENCOURAGING THE CLEVELAND DEFENSE INDUSTRY ALLIANCE AND THE GREATER CLEVELAND PARTNERSHIP IN THEIR ADVOCACY EFFORTS TO PROTECT THE REGION'S ECONOMIC VITALITY BY APPEALING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO REALIGN THESE JOBS TO OTHER CITIES AND ENCOURAGING THEIR RETENTION; AND FURTHER COMMITTING COUNCIL'S SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE IN THIS UNDERTAKING

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Brooklyn City Council have as one of their primary responsibilities improving the health and welfare of its citizens, which includes ensuring the availability of a diverse selection of employment opportunities in the Greater Cleveland area; and

WHEREAS, the Defense Finance & Accounting Service (DFAS) in downtown Cleveland is currently the fourth largest federal employer in Greater Cleveland, with a \$65 million payroll; and

WHEREAS, DFAS employs some 1,200 people from throughout the region, and provides jobs that are vital to the health of the regional workforce and enrich the ranks of professionals in Northeast Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the Cleveland DFAS office is the world center for Navy payroll services and personnel data management as well as the Reserve Pay Center of Excellence, distributing \$101 billion and serving 2,745,000 military and civilian personnel, retirees and annuitants in FY 2003; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland's DFAS office is an integral part of the system that supports our armed forces, and is a cutting edge model of operational efficiency and customer service for U.S. military pay operations around the world; and

WHEREAS, the loss of these jobs could cost Greater Cleveland an estimated \$128 million, further eroding our regional and state tax base and endangering money for vital services, such as police and fire protection throughout Northeast Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland is one of the nation's preeminent financial service centers, home to the headquarters of several large commercial banks and the regional Federal Reserve, and perfectly situated to continue its track record of excellence here well into the future; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Defense (DOD) has recommended to the Base Closure and Realignment Commission that 1,028 jobs currently performed by the Cleveland DFAS in the Anthony J. Celebrezze Federal Building be relocated to other cities; and

WHEREAS, the recommendation is not a final decision; and

WHEREAS, the Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance has announced its intentions to work with community partners to fight and reverse DOD's proposal before the Base Realignment and Closure Commission forwards its recommendations to President Bush in September 2005.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BROOKLYN, COUNTY OF CUYAHOGA AND STATE OF OHIO:

SECTION 1. That the Mayor and City Council hereby urge the Base Realignment and Closure Commission to remove the Cleveland office of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service from the list of closures and realignments proposed on May 13, 2005, and retain the 1,028 important federal defense jobs here in Cleveland.

SECTION 2. That the Mayor and this City Council encourages the Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance and the Greater Cleveland Partnership in their advocacy efforts to preserve the region's economic vitality by working to reverse the U.S. Department of Defense's recommendation to realign these professional jobs to other cities.

SECTION 3. That the Clerk is hereby directed to transmit copies of this Resolution to President George W. Bush, Congressional Representatives Stephanie Tubbs Jones, Dennis Kucinich, Sherrod Brown and Steven LaTourette, and Senators Mike DeWine and George Voinovich; the appropriate representatives from the Base Realignment and Closure Commission, and the members of the Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance.

SECTION 4. That this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure dealing with the daily operation of the city; and provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of all members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

ADOPTED: 6/13/05

ATTESTED:


Clerk of Council


MAYOR

Filed with the Mayor: 6/14/05

RESOLUTION RECORD
COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

Resolution No. 14-2005

By ALL of COUNCIL

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION TO RETAIN 1,028 IMPORTANT FEDERAL DEFENSE JOBS AT THE DEFENSE FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING SERVICE IN DOWNTOWN CLEVELAND AND SUPPORTING AND ENCOURAGING THE CLEVELAND DEFENSE INDUSTRY ALLIANCE AND THE GREATER CLEVELAND PARTNERSHIP IN THEIR ADVOCACY EFFORTS TO PROTECT THE REGION'S ECONOMIC VITALITY BY APPEALING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO REALIGN THESE JOBS TO OTHER CITIES AND ENCOURAGING THEIR RETENTION;
AND FURTHER COMMITTING COUNCIL'S SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE IN THIS UNDERTAKING

WHEREAS, the Council of the Village of Brooklyn Heights has as one of its primary responsibilities improving the health and welfare of its citizens, which includes ensuring the availability of a diverse selection of employment opportunities in the Greater Cleveland area; and

WHEREAS, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) in downtown Cleveland is currently the fourth largest federal employer in Greater Cleveland, with a \$65 million annual payroll; and

WHEREAS, DFAS employs some 1,200 people from throughout the region, and provides jobs that are vital to the health of the regional workforce and enrich the ranks of professionals in Northeast Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the Cleveland DFAS office is the world center for Navy payroll service and personnel data management as well as the Reserve Pay Center of Excellence, distributing \$101 billion and serving 2,745,000 military and civilian personnel, retirees and annuitants in FY 2003; and

WHEREAS, the loss of these jobs could cost Greater Cleveland and estimated \$128 million, further eroding our regional and state tax base and endangering money for vital services, such as police and fire protection throughout Northeast Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland is one of the nation's preeminent financial service centers, home to the headquarters of several large commercial banks and the regional Federal Reserve, and perfectly situated to continue its tack record of excellence here well into the future; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Defense (DOD) has recommended to the Base Closure and Realignment Commission that 1,028 jobs currently performed by the Cleveland DFAS in the Anthony J. Celebrezze Federal Building be relocated to other cities; and

WHEREAS, the recommendation is not a final decision; and

RESOLUTION RECORD
COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

Resolution No. _____

By _____

WHEREAS, the Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance has announced its intentions to work with community partners to fight and reverse DOD's proposal before the Base Realignment and Closure Commission forwards its recommendations to President Bush I September, 1005; and

WHEREAS, this resolution constitutes an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health or safety.

THE VILLAGE OF BROOKLYN HEIGHTS ORDAINS THAT:

Section 1. That this Council hereby urges the Base Realignment and Closure Commission to remove the Cleveland office of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service from the list of closures and realignments proposed on May 13, 2005, and retain the 1,028 important federal defense jobs here in Cleveland.

Section 2. That this Council encourages the Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance and the Greater Cleveland Partnership in their advocacy efforts to preserve the region's economic vitality by working to reverse the U.S. Department of Defense's recommendation to realign these professional jobs to other cities.

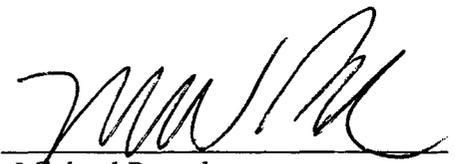
Section 3. That the Clerk/Treasurer is hereby directed to transmit copies of this resolution to President George W. Bush, Congressional Representatives Stephanie Tubbs Jones, Dennis Kucinich, Sherrod Brown and Steven LaTourette, and Senators Mike DeWine and George Voinovich; the appropriate representatives from the Base Realignment and Closure Commission, and the members of the Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance.

Section 4. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council; and that all deliberations of the Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements.

Section 5. That this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety and welfare of the Village of Brooklyn Heights, and this Resolution shall become effective upon receiving the affirmative vote of five (5) members of Council and approval of the Mayor and/or Clerk/Treasurer otherwise from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED: JUNE 21 2005

ATTEST: 
James J. Vavrek,
Clerk/Treasurer

APPROVED: 
Michael Procuk,
Mayor

Resolution No. **117-2005**

By – Mayor Cervenik and Entire Council

A resolution urging the United States Base Closure and Realignment Commission to retain 1,028 important federal defense jobs at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service in downtown Cleveland, and supporting and encouraging the Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance and the Greater Cleveland Partnership in their advocacy efforts to protect the region's economic vitality by appealing the recommendation of the United States Department of Defense to realign these jobs to other cities and encouraging their retention; and further committing Council's support and assistance in this undertaking.

