



STATE OF ARKANSAS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



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Mike Huckabee  
Governor

July 1, 2005

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The Honorable Anthony Principi  
Chairman  
Base Realignment and Closure Commission  
2521 S. Clark St.  
Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi,

Since I am unable to attend the Base Realignment and Closure Commission meeting in San Antonio, I am providing you this letter to ask you to review the proposed closure of the Red River Army Depot in Texas and the realignment of the 188th Fighter Wing at Fort