DCN 4065
Executive Correspondence

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

DARRELL ISSA
49TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

RECEIVED
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July 07, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi, Chairman
The Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear ~~Chairman Principi~~: Tony

With respect, I strongly object to the approval of the recommendation to realign the Fallbrook, CA, detachment of Naval Surface Warfare Center Division Crane, IN, known as Marine Corps Programs Department or "MCPD" to Picatinny Arsenal, New Jersey. I am a strong supporter of the BRAC process, even when assets in my Congressional district are at stake, but this recommendation does not achieve a significant cost savings even before detriment to mission is considered, and the detriment to the mission of MCPD is extreme.

If this recommendation is to be seriously entertained, several important questions must be answered first:

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military experience. If the department is moved, it is anticipated that workers in the middle of their careers will likely seek employment in the southern California defense industry rather than choosing to relocate to New Jersey. The loss of these experienced employees could easily reduce MCPD from almost 1,700 man years of technical experience to less than half that number within the next five years. This loss of experience would be detrimental to performance of MCPD's mission.

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I would like to underscore the fact that I do not object to this recommendation based solely on the negative impact to the base community. Instead, I object to this recommendation on the grounds that it would not be in the best interest of the United States armed services, either financially or militarily.

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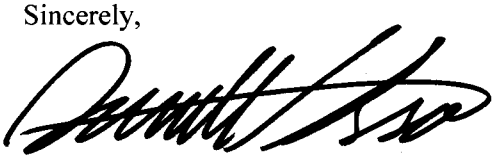

Darrell Issa
Member of Congress

DEI:jbf

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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July 07, 2005

Admiral Harold W. Gehman, Jr., USN, Ret., Commissioner
The Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

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Member of Congress

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The Honorable James V. Hansen, Commissioner
The Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission
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Arlington, VA 22202

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DEI:jbf

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General James T. Hill, U.S.A. Ret., Commissioner
The Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

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The Honorable James H. Bilbray, Commissioner
The Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

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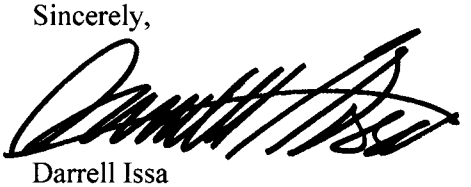

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The Honorable Samuel K. Skinner, Commissioner
The Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street Ste. 600
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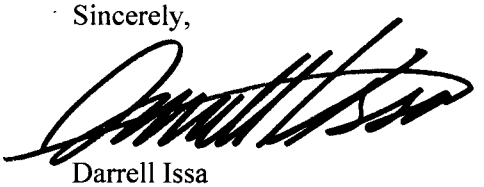
6. MCPD was specifically co-located with Marine Corps Camp Pendleton to provide its personnel access to work with Marines who serve in the field and make actual use of the technologies being tested. The Marines at Camp Pendleton have suffered the greatest number of casualties during operation Iraqi Freedom of any U.S. military installation and therefore have significant operational expertise and knowledge to share. This location provides MCPD access to the men and women whom, through the testing and evaluation of advanced technologies, they hope to provide the best chance for operational success and survivability. Is separation of MCPD from its clients an acceptable effect of the recommendation's implementation?

In conclusion, the cost savings for this recommendation have been overstated and even if they had not been, they would still be too insignificant to offset the detriment to mission that would be suffered at Marine Corps Program Department, Fallbrook. MCPD's employees are currently highly motivated, happy and successful in their mission. This is due in no small part to their proximity to Camp Pendleton. It is my ardent recommendation that this realignment not be carried out, as it would severely damage mission capability, devastate morale, would not achieve projected or significant cost savings and would erode the department's valuable independence.

I would like to underscore the fact that I do not object to this recommendation based solely on the negative impact to the base community. Instead, I object to this recommendation on the grounds that it would not be in the best interest of the United States armed services, either financially or militarily.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your earnest consideration of the questions I have raised in this letter.

Sincerely,



Darrell Issa
Member of Congress

DEI:jbf

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

DARRELL ISSA
49TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

July 07, 2005

General Sue E. Turner, U.S.A.F. Ret., Commissioner
The Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Commissioner Turner:

With respect, I strongly object to the approval of the recommendation to realign the Fallbrook, CA, detachment of Naval Surface Warfare Center Division Crane, IN, known as Marine Corps Programs Department or "MCPD" to Picatinny Arsenal, New Jersey. I am a strong supporter of the BRAC process, even when assets in my Congressional district are at stake, but this recommendation does not achieve a significant cost savings even before detriment to mission is considered, and the detriment to the mission of MCPD is extreme.

If this recommendation is to be seriously entertained, several important questions must be answered first:

1. Currently, MCPD utilizes ordinance ranges located at Hawthorne, NV. and Twenty-Nine Palms, CA. If MCPD moves to Picatinny Arsenal, will it be able to continue to test at these ranges? Picatinny Arsenal does not have a mortar or artillery test range suitable to the mission of MCPD. If MCPD continues to test at its current ranges, it will incur great cost in travel and transportation which must be factored into any analysis of cost savings. Utilizing these ranges would also result in major delays of material arrival at the test location, as some required materials cannot be anticipated, or must be fabricated and then transported to the test site. Implementation of the recommendation could result in routine half or single day delays becoming 3 to 8 day delays. Such delays of regular operations would be unacceptable.

2. SECDEF BRAC Recommendations indicate that MCPD is being moved to Picatinny Arsenal to combine Research, Development and Acquisition Activities. MCPD does not perform any research, development or acquisition. MCPD only tests and evaluates that which has already been researched, developed and acquired. Was MCPD even intended for inclusion in the joint Research, Development and Acquisition command?

3. MCPD currently provides a facility for independent testing and evaluation of technologies researched, developed and acquired through Picatinny Arsenal. Because its mission, facilities and employees are separate from Picatinny, there is no possibility of influence on the outcome of testing and evaluation by those seeking to validate their own work. If MCPD is moved, will it be acceptable to dispose of the independence of those who test and evaluate technology from those who research, develop and acquire that technology?

4. An enormous drain of human resources would occur if MCPD left Fallbrook. Currently, the average employee at MCPD has more than 15 years of experience, <u>excluding prior relevant</u>

military experience. If the department is moved, it is anticipated that workers in the middle of their careers will likely seek employment in the southern California defense industry rather than choosing to relocate to New Jersey. The loss of these experienced employees could easily reduce MCPD from almost 1,700 man years of technical experience to less than half that number within the next five years. This loss of experience would be detrimental to performance of MCPD's mission.

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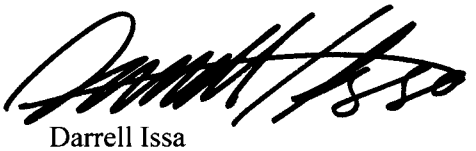

Darrell Issa
Member of Congress

DEI:jbf

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

DARRELL ISSA
49TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

July 07, 2005

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The Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

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