WHEREAS, Euclid City Council has one of its primary responsibilities improving the health and welfare of its citizens, which includes ensuring the availability of a diverse selection of employment opportunities in the Greater Cleveland area; and

WHEREAS, the Defense Finance & Accounting Service (DFAS) in downtown Cleveland is currently the fourth largest federal employer in Greater Cleveland, with a \$65 million annual payroll; and

WHEREAS, DFAS employs some 1,200 people from throughout the region, and provides jobs that are vital to the health of the regional workforce and enrich the ranks of professionals in Northeast Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the Cleveland DFAS office is the world center for Navy payroll services and personnel data management as well as the Reserve Pay Center of Excellence, distributing \$101 billion and serving 2,745,000 military and civilian personnel, retirees and annuitants in FY 2003; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland's DFAS office is an integral part of the system that supports our armed forces, and is a cutting edge model of operational efficiency and customer service for U.S. military pay operations around the world; and

WHEREAS, the loss of these jobs could cost Greater Cleveland an estimated \$128 million, further eroding our regional and state tax base and endangering money for vital services, such as police and fire protection throughout Northeast Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland is one of the nations preeminent financial service centers, home to the headquarters of several large commercial banks and the regional Federal Reserve, and perfectly situated to

CITY OF FAIRVIEW PARK

RESOLUTION 05-12

REQUESTED BY: MAYOR PATTON

SPONSORED BY: COUNCILMAN MINEK

CO-SPONSORED BY: Councilmembers Robatin, Gauthier, Westfall, Thomas, Sweeney and Council President Bringman

A RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION TO RETAIN OVER ONE THOUSAND FEDERAL DEFENSE JOBS AT THE DEFENSE FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING SERVICE IN DOWNTOWN CLEVELAND, OHIO IN AN EFFORT TO PROTECT NORTHEAST OHIO'S ECONOMIC VITALITY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, Fairview Park City Council has as one of its primary responsibilities improving the health and welfare of its citizens, which includes advocating support for and promoting the availability of a diverse selection of employment opportunities in Northeast Ohio; and,

WHEREAS, the United State Department of Defense has recommended to the Base Closure and Realignment Commission that over one thousand jobs currently performed by the Cleveland Defense and Accounting Service be relocated to other cities; and,

WHEREAS, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) in downtown Cleveland is currently the fourth largest federal employer in Greater Cleveland with a \$65 million annual payroll and is the world center for Navy payroll services and personnel data management serving 2,745,000 military and civilian personnel, retirees and annuitants; and,

WHEREAS, Cleveland's DFAS office employs some 1200 people from throughout the region and provides jobs that are vital to the health of Cuyahoga County's tax base. It is estimated that the loss of these jobs could cost the Greater Cleveland area \$128 million; and,

WHEREAS, the recommendation is not a final decision and the Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance has announced its intentions to work with community partners to fight and reverse the Department of Defense's proposal before the Base Realignment and Closure Commission forwards its recommendations to President Bush in September of 2005.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF FAIRVIEW PARK, COUNTY OF CUYAHOGA AND STATE OF OHIO:

SECTION 1) The Council of the City of Fairview Park hereby urges the Base Realignment and Closure Commission to remove the *Cleveland DFAS* office from the list of closures and realignments proposed on May 13, 2005 and retain these 1,028 important federal defense jobs in Cleveland, Ohio.

SECTION 2) That the Clerk of Council is hereby directed to forward copies of this resolution to President George W. Bush, Senators Mike DeWine and George Voinovich, Congressman Dennis Kucinich, the appropriate representatives of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission and the members of the Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance.

RESOLUTION 05- 12
PAGE 2

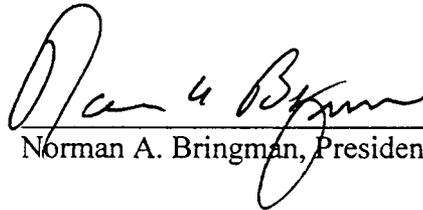
SECTION 3) It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements.

SECTION 4) That this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare; and provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all members elected to council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage and approval by the mayor, otherwise from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED: 06-20-05
APPROVED: 06-21-05



Eileen Ann Patton, Mayor



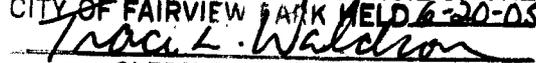
Norman A. Bringman, President of Council



Traci L. Waldron, Clerk of Council

1st reading: 06-20-05
2nd reading: Suspended
3rd reading: Suspended

TRACI L. WALDRON, CLERK OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAIRVIEW PARK, OHIO, DOES HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE IS A TRUE COPY OF RESOLUTION-ORDINANCE NO. 05-12 AT A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAIRVIEW PARK HELD 6-20-05


CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

**CITY OF HIGHLAND HEIGHTS
RESOLUTION NO. 19 - 2005**

INTRODUCED BY: Mayor Scott E. Coleman and Council as a Whole

MOTION BY: Councilman Scott A. Mills

SECONDED BY: Councilwoman Virginia K. Swanson

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION TO RETAIN 1,028 IMPORTANT FEDERAL DEFENSE JOBS AT THE DEFENSE FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING SERVICE IN DOWNTOWN CLEVELAND AND SUPPORTING AND ENCOURAGING THE CLEVELAND DEFENSE INDUSTRY ALLIANCE AND THE GREATER CLEVELAND PARTNERSHIP IN THEIR ADVOCACY EFFORTS TO PROTECT THE REGION'S ECONOMIC VITALITY BY APPEALING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO REALIGN THESE JOBS TO OTHER CITIES AND ENCOURAGING THEIR RETENTION; AND FURTHER COMMITTING COUNCIL'S SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE IN THIS UNDERTAKING.

WHEREAS, Highland Heights City Council has as one of its primary responsibilities improving the health and welfare of its citizens, which includes ensuring the availability of a diverse selection of employment opportunities in the Greater Cleveland area; and

WHEREAS, the Defense Finance & Accounting Service (DFAS) in downtown Cleveland is currently the fourth largest federal employer in Greater Cleveland, with a \$65 million annual payroll; and

WHEREAS, DFAS employs some 1,200 people from throughout the region, and provides jobs that are vital to the health of the regional workforce and enrich the ranks of professionals in Northeast Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the Cleveland DFAS office is the world center for Navy payroll services and personnel data management as well as the Reserve Pay Center of Excellence, distributing \$101 billion and serving 2,745,000 military and civilian personnel, retirees and annuitants in FY 2003; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland's DFAS office is an integral part of the system that supports our armed forces, and is a cutting edge model of operational efficiency and customer service for U.S. military pay operations around the world; and

Section 4 That the Council finds and determines that all formal actions of this Council relating to the adoption of this Resolution have been taken at open meetings of this Council; and that deliberations of this Council and of its committees, resulting in such formal action, took place in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all statutory requirements including the requirements of Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code. .

Section 5. That this resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and, provided it receives the necessary affirmative vote of the elected members, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Mayor, otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period provided by law.

Reading: 6/21/05

Virginia M. Amerson
President of Council

PASSED: June 21, 2005

Filed with Mayor: 6/21/05

ATTEST: Jean A. Buchak
Clerk of Council

APPROVED: 6/21/05

EFFECTIVE: June 21, 2005

Seth E. Plemer
Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Timothy G. Paluf
Timothy G. Paluf, Director of Law

CERTIFICATE OF TRUE COPY

I, Jean A. Buchak, do hereby certify that I am the appointed Clerk of the Council of the City of Highland Heights, Ohio, and that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of (Ordinance) (Resolution), 19-2005, (adopted) (enacted) by the City Council on the 21 day of June, 2005 by a vote of ayes all and approved by the Mayor on the 21 day of June, 2005.

Signed this 21 day of June, 2005
Jean A. Buchak
Clerk of the Council of the
City of Highland Heights, Ohio

IN THE CITY OF MAYFIELD HEIGHTS

RESOLUTION NO. 2005-42

**INTRODUCED BY: Mayor Margaret Egensperger, Council Members
Michael Ballistrea, Gregory Costabile, Geno Manfredi,
Sam Mercurio, Diane Snider, Howard Sonenstein, and Gayle Teresi**

A RESOLUTION

**URGING THE UNITED STATES BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT
COMMISSION TO RETAIN 1,028 IMPORTANT FEDERAL DEFENSE JOBS AT
THE DEFENSE FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING SERVICE IN DOWNTOWN
CLEVELAND AND SUPPORTING AND ENCOURAGING THE CLEVELAND
DEFENSE INDUSTRY ALLIANCE AND THE GREATER CLEVELAND
PARTNERSHIP IN THEIR ADVOCACY EFFORTS TO PROTECT THE REGION'S
ECONOMIC VITALITY BY APPEALING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO REALIGN THESE JOBS TO
OTHER CITIES AND ENCOURAGING THEIR RETENTION; AND FURTHER
COMMITTING COUNCIL'S SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE IN THIS
UNDERTAKING, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Mayfield Heights has as one of its primary responsibilities improving the health and welfare of its citizens, which includes ensuring the availability of a diverse selection of employment opportunities in the Greater Cleveland area; and

WHEREAS, the Defense Finance & Accounting Service (DFAS) in downtown Cleveland is currently the fourth largest federal employer in Greater Cleveland, with a \$65 million annual payroll; and

WHEREAS, DFAS employs some 1,200 people from throughout the region, and provides jobs that are vital to the health of the regional workforce and enrich the ranks of professionals in Northeast Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the Cleveland DFS office is the world center for Navy payroll services and personnel data management as well as the Reserve Pay Center of Excellence, distributing \$101 billion and serving 2,745,000 military and civilian personnel, retirees and annuitants in FY 2003; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland's DFAS office is an integral part of the system that supports our armed forces, and is a cutting edge model of operational efficiency and customer service for U.S. military pay operations around the world; and

WHEREAS, the loss of these jobs could cost Greater Cleveland an estimated \$128 million, further eroding our regional and state tax base and endangering money for vital services, such as police and fire protection throughout Northeast Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland is one of the nation's preeminent financial service centers home to the headquarters of several large commercial banks and the regional Federal Reserve, and perfectly situated to continue its track record of excellence here well into the future; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Defense (DOD) has recommended to the Base Closure and Realignment Commission that 1,028 jobs currently performed by the Cleveland DFAS in the Anthony J. Celebrezze Federal Building be relocated to other cities; and

WHEREAS, the recommendation is not a final decision; and

Orange Village, Ohio

Office of the Mayor

Proclamation

Whereas:

Orange Village Mayor Kathy U. Mulcahy has as one of her primary responsibilities improving the health and welfare of Village residents, which includes ensuring the availability of a diverse selection of employment opportunities in the Greater Cleveland area; and

WHEREAS, the Defense Finance & Accounting Service (DFAS) downtown Cleveland is currently the fourth largest federal employer in Greater Cleveland, with a \$65 million annual payroll; and

WHEREAS, DSAF employs some 1,200 people throughout the region, and provides jobs that are vital to the health of the regional workforce and enrich the ranks of professionals in Northeast Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the Cleveland DFAS office is the world center for Navy payroll services and personnel data management as well as the Reserve Pay Center of Excellence, distributing \$101 billion and serving 2,745,000 military and civilian personnel, retirees and annuitants in FY 2003; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland's DFAS office is an integral part of the system that supports our armed forces, and is a cutting edge model of operational efficiency and customer service for U.S. military pay operations around the world; and

WHEREAS, the loss of these jobs could cost Greater Cleveland an estimated \$128 million, further eroding our regional and state tax base and endangering money for vital community investments;

Section 2. The Mayor encourages the Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance and the Greater Cleveland Partnership in their advocacy efforts to preserve the region's economic vitality by working to reverse the U.S. Department of Defense's recommendation to realign these professional jobs to other cities.

