

CONRAD BURNS  
MONTANA  
DEPUTY WHIP



## United States Senate

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COMMITTEES:  
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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

June 15, 2005

Mr. Anthony Principi  
Chairman  
Base Realignment and Closure Commission  
2521 South Clark Street  
Suite 600  
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

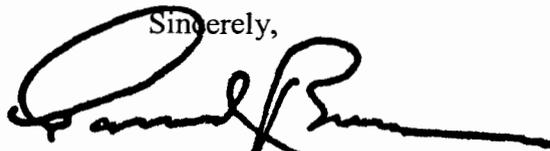
As the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process moves forward, I ask that you address the following questions, listed below in this letter. I respectfully ask that the Commission request this information from the Department of Defense (DoD), so the Great Falls community and Montana Air National Guard have the information they need to make good decisions throughout this process.

- 1) I ask you to re-compute the Air Force MCI ranking for Great Falls International Airport (IAP) and Malmstrom Air Force Base (MAFB) under a scenario that the Malmstrom AFB runway is re-opened with conveyance to municipal authority and runway utilization by military assets only;
- 2) I ask that you run a COBRA scenario analysis where F-16 aircraft are moved to Malmstrom AFB from Great Falls IAP, where the operation and maintenance costs of the physical facility (runway only) would be incurred by a public authority;
- 3) Once MCI is recomputed given the re-opened Malmstrom AFB runway scenario, I ask that you run a COBRA analysis which directly compares Boise Air Terminal AGS with either Great Falls IAP on site or assets moving to Malmstrom AFB;
- 4) Under DoD's current recommendations, the Expeditionary Combat Support (ECS) elements are to remain at Great Falls International Airport. Because these units are typically assigned to flying units, I request that you ask DoD if it foresees this unit attaching to a flying unit and would flying rotations occur at Great Falls IAP? If so, what is the intended frequency of such rotations?
- 5) The runway at Malmstrom AFB is currently designated BRAC excess property. Would the Department of Defense and the Air Force consider a public benefit conveyance to a municipal authority? Would action by the 2005 BRAC Commission be necessary to convey this property? Would such a conveyance aid the interim relocation of F-16 assets from Great Falls IAP during runway construction efforts to the Malmstrom AFB runway during construction?

6) What certification, if any, did the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) provide to DoD with regard to the movement of all F-16 Air National Guard flying assets from Montana, as it relates to Northern Border Security issues?

I thank you for your and your Commission members' and staff's tireless efforts throughout this BRAC process. I look forward to hearing from you about these requests for information in the near future. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff member, Erin Pierce, at 202-224-2644, at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Conrad Burns", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Conrad Burns  
United States Senator