

DCN 3826  
Executive Correspondence

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**To:** BRAC Commission

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**From:** Peter Jackson, Communications Director

**Subject:** Statement of Sen. Deeds to the Commission

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**Notes:**

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**Statement of Sen. Creigh Deeds to the Base Realignment and Closure Commission**  
June 7, 2005

The Commonwealth of Virginia has a long and storied tradition as a strategic location both in times of war and times of peace. Our nation's two most troubling conflicts here at home—the Revolutionary and Civil Wars—both saw their final battles in the Old Dominion. Today, Virginia is home some our most important military installations: the Pentagon in Arlington, and the world's largest naval base, right here in Norfolk.

The significance of these facilities cannot be underestimated. Norfolk houses the U.S. Atlantic Fleet, U.S. Joint Forces Command and NATO Allied Command Transformation. Their military value to our nation's safety is undisputed, but they also are vital to Virginia's growing economy.

I urge this commission to not only consider strategic concerns, but also the impact on our economy, our transportation infrastructure and our critical shipping ports, which are vital to our economy and our national security.

The proposed relocation of thousands of civilian and military personnel from inside the Capital Beltway to Ft. Belvoir, if it is to occur, must be accompanied by specific plans to address the resulting traffic problems. I do not believe that Interstate 95 and Route 1 have the necessary capacity to handle such a dramatic increase in vehicle traffic. Prior to making its final recommendations, this commission must ensure that a transportation and funding plan are in place to accommodate this change without disrupting the host communities. Moreover, the Commission should carefully consider the significant space being vacated inside the beltway and carefully consider the advisability of retaining some of these key locations.

In Hampton Roads, this commission must recognize the importance of maintaining safe and efficient cargo facilities when they border strategic military installations. Federal homeland security dollars are few and far between. For too long, federal tax dollars have been spent on "port pork" projects that don't address the security needs of our nation's most critical facilities. Because of this, my homeland security proposal includes an aggressive port security provision that will bring the necessary funds our ports need to remain safe and secure.

Without a doubt, the choices faced by this commission are difficult ones. As a father and a public servant, I know that there is no greater duty than to keep all Americans as safe as possible. It is in that vein that I implore this commission to carefully consider any closure or realignment recommendations here in the Commonwealth of Virginia.