Section 3. The Mayor will forward copies of this proclamation to President George W. Bush, Congressional Representatives Stephanie Tubbs Jones, Dennis Kucinich, Sherrod Brown and Steven LaTourette, and Senators Mike DeWine and George Voinovich; the appropriate representatives from the Base Realignment and Closure Commission, and the members of the Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance.

Section 4. That this proclamation is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force immediately.

Now, therefore, I, Kathy U. Mulcahy, Mayor of Orange Village, State of Ohio, do hereby urge the United States Base Closure and, Realignment Commission to retain 1,028 important federal defense jobs at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service in downtown Cleveland and support and encourage the Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance and the Greater Cleveland Partnership in their advocacy efforts to protect the region's economic vitality by appealing the recommendation of the United States Department of Defense to realign these jobs to other cities and encouraging their retention; and further commit my support and assistance in this undertaking.

In witness whereof I have set my hand and caused the seal of Orange Village, Ohio to be affixed, this 17th day of June 2005.



Kathy U. Mulcahy
Kathy U. Mulcahy, Mayor

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the City of Shaker Heights has as one of its primary responsibilities improving the health and welfare of its citizens, which includes ensuring the availability of a diverse selection of employment opportunities in the Greater Cleveland area, and

WHEREAS, the Defense Finance & Accounting Service (DFAS) in downtown Cleveland is currently the fourth largest federal employer in Greater Cleveland, with a \$65 million annual payroll, and

WHEREAS, DFAS employs some 1,200 people from throughout the region, and provides jobs that are vital to the health of the regional workforce and enrich the ranks of professionals in Northeast Ohio, and

WHEREAS, the Cleveland DFAS office is the world center for Navy payroll services and personnel data management as well as the Reserve Pay Center of Excellence, distributing \$101 billion and serving 2,745,000 military and civilian personnel, retirees and annuitants in FY 2003, and

WHEREAS, Cleveland's DFAS office is an integral part of the system that supports our armed forces, and is a cutting edge model of operational efficiency and customer service for U.S. military pay operations around the world, and

WHEREAS, the loss of these jobs could cost Greater Cleveland an estimated \$128 million, further eroding our regional and state tax base and endangering money for vital services, such as police and fire protection throughout Northeast Ohio,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Judith H. Rawson, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Shaker Heights, Ohio, do hereby urge the Base Realignment and Closure Commission to remove the Cleveland office of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service from the list of closures and retain the important federal defense jobs here in Cleveland.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Shaker Heights to be affixed this 13th day of June in the year two thousand five.


Judith H. Rawson
Judith H. Rawson, Mayor

City of Solon

Record of Ordinances

Requested by the
Mayor

RESOLUTION NO: 2005-159

INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR PATTON

A RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION TO RETAIN JOBS AT THE DEFENSE FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING SERVICE IN CLEVELAND AND SUPPORTING THE CLEVELAND DEFENSE INDUSTRY ALLIANCE AND THE GREATER CLEVELAND PARTNERSHIP IN THEIR EFFORTS TO APPEAL THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO REALIGN THESE JOBS TO OTHER CITIES

WHEREAS, the Solon City Council has as one of its primary responsibilities improving the health and welfare of its citizens, which includes ensuring the availability of a diverse selection of employment opportunities in the Greater Cleveland area; and

WHEREAS, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) in downtown Cleveland is currently the fourth largest federal employer in Greater Cleveland, with a \$65 million annual payroll; and

WHEREAS, DFAS employs some 1,200 people from throughout the region, and provides jobs that are vital to the health of the regional workforce and enrich the ranks of professionals in Northeast Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the Cleveland DFAS office is the world center for Navy payroll services and personnel data management as well as the Reserve Pay Center of Excellence, distributing \$101 billion and saving 2,745,000 military and civilian personnel, retirees and annuitants in FY 2003; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland's DFAS office is an integral part of the system that supports our armed forces, and is a cutting edge model of operational efficiency and customer service for U.S. military pay operations around the world; and

WHEREAS, the loss of these jobs could cost Greater Cleveland an estimated \$128 million, further eroding our regional and state tax base and endangering money for vital services, such as police and fire protection throughout Northeast Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland is one of the nation's preeminent financial service centers, home to the headquarters of several large commercial banks and the regional Federal Reserve, and perfectly situated to continue its track record of excellence here well into the future; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Defense (DOD) has recommended to the Base Closure and Realignment Commission that 1,028 jobs currently performed by the Cleveland DFAS in the Anthony J. Celebrezze Federal Building be relocated to other cities; and

WHEREAS, the recommendation is not a final decision; and

WHEREAS, the Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance has announced its intentions to work with community partners to fight and reverse DOD's proposal before the Base Realignment and Closure Commission forwards its recommendations to President Bush in September 2005; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution constitutes an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health or safety.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Council of the City of Solon, State of Ohio:

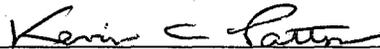
SECTION 1. That the Mayor and City Council urges the Base Realignment and Closure Commission to remove the Cleveland office of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service from the list of closures and realignments proposed on May 13, 2005, and retain the 1,028 important federal defense jobs here in Cleveland.

SECTION 2. That this Council encourages the Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance and the Greater Cleveland Partnership in their advocacy efforts to preserve the region's economic vitality by working to reverse the U.S. Department of Defense's recommendation to realign these professional jobs to other cities.

SECTION 3. That the Clerk of Council is hereby directed to transmit copies of this Resolution to President George W. Bush; Congressional Representatives Stephanie Tubbs Jones, Dennis Kucinich, Sherrod Brown, and Steven LaTourette, and Senators Michael DeWine and George Voinovich; the appropriate representatives from the Base Realignment and Closure Commission, and the members of the Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance.

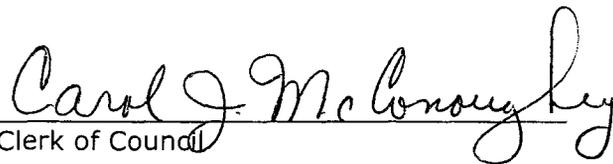
SECTION 4. That this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and, provided it receives the necessary affirmative vote of the elected members, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

Passed: June 20, 2005



Mayor

ATTEST:

Asst. 
Clerk of Council

CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, OHIO

RESOLUTION NO. 2005 - 144

By: Mayor Perciak

A RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION TO RETAIN 1,028 IMPORTANT FEDERAL DEFENSE JOBS AT THE DEFENSE FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING SERVICE IN DOWNTOWN CLEVELAND; SUPPORTING AND ENCOURAGING THE CLEVELAND DEFENSE INDUSTRY ALLIANCE AND THE GREATER CLEVELAND PARTNERSHIP IN THEIR ADVOCACY EFFORTS TO PROTECT THE REGION'S ECONOMIC VITALITY BY APPEALING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO REALIGN THESE JOBS TO OTHER CITIES AND ENCOURAGING THEIR RETENTION; AND FURTHER COMMITTING COUNCIL'S SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE IN THIS UNDERTAKING.

WHEREAS, the Strongsville City Council has as one of its primary responsibilities improving the health and welfare of its citizens, which includes ensuring the availability of a diverse selection of employment opportunities in the Greater Cleveland area; and

WHEREAS, the Defense Finance & Accounting Service (DFAS) in downtown Cleveland is currently the fourth largest federal employer in Greater Cleveland, with a \$65 million annual payroll; and

WHEREAS, DFAS employs some 1,200 people from throughout the region, and provides jobs that are vital to the health of the regional workforce and enriches the ranks of professionals in Northeast Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the Cleveland DFAS office is the world center for Navy payroll services and personnel data management, as well as the Reserve Pay Center of Excellence, distributing \$101 billion and serving 2,745,000 military and civilian personnel, retirees and annuitants in FY 2003; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland's DFAS office is an integral part of the system that supports our armed forces, and is a cutting edge model of operational efficiency and customer service for U.S. military pay operations around the world; and

WHEREAS, the loss of these jobs could cost Greater Cleveland an estimated \$128 million, further eroding our regional and state tax base and endangering money for vital services, such as police and fire protection throughout Northeast Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland is one of the nation's preeminent financial service centers, home to the headquarters of several large commercial banks and the regional Federal Reserve, and perfectly situated to continue its track record of excellence here well into the future; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Defense (DOD) has recommended to the Base Closure and Realignment Commission that 1,028 jobs currently performed by the Cleveland DFAS in the Anthony J. Celebrezze Federal Building be relocated to other cities; and

WHEREAS, such recommendation is not yet a final decision; and

WHEREAS, the Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance has announced its intention to work with community partners to fight and reverse DOD's proposal before the Base Realignment and Closure Commission forwards its recommendations to President Bush in September, 2005; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, COUNTY OF CUYAHOGA AND STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That this Council hereby urges the Base Realignment and Closure Commission to remove the Cleveland office of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service from the list of closures and realignments proposed on May 13, 2005, and retain the 1,028 important federal defense jobs here in Cleveland.

Section 2. That this Council encourages the Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance and the Greater Cleveland Partnership in their advocacy efforts to preserve the region's economic vitality by working to reverse the U.S. Department of Defense's recommendation to realign these professional jobs to other cities.

Section 3. That the Clerk of Council is hereby directed to transmit copies of this Resolution to President George W. Bush, Congressional Representatives Stephanie Tubbs Jones, Dennis Kucinich, Sherrod Brown and Steven LaTourette, and U.S. Senators Mike DeWine and George Voinovich; the appropriate representatives from the base Realignment and Closure Commission, and the members of the Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance.

Section 4. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council; and that all deliberations of this Council, and of any of its committees, that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements.

RESOLUTION NO. 2005-45

INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR AND COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION TO RETAIN 1,028 IMPORTANT FEDERAL DEFENSE JOBS AT THE DEFENSE FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING SERVICE IN DOWNTOWN CLEVELAND AND SUPPORTING AND ENCOURAGING THE CLEVELAND DEFENSE INDUSTRY ALLIANCE AND THE GREATER CLEVELAND PARTNERSHIP IN THEIR ADVOCACY EFFORTS TO PROTECT THE REGION'S ECONOMIC VITALITY BY APPEALING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO REALIGN THESE JOBS TO OTHER CITIES AND ENCOURAGING THEIR RETENTION; AND FURTHER COMMITTING COUNCIL'S SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE IN THIS UNDERTAKING.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the City of University Heights has as one of their primary responsibilities improving the health and welfare of its citizens, which includes ensuring the availability of a diverse selection of employment opportunities in the Greater Cleveland area; and

WHEREAS, the Defense Finance & Accounting Service (DFAS) in downtown Cleveland is currently the fourth largest Federal employer in Greater Cleveland, with a \$65 million annual payroll; and

WHEREAS, DFAS employs some 1,200 people from throughout the region, and provides jobs that are vital to the health of the regional workforce and enriches the ranks of professionals in Northeast Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the Cleveland DFAS office is the world center for Navy payroll services and personnel data management as well as the Reserve Pay Center of Excellence, distributing \$101 billion and serving 2,745,000 military and civilian personnel, retirees and annuitants in FY 2003; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland's DFAS office is an integral part of the system that supports our Armed Forces, and is a cutting edge model of operational efficiency and customer service

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS THAT:

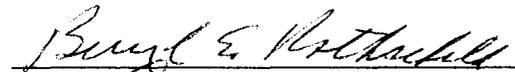
SECTION 1. That the Mayor and Council hereby urge the Base Realignment and Closure Commission to remove the Cleveland Office of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service from the list of closures and realignments proposed on May 13, 2005, and retain the 1,028 important Federal defense jobs here in Cleveland.

SECTION 2. That the Mayor and Council encourage the Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance and the Greater Cleveland Partnership in their advocacy efforts to preserve the region's economic vitality by working to reverse the U.S. Department of Defense's recommendation to realign these professional jobs to other cities.

SECTION 3. That the Clerk is hereby directed to transmit copies of this resolution to President George W. Bush, Congressional Representatives Stephanie Tubbs Jones, Dennis Kucinich, Sherrod Brown and Steven LaTourette, and Senators Mike DeWine and George Voinovich; the appropriate representatives from the Base Realignment and Closure Commission, and the members of the Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance.

SECTION 4. It is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements.

SECTION 5. This resolution is declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public peace, safety, health and welfare of the citizens of the City of University Heights. It shall therefore become effective upon its passage by the affirmative vote of not less than five (5) members of Council and approval of the Mayor; otherwise, it shall become effective at the earliest time allowed by law.


Beryl E. Rothschild, Mayor

VILLAGE OF WALTON HILLS, OHIO

RESOLUTION NO. 2005-21

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMAN ALLEN

A RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION TO RETAIN 1,028 IMPORTANT FEDERAL DEFENSE JOBS AT THE DEFENSE FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING SERVICE IN DOWNTOWN CLEVELAND AND SUPPORTING AND ENCOURAGING THE CLEVELAND DEFENSE INDUSTRY ALLIANCE AND THE GREATER CLEVELAND PARTNERSHIP IN THEIR ADVOCACY EFFORTS TO PROTECT THE REGION'S ECONOMIC VITALITY BY APPEALING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO REALIGN THESE JOBS TO OTHER CITIES AND ENCOURAGING THEIR RETENTION; AND FURTHER COMMITTING COUNCIL'S SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE IN THIS UNDERTAKING, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, Walton Hills Village Council has as one of its primary responsibilities improving the health and welfare of its citizens, which includes ensuring the availability of a diverse selection of employment opportunities in the Greater Cleveland area; and

WHEREAS, the Defense Finance & Accounting Service (DFAS) in downtown Cleveland is currently the fourth largest federal employer in Greater Cleveland, with a \$65 million annual payroll; and

WHEREAS, DFAS employs some 1,200 people from throughout the region, and provides jobs that are vital to the health of the regional workforce and enrich the ranks of professionals in Northeast Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the Cleveland DFAS office is the world center for Navy payroll services and personnel data management as well as the Reserve Pay Center of Excellence, distributing \$101 billion and serving 2,745,000 military and civilian personnel, retirees and annuitants in FY 2003; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland's DFAS office is an integral part of the system that supports our armed forces, and is a cutting edge model of operational efficiency and customer service for U.S. military pay operations around the world; and

WHEREAS, the loss of these jobs could cost Greater Cleveland an estimated \$128 million, further eroding our regional and state tax base and endangering money for vital services, such as police and fire protection throughout Northeast Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland is one of the nation's preeminent financial service centers, home to the headquarters of several large commercial banks and the regional Federal Reserve, and perfectly situated to continue its track record of excellence here well into the future; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Defense (DOD) has recommended to the Base Closure and Realignment Commission that 1,028 jobs currently performed by the Cleveland DFAS in the Anthony J. Celebrezze Federal Building be relocated to other cities; and

WHEREAS, the recommendation is not a final decision; and

WHEREAS, the Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance has announced its intentions to work with community partners to fight and reverse DOD's proposal before the Base Realignment and Closure Commission forwards its recommendations to President Bush in September 2005; and

WHEREAS, this resolution constitutes an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health or safety.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF WALTON HILLS, STATE OF OHIO, THAT:

SECTION 1. That this Council hereby urges the Base Realignment and Closure Commission to remove the Cleveland office of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service from the list of closures and realignments proposed on May 13, 2005, and retain the 1,028 important federal defense jobs here in Cleveland.

SECTION 2. That this Council encourages the Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance and the Greater Cleveland Partnership in their advocacy efforts to preserve the region's economic vitality by working to reverse the U.S. Department of Defense's recommendation to realign these professional jobs to other cities.

SECTION 3. That the Clerk is hereby directed to transmit copies of this resolution to President George W. Bush, Congressional Representatives Stephanie Tubbs Jones, Dennis Kucinich, Sherrod Brown and Steven LaTourette, and Senators Mike DeWine and George Voinovich; the appropriate representatives from the Base Realignment and Closure Commission, and the members of the Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance.

SECTION 4. That this resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and, provided it receives the necessary affirmative vote of the elected members, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

Marlene B. Anielski
MARLENE B. ANIELSKI, MAYOR

PASSED: JUNE 21, 2005

ATTEST: Janet Pavlic
JANET PAVLIC, CLERK

I, Janet Pavlic Clerk of Council of the Village of Walton Hills, Ohio, Cuyahoga County, hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of Res. 2005-21 duly adopted by the Council of said Village on June 21, 2005.
Janet Pavlic
Clerk of Council

DFAS closure would greatly hurt Cleveland

I am one of 1,200 professional employees at the Cleveland office of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service — the “nerve center” for paying our troops in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world. Our center is on the proposed base realignment and closure list. It should be taken off.

Relocating our jobs — during a war — to Indianapolis, Denver and Columbus makes no sense

and won't result in savings to the federal government.

Our accounting and information technology jobs are very specialized, and people to fill those jobs aren't in great supply in every community. We have worked for many years to create a model of operation efficiency and customer service here, and many of the best practices of the larger DFAS organization were pioneered by the people who work

right here in Cleveland.

DFAS is currently the fourth largest federal employer in our region. The 1,028 jobs we could lose are vital to the health of the region and significantly enrich the ranks of local professionals.

Closing the Cleveland DFAS will cost an estimated \$128 million to our local economy.

ELAINE KUCIA
Garfield Heights

SUN SCOOP JOURNAL
Thursday, May 19, 2005

PANS to the federal government for taking over 1,000 jobs at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service out of Cleveland. Basing the decision in part on high rent at their downtown location is pretty weak, especially when the federal government is the one charging the rent.

Base instincts

The Pentagon reveals its priorities

On Friday, the Pentagon announced plans to shut down or realign roughly 800 military bases, installations and offices across the country. Cleveland shuddered at the proposed closing of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service office in the city's downtown. The office employs 1,000 workers (plus another 1,000 in related private-sector operations), generating \$6.9 million in local tax revenue.

The nation's most impoverished city cannot easily cope with such a blow.

Cleveland is not alone. If the plans were not as sweeping as once expected, they touched communities from Alaska to the Carolinas. Mansfield would lose its Air National Guard base and 1,060 jobs. Connecticut would suffer the largest job loss (8,586). South Dakota faces the closure of Ellsworth Air Base.

Other states would gain jobs, Maryland, 9,293, Georgia, 7,423, Texas, 6,150. Ohio would add 241 jobs altogether. Striking is the movement of military operations from the Northeast and upper Midwest to the South and West. Cleveland may have been disadvantaged by higher costs for office space.

U.S. Rep. Dennis Kucinich suggested something

politically sinister at work, punishment for Northeast Ohio supporting the challenger in the presidential race. The Cleveland Democrat should note the many Republicans howling at the recommendations. Sen. Olympia Snowe of Maine argued that "the Defense Department and the Navy must have been operating in a fog so thick they couldn't even see the facts in front of them." (Maine would lose 6,938 jobs.)

On Monday, the Pentagon will begin to make its case to the independent Base Realignment and Closure Commission. The panel will have the final word on the details. Congress must either reject or approve the entire package. The truth is, this process has worked well since its initiation in the 1980s. It has been refreshingly free of the political.

Communities will have an opportunity to appeal. The commission has historically endorsed 85 percent of the Pentagon recommendations. The Defense Department has in mind consolidation that will achieve greater agility in the war against terrorism. In that way, the overall savings (\$49 billion over two decades) isn't the top priority. Neither should the decisive factor be the protection of local jobs.

LaTourette, Taft pledge to fight hard

John Arthur Hutchison

Staff Writer

U.S. Rep. Steven C. LaTourette said "now is not the time for foot-stomping or pouting" about the Base Realignment and Closure list that targets the Defense Finance and Accounting Service Center in Cleveland.

"We need to concentrate our efforts on making a convincing case to the president before Sept. 8 that this recommendation to realign the Cleveland DFAS Center is misguided based on the very criteria under which the decision was made," LaTourette, R-Concord Township, said in a prepared statement.

Gov. Bob Taft said the announcement contains good and bad news for the state.

LaTourette plans to point out that at least three of the eight factors that led to the center being placed on the BRAC list were made in error:

- Cost and manpower implications.
- Extent and timing of potential costs and savings, including the number of years, beginning with the date of completion of the closure or realignment, for the savings to exceed the costs.
- Economic impact on existing communities in the vicinity of military installations.

LaTourette said the BRAC report states that a total of 1,875 jobs will be lost in Cleveland if the realignment stands — 1,028 DFAS positions and another 847 jobs through indirect job reductions.

The report further states that this job loss amounts to just 0.1 percent of the Metropolitan Statistical Area's employment, but LaTourette said this fails to address the fact that the jobs are based in the city of Cleveland, not the surrounding area, and that losing the center will amount to losing the city's fourth largest employer and a tremendous tax base.

"While Ohio stands to gain 241 jobs overall, I am very disappointed that the Department of Defense recommends the closure or realignment of installations, especially in Cleveland, Mansfield and Springfield," Taft said in a prepared statement.

The governor said citizens must remember these are only recommendations and that he pledges the state will work with the affected communities to make their cases to the defense department.

LaTourette said the Pentagon's own estimates on the possible savings make this a foolish move.

"The Pentagon wants to spend \$282 million to close various DFAS sites and shuffle around thousands of DFAS jobs to save \$158 million in the next five years, and that makes no sense to me," LaTourette said.

A QUIET CRISIS

Slipping away

Decision on Cleveland DFAS installation is no surprise, but the city still has reasonable arguments for appeal

It was a good bet that, in a round of base closings where the Pentagon's bottom line was its top consideration and consolidation its catch phrase, Cleveland's Defense Finance and Accounting Service was in trouble. The space it rents — from the federal government, no less — is uncompetitively expensive; some unfortunate management shortcomings have dulled its reputation; larger, possibly more efficient, finance centers might offer taxpayers savings.

But the anticipation did little to dull the pain of Friday's announcement: 1,028 well-paying jobs will be leaving Cleveland if the Base Realignment and Closure list stands as announced. That's a body-blow to an impoverished city, and to a regional economy whose recovery remains largely a rumor.

The fight is not over, but the odds against winning are long. The base-closing law contains an appeal process that allows communities to argue that the BRAC mechanism has missed important details.

There are such arguments to be made in support of keeping DFAS in Cleveland. But, as Reps. Stephanie Tubbs Jones and Steve LaTourette made clear, it is a time to negotiate, not throw a temper tantrum or, as Rep. Dennis Ku-

cinich apparently could not resist doing, accuse the White House of targeting Northeast Ohio as a payback for Election Day. That's a particularly disingenuous argument for Kucinich to make, considering that nationwide, some of the reddest states took heavy BRAC hits. President George W. Bush's own Texas came out a net loser, while Ohio was a net winner.

No, if the Cleveland DFAS is to be preserved, it will take arguments such as those LaTourette raised Friday from BRAC's own numbers: It will cost the Pentagon \$282 million to close, consolidate and relocate DFAS offices and workers, against a projected five-year savings of only \$158 million. That's a loss of nearly \$125 million. Another BRAC criterion is economic impact. While the jobs here represent only 0.1 percent of those in the metropolitan region, the operation is the city's fourth-largest employer. The loss of those tax dollars could devastate one of the nation's poorest cities.

Cleveland has much company in its misery as the hard-nosed BRAC recommendations rock communities across the nation. Only equally hard-nosed economic arguments might have a chance of making Pentagon leaders change their minds. This city has such arguments. If DFAS is to be saved, they must be made.



C.H. PETE COPELAND / THE PLAIN DEALER

Mayor Jane Campbell and Rep. Dennis Kucinich confer Friday before announcing the expected loss of 1,028 defense accounting jobs.

Cleveland to lose 1,000 defense jobs

- Pentagon has city's DFAS center in sights
- High-paying work means millions to area
- Leaders vow fight; chance of winning slim

BECKY GAYLORD
AND STEPHEN KOFF
Plain Dealer Reporters

Northeast Ohio would lose more than 1,000 high-paying jobs — with a payroll of more than \$50 million — under a plan unveiled Friday to trim military bases and offices in every state.

The jobs would come from the Defense Finance and Accounting Service office in downtown Cleveland, whose workers live across the region.

The office is on a list of Pentagon recommendations to close, shrink or move hundreds of operations to save \$50 billion over two decades.

Before President Bush and Congress consider the list, an independent panel will review it and hear appeals from affected communities.

News of the loss in Cleveland, which would strip about \$6.9 million from local city and county taxes, comes as the region reels from word earlier this week that NASA Glenn Research Center failed to lure 500 new jobs and a new administrative center to Brook Park.

Political and business leaders hope a new Flats development, which Scott Wolstein will announce Monday, could be a lifeline by offering lower rent to the Defense office. Based on savings from the lower rent, local leaders will appeal to the Pentagon to preserve the Cleveland operation.

DFAS pays higher rent in Cleveland than in three of the four other cities with major offices.

The Cleveland defense workers, who handle pay for the Navy and enlisted men and women in other services, make an average of \$54,000 a year. The jobs of another 1,000 Northeast Ohioans, such as contractors, depend on DFAS. The payroll for DFAS and the support workers is about \$128 million a year.

The job cuts, which would begin next year and conclude as early as January 2007, would cost Cleveland about \$1 million in income taxes.

Political and civic leaders vowed to fight the decision.

"We see the list, but we don't accept it," Mayor Jane Campbell said at a news conference. "We intend to stand up and turn it around."

An appeal process will unfold over the next several months. In previous rounds of base closures, only one in 10 of the targets on the list was eventually spared, said lawyer Fred Nance, who heads a state-funded lobbying group called the Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance.

The Base Realignment and Closure Commission will assess the military operations the Pentagon wants to shutter. Bush will

review the panel's suggestions in the fall. He then can pass it to Congress, which can only accept or reject the list without changes. The steps are intended to insulate the process, to some degree, from politics.

Many states, including California and New York, would lose jobs.

Overall, Ohio would gain 241 jobs. The Columbus Defense Supply Center would get 1,758 jobs.

Rep. Dennis Kucinich, Democrat of Cleveland, charged the Bush administration with unfairly targeting Northeast Ohio.

"This administration has basically told Northern Ohio to go to hell," he said. "This community needs these jobs, and Washington is fully aware of that."

Fellow Democratic Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones, whose district includes the DFAS office, downplayed that suggestion: "I'm confident that this administration does not want to penalize Northeast Ohio."

Advocates for the Cleveland office said the rent charged by its landlord, an arm of the federal government, made the costs of keeping DFAS too steep.

"We believe the primary drawback to Cleveland's competitive position was our rental costs, our real estate costs here in Cleveland," Nance said.

As Nance and his group lobbied to preserve the DFAS office, Pentagon rules prevented them



C.H. PETE COPELAND / THE PLAIN DEALER

Mayor Jane Campbell, center, explains how local leaders will fight to preserve the Cleveland office of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, which the Pentagon has said will lose 1,028 jobs. Reps. Stephanie Tubbs Jones and Dennis Kucinich also spoke at the news conference Friday.

from altering existing costs, such as rent.

The base rental fee for DFAS Cleveland is about \$14.30 per square foot a year. In Columbus, it's \$12.20; Denver, \$10; Kansas City, \$18; and Indianapolis, \$13.20.

Now that local leaders have made it clear they will appeal the decision, they can try to improve their position by finding lower-cost space.

Because of public subsidies, space in Wolstein's proposed development could cost \$12 per square foot, Sen. George Voinovich, Republican of Ohio, said Friday. And unlike the Cleveland DFAS office's current rent, which rises annually, in Wolstein's development, the price would not increase for several years.

Business leaders might cobble together another option, too. Nance declined to give details of the deal but said it would "dramatically decrease the real estate costs here in Cleveland."

If the DFAS jobs leave, the work that employees in Cleveland do could go to Denver, Columbus or Indianapolis, where the DFAS center is slated to gain about 3,400 jobs. Whether the Cleveland workers would be offered transfers is not clear.

A memo from DFAS Director Zack Gaddy, which was sent to employees through the agency's electronic communications system, gave no details about relocations or other changes.

Employees at the Cleveland office will get face-to-face briefings Monday from their acting director, Kenneth R. Sweitzer. He said in an interview that the Pentagon drew up the target list without his involvement.

Also in jeopardy are 50 jobs at the NASA Glenn Research Center. Details about those jobs were unavailable.

Plain Dealer reporter Olivera Perkins contributed to this story.

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How losing Defense Finance and Accounting Service will affect Cleveland's economy

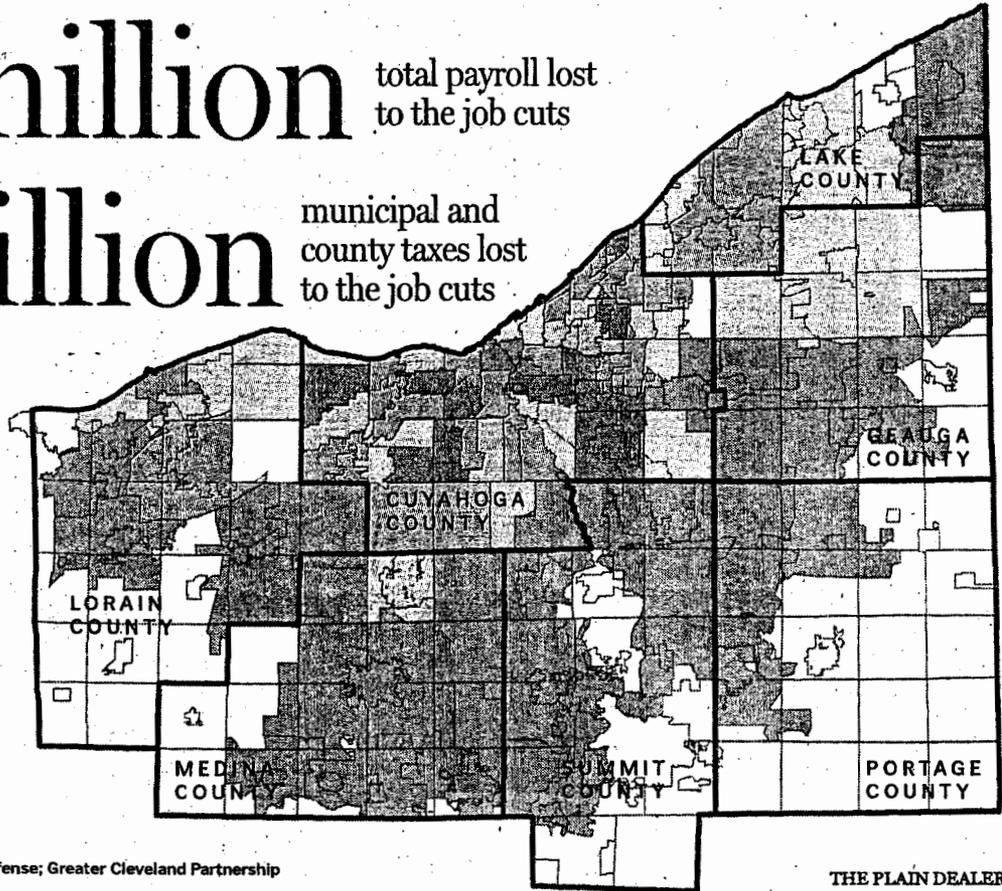
The Defense Finance and Accounting Service office in Cleveland is the region's fourth-largest federal employer and, with the associated support jobs in the private sector, accounts for a huge infusion of cash into the region. The Pentagon plans to take many of the jobs out of Cleveland.

1,028 DFAS jobs to be eliminated in Cleveland.

1,000 private-sector jobs that could be lost at companies supporting DFAS Cleveland

\$92.3 million total payroll lost to the job cuts

\$6.9 million municipal and county taxes lost to the job cuts



DFAS workers live throughout the region

Where Defense Finance and Accounting Service employees live, by ZIP code.

- 1 - 5
- 6 - 12
- 13 - 21
- 22 - 30
- 31 - 38

SOURCES: General Accounting Office; Department of Defense; Greater Cleveland Partnership

Fight is on to save federal office jobs

By **TOM CORRIGAN**
Staff Writer

While area representatives from state officials to members of the U.S. Congress gathered in a downtown Cleveland hotel Monday, one of those present acknowledged that similar events were happening across the country.

"The idea is to tell the better story," said U.S. Rep. Steve LaTourette, R-19.

He and others promised to try and do just that as they attempt to save 1,200 jobs in the downtown federal building, home to

the Cleveland Defense Finance and Accounting Service.

Including Cleveland's, there are 25 such offices spread around the U.S. All are potentially in the cross hairs of the federal defense department. U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld hopes to slice military accounting expenses by 25 percent through closing or consolidating financial operations.

Prominent attorney Fred Nance heads up the \$600,000 lobbying effort aimed at saving the downtown DFAS. He said

the Cleveland operation deserves to remain open because of its record of efficiency and innovation.

Among other things, the Cleveland DFAS pioneered a Web portal that allows military personnel access to their payroll accounts from anywhere in the world. The site, myPay.com, now serves about 2 million members of the armed forces.

According to information supplied by the Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance, the city's DFAS serves some 2.7 million active duty and retired military personnel. The center handles all Naval payroll and personnel data management. Paychecks and benefits handed out amounted to \$101 billion in 2003. The center handles 8,000 phone calls and 1,300 e-mails daily.

"Before this process started, who knew that the paychecks for the men and women fighting for our freedom around the world . . . came out of the city of Cleveland?" said Mayor Jane Campbell.

Campbell added soldiers serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere have enough on their minds; they shouldn't have the added worry of not receiving a

paycheck to support themselves or their families back home.

According to Nance, the mostly high paying DFAS jobs — primarily in accounting and information technology — pump some \$128 million into the local economy.

If Monday's press conference included a who's who of local leaders, the payroll handled by the Cleveland DFAS apparently includes a who's who of national figures.

Cuyahoga County Commissioner Peter Lawson Jones pointed out the Cleveland office cuts the paychecks for the top brass in all four branches of the service, for Rumsfeld and for George W. Bush. Jones earned big laughs by suggesting holding those checks might be the city's ace-in-the-hole in its effort to keep the local DFAS open.

The push to save the Cleveland DFAS started about nine months ago. Nance said Ohio senators Mike DeWine and George Voinovich are cooperating to rescue DFAS operations in Cleveland and elsewhere in Ohio.

Leaders fight for defense jobs

Executives, officials join to keep finance office

TOM BRECKENRIDGE
Plain Dealer Reporter

The area's most powerful elected and business leaders spoke with one voice Monday — save 1,200 military-support jobs in Cleveland.

Those jobs are on the chopping block as the U.S. Defense Department looks to cut the fat from its armed services, including the Defense Finance and Accounting Service.

DFAS, as it's known, employs 1,200 people, mostly civilians, at the Federal Office Building downtown. The accounting-and-finance work force handles pay and pensions for some 2.7 million active and retired military personnel across the country.

The Defense Department, striving to meet 21st-century challenges, believes it can save billions of dollars by closing or consolidating bases and support services. That includes DFAS, which has offices in 25 cities.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld is expected to recommend cuts on May 16.

"That's a list we don't want to be on," lawyer Fred Nance told about 80 people gathered Monday morning at the Sheraton Cleveland City Centre, several blocks from the Celebrezze building. About 30 DFAS employees looked on.

Nance and top business officials from the Greater Cleveland Partnership gathered with more than a dozen elected officials, including Cleveland Mayor Jane Campbell; U.S. Reps. Stephanie Tubbs Jones and Steve LaTou-



EUSTACIO HUMPHREY | THE PLAIN DEALER

Carol Caruso, left, with the Greater Cleveland Partnership, and Fred Nance with the Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance, speak to reporters Monday at the Sheraton Hotel. City and state officials joined with the private sector and union leaders to discuss keeping 1,200 DFAS jobs in Cleveland.

rette; and Cuyahoga County Commissioner Peter Lawson Jones.

They want the community to rally in support of Cleveland's DFAS office, where salaries average more than \$50,000.

Losing the office could cost Greater Cleveland's economy \$128 million, according to the Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance.

Nance heads up the alliance, which has budgeted \$600,000 for

a save-DFAS effort. Half of the money came from the Ohio Department of Development, which has doled out \$2.5 million to six Ohio cities working to save Defense Department facilities.

The Cleveland alliance is focusing efforts on top Republican leaders, including U.S. Sens. George Voinovich and Mike DeWine. Both men are working to save Cleveland's DFAS office.

The Cleveland office is noted for efficiency and innovation, Nance said, including creation of

a Web site allowing military personnel to check their accounts.

Commissioner Jones suggested the Cleveland office has the ultimate bargaining chip in saving its offices — checks for Rumsfeld and President George Bush are cut here.

"We will sit on those checks," Jones joked, to a burst of laughter and clapping.

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LaTourette fights for defense department workers

Michael Bellart

Staff Writer

U.S. Rep. Steven C. LaTourette, R-Concord Township, joined other lawmakers and community leaders Monday in Cleveland to support 1,200 U.S. Defense Department workers.

The employees of Defense Finance Accounting Service in Cleveland, which processes payroll for the U.S. Navy and several reserve branches, could see their jobs cut or consolidated when the Pentagon evaluates military installations in May.

This is the first time DFAS Cleveland has gone through the review process. The purpose of the rally Monday was to increase public support and awareness for DFAS employees, whose jobs will ultimately be left in the hands of Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.

"It's important to Cleveland and important to the entire Northeast Ohio region that these jobs be saved, and that's a message we need to sure that Secretary Rumsfeld receives," LaTourette said.

LaTourette joined U.S. Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones, D-Cleveland; Cleveland Mayor Jane Campbell; and Cuyahoga County Commissioner Timothy

"It's important to Cleveland and important to the entire Northeast Ohio region that these jobs be saved ..."

U.S. Rep. Steven C. LaTourette
R-Concord Township

Hagan to highlight the accomplishments of DFAS Cleveland, a news release stated.

The Cleveland Defense Industry Alliance sponsored the rally.

DFAS Cleveland has a reputation as a model of efficiency and customer service among other U.S. payroll operations around the world, according to the alliance.

It employs mostly finance and information technology professionals.

According to the alliance, DFAS Cleveland pioneered some of the military's best pay systems, including a paperless payroll system and an online portal for employee communications and human resource functions.

Military payroll office taking on more work

KAYE SPECTOR
Plain Dealer Reporter

The Cleveland payroll processing center for military personnel is absorbing the workload of two shuttered offices, but it's unclear whether the increased responsibilities will bolster the case to keep the area's fourth-largest federal employer in business.

Payroll processing for the U.S. Army, Air Force and Navy Reserves and National Guard is in the middle of moving to Cleveland's Defense Finance and Accounting Service from closed offices in Denver and Indianapolis.

The Cleveland DFAS handles payroll for the Navy and other branches of the military. With 1,400 workers, the office is the largest tenant in the Federal Office Building.

The new responsibilities come as local and state leaders crank up a campaign to keep the Cleveland DFAS open. The Department of Defense, in a move to save \$3 billion, is considering closing up to one-quarter of the department's military bases and service centers in reductions to be announced in the spring of 2005.

Congress has trimmed military bases and reduced installations four times since 1988. Now, for the first time, service centers also are vulnerable. Cleveland's office is especially at risk because its computer-based processing can be done nearly anywhere.

The Cleveland DFAS has an annual payroll of \$65 million and makes a \$200 million impact on the local economy.

It's unknown whether Cleveland DFAS' new responsibilities will mean additional workers, or simply more work, said Carol Caruso, of Greater Cleveland Partnership, the business group leading the drive to retain the office.

DFAS made the decision to close the Denver and Indianapolis offices and transfer the work to Cleveland, she said.

"We were aware of it and support it," she said. "It just enhances our belief that the Cleveland DFAS office is very good at what they do."

Gov. Bob Taft spent time Monday lobbying top military officials in Washington, D.C., to keep Ohio's military bases and service centers open.

Taft requested the meetings with Air Force Secretary James G. Roche, top-ranking National Guard officials and the Defense Department.

The Defense Department is focused on how much money it can save by cutting a base or center without impairing training and war readiness. Economic impact is less important to department officials.

*States News Service reporter
Glenn Maffei contributed to this story.*

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OPINION

Set for battle

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld seems determined to bring the size of the operations that support the armed services into line with the smaller size of the forces that make up today's military. In light of Mr. Rumsfeld's objective, civic leaders in Cleveland are not acting a moment too soon in mobilizing their own troops to secure the future of the 1,500-employee Cleveland operation of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service.

Unlike the old saying in football that the best offense is a good defense, the best defense for the Cleveland DFAS center involves mounting a good offense. With officials from the DFAS center restricted from singing their own praises, it will be incumbent on civic leaders here to convince military analysts of the virtues of the local operation relative to DFAS centers in other communities, and of the importance of Cleveland DFAS to the local economy.

While today's computer technology makes it physically possible to handle at any location the military pay services performed in Cleveland, a strong argument must be made that it doesn't make economic sense to move the jobs from here because they are performed well in a place where labor costs are moderate. Indeed, the case should be made that the military would benefit from bringing *more* jobs to Cleveland DFAS as part of its consolidation efforts.

Greater Cleveland Tomorrow has turned to the right place in hiring The Spectrum Group to formulate and roll out the local offensive. With retired generals, admirals and other one-time defense insiders among its ranks, Spectrum Group knows how the base realignment game is played and can help local officials undertake the proper maneuvers to enhance their chances of success.

The estimated \$600,000 it will cost for this lobbying effort is worth every penny to save jobs that account for more than \$65 million in annual payroll. The alternative is to run up the white flag and give up, which we don't believe is an option.

Cleveland's pre-emptive strike

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service is not one of Cleveland's better-known employers, but it is among its more important.

Some 1,600 Greater Clevelanders labor on several floors of the Anthony J. Celebrezze Federal Building, handling payroll paperwork for active members and retirees of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. In so doing, they take home \$65 million a year, and generate \$1.3 million in Cleveland income taxes alone.

And that's why, as Congress looks for ways to trim waste and excess capacity from Pentagon spending, Cleveland Tomorrow has launched an early effort to keep those jobs right here in Northeast Ohio.

Congress has initiated the fifth round of Base Realignment and Closing. BRAC, as it is known, started in 1988, the brainchild of then-Rep. Dick Armey. Faced with an inescapable surplus of military bases, offices, programs and equipment, Congress sought a politically palatable way to shut down and dismantle the excess.

Armey's idea was to establish a bipartisan

commission to weigh the value of the military's various holdings, then present to Congress a list of those recommended for termination for an up-or-down vote. This procedure provided political cover for representatives and senators who were to lose unneeded facilities. The process worked, with varying degrees of success, in 1988, 1991, 1994 and 1995.

But all of the easy targets — the Air Force bases in the middle of nowhere, the port facilities and forts that no longer served any function — have been shut down or converted to civilian use. So in this round, as the Pentagon looks to shed perhaps 25 percent of its employees, Cleveland's DFAS looks vulnerable. It is one of five major finance centers in a computer-linked system — and computer work can be done just about anywhere.

With that cold reality in mind, Cleveland Tomorrow has launched a pre-emptive strike of its own — a campaign to keep those jobs, important both to the services and the individuals who make up the community that hosts them, right here in Cleveland. It's the good fight — one that, for all our sakes, they must win.

Move under way to save local Defense Dept. jobs

BECKY GAYLORD
Plain Dealer Reporter

Business and political leaders will wage a big-money lobbying campaign to safeguard 1,400 downtown Cleveland jobs from federal defense cuts.

At stake is the Cleveland office of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, which handles payroll and personnel data management for the military. The jobs in Cleveland — and their \$65 million annual payroll — could be on the chopping block as the Defense Department downsizes.

The cuts would be another blow to a city already bleeding jobs and money.

The federal office generates \$1.3 million a year in income tax revenue.

The office "is a critical part of our local economy," Mayor Jane Campbell said in a statement.

The lobbying push begins next week, when Campbell and Dennis Eckart, who recently headed the Greater Cleveland Growth Association, will talk with legislators while on separate trips to Washington, D.C.

Local officials have already talked with Northeast Ohio members of Congress. A more formal lobbying trip to Washington is in the works as part of the campaign, which will cost more than \$500,000. The goal is not only to save the jobs here, but to attract 1,000 more jobs to the Cleveland center.

The challenge is clear: As the military pares bases, installations and other service centers, the Cleveland office is among the most vulnerable of the nation's finance and accounting centers.

That's because the local office, which is the largest tenant in the Anthony J. Celebrezze Federal Building, handles tasks by computer — tasks that can be done just about anywhere.

Business leaders have hired a Washington, D.C.-area consulting firm, the Spectrum Group, which has retired, connected military leaders on its staff.

Ohio is a crucial state in this year's presidential election, and politics play a role in the process. But supporters don't want to

draw any comfort from that. And other communities began jockeying for position months ago.

"I must tell you, it's late," said John B. "Skip" Hall Jr., a retired lieutenant general with the Spectrum.

Carol Caruso, vice president of government advocacy at the Growth Association, Hall and others met with executives in the Cleveland office for the first time last week. Caruso said her team is nailing down the exact number and types of jobs at the center, as well as the proportion of its employees who are minorities.

Previous rounds of the Defense Department's Base Realignment and Closure plan generally didn't target service centers, sparing Cleveland from the prospect of losing hundreds of jobs.

This round, however, will result in deeper cuts. As many as one-fourth of U.S. military and defense jobs could be lost nationally.

One of the many criteria used in the process considers the economic impact that an area would suffer.

Four other communities in Ohio risk closures and reductions. Columbus has 6,400 jobs, including 2,350 finance and accounting jobs. In Dayton, Wright Patterson Air Force Base also employs thousands and contributes \$3.4 billion to the local economy. In Youngstown, the Air Reserve Station has 2,400 jobs, and the Army tank plant in Lima has 625.

Attempting to insulate the Cleveland center from this latest round of cuts won't be quick or cheap. A yet-to-be-named commission has until September 2005 to submit recommendations to the president.

Caruso estimates that the local campaign will cost almost \$600,000, largely to pay for Spectrum. The state granted Cleveland \$115,000 toward that goal.

Local business groups also are pitching in money and help. That's one reason business leaders have been reluctant to support a campaign for the Cuyahoga County arts and economic development tax on the March ballot.

The finance and accounting service was established in Cleveland more than 60 years ago to manage Navy records and supplies.

Headed today by Mark Easton, it oversees a network of eight sites that have a worldwide workforce of 3,500 accounting and finance professionals. Easton could not be reached for comment.

Aside from Cleveland, defense finance centers are also in Columbus, Denver, Indianapolis and Kansas City. About a score of smaller centers also exist, some overseas.

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Defense of DFAS begins

Officials kick off effort to save military pay center's
1,500 jobs here

By JAY MILLER

The Cleveland business community is mobilizing the troops to save 1,500 defense-related jobs.

The jobs are with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, a part of the Department of Defense that processes payroll and retirement checks for the military. DFAS Cleveland has an annual payroll of more than \$65 million. The Cleveland office also oversees the work of seven other sites nationwide that employ another 2,000 financial and accounting workers.

Including its Cleveland operation, DFAS has in excess of 15,000 employees at processing centers in more than 20 communities in this country and overseas. It's likely that some of these jobs will be lost as the Defense Department reshapes and shrinks the country's defense infrastructure by closing bases and other installations and blurs the lines between the military services to meet the goal of a more unified fighting force.

Believing the jobs in Cleveland are at the highest risk of being lost among the nearly 34,000 Defense Department jobs under scrutiny statewide, Greater Cleveland To-

morrow is building a six-figure war chest for what it believes will be an uphill battle. It plans to create a "Greater Cleveland DFAS Coalition" to help mobilize community support for the local processing center, which is based in the Anthony J. Celebrezze Federal Building downtown.

Greater Cleveland Tomorrow is looking to raise \$600,000 — it says it has \$125,000 in hand — to put together a case for keeping the local DFAS center and to lobby public officials and civic leaders to show their support for the operation. As a first step, it has

hired The Spectrum Group, an Alexandria, Va., consultancy with experience in previous base closure programs, to assist it. Greater Cleveland Tomorrow also has hired the Edward Howard & Co. public relations firm to help make the case to the media and the public.

Carol Caruso, Greater Cleveland Tomorrow's vice president for government advocacy, would not say how much the organization will pay Spectrum and Edward Howard for their work. But a grant application to the Ohio Department of Development lists \$300,000 for contractual services. The state agreed to kick in \$100,000. The city of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, the Downtown Cleveland Partnership, the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority and Team NEO all have agreed to contribute to the effort, either in staff time or other in-kind services.

The offensive begins

Spectrum officials were in Cleveland last week to kick off the lobbying effort and to meet with leaders of the local DFAS operation as they offer assistance with a data-gathering process that is intended to demonstrate to the Defense Department the importance of the DFAS center to its community. DFAS Cleveland director Mark Easton was out of town late last week and could not be reached for comment.

The local initiative is in reaction to the mandates of the 2002 National Defense Authorization Act, which called for a round of base closings and infrastructure consolidations in 2005. This round is the fifth in a wave of reductions, called "BRACs," that began in 1988 to cut defense costs. BRAC stands for Base Realignment and Closure.

This round of consolidations will incorporate Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's mission of transforming the military by emphasizing areas of so-called "joint functionality" across the branches of the armed services to create a more unified and efficient organization. Mr. Rumsfeld has said he believes a quarter of all military expenditures are wasted on inefficient operations, and he is committed to squeezing cost savings out of his department.

"It is almost criminal for the United States of America and the taxpayers of America and the Department of Defense to tote around 20% to 25% more base structure than we needed, and to do it year after year at the cost of billions and billions of dollars that are not going into the kinds of things for improved housing or for modernization or for transformation," he said at an April 2002 meeting with troops at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois. "And we've simply got to stop doing that."

"Mother of all BRACs"

The latest consolidation effort also is the first time the National Guard, the service reserves and

GOVERNMENT

various defense agencies, including DFAS, have been included in a BRAC.

As a result, said retired Air Force Lt. Gen. John B. "Skip" Hall of Spectrum Group, this consolidation round will be "the mother of all BRACs," quoting a phrase used by Mr. Rumsfeld.

Mr. Hall said a key goal for a defense agency such as DFAS is "to decrease the footprint," or to consolidate operations. And DFAS, he said, "just begs for a reorganization."

DFAS is the product of an earlier era of consolidation, when the finance and accounting operations of the various military services were united as a Defense Department agency. DFAS Cleveland started as a Navy operation, part of the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, in 1942. It was renamed the Navy Finance Center in 1955. It became a defense agency in 1991.

One powerful commission

The latest Department of Defense reorganization kicked off last month when the department released the draft criteria it intends to use to evaluate operations. Base commanders and department leaders were asked to gather data that will be used by the independent Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission to recommend specific consolidation targets to the president.

The criteria used to evaluate operations will include measuring the economic and environmental impact of a closing on a host community and determining the ability of a community to support the mission of the local operation.

The goal of the realignment effort is to reduce military "capacity" by 25% and save billions of dollars by closing unnecessary military bases, reducing the amount of space used by support operations, cutting personnel or increasing output.

In May 2005, the secretary of defense will present the nine-member BRAC Commission, which will be appointed by the

president, with a list of bases and operations to close or realign. As the commission reviews the list, it may add or delete operations. It will take a vote of five of the nine commissioners to remove an operation from the closure list and a vote of seven of the nine to add something to the list. The list then goes to the president, who can send it on to Congress or can return it to the commission for revision. Neither the president nor Congress can amend the final list, though both can refuse to act on it.

Politicking? You bet

Despite the elaborate process, Greater Cleveland Tomorrow and its consultants realize that politicking will have a considerable role in shaping what goes on and what stays off the list. Ms. Caruso said her group is enlisting the local congressional delegation and the state's two U.S. senators in the effort. But she realizes that mix doesn't represent a strong hand at this point.

"We have Democrats," Ms. Caruso said of the area's contingent in the House of Representatives, at a time when Republicans are in power.

U.S. senators George Voinovich and Michael DeWine are Republicans, but they also will be lobbied by four other communities that have defense-related jobs at stake in the BRAC. Columbus, which is represented in Congress by a Republican, has 6,400 jobs, including 2,300 at a DFAS center that handles vendor payments and travel reimbursements. Dayton has 52,000 jobs at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Lima has an Army tank plant that employs 625 people, and the Youngstown Air Reserve Station is headquarters to 2,400 reservists.

Ms. Caruso said Greater Cleveland Tomorrow believes the Cleveland jobs are at the highest risk among the Ohio locations under scrutiny, despite the local DFAS outpost receiving high marks in the past for operating efficiency.

"Even though we do it well, from what we have learned, you can do it anywhere," she said.

And as a cog in the mechanism of the DFAS organization, the local operation is no position to drum up support publicly for itself.

"The community is the only one who can blow (the local operation's) horn," Ms. Caruso said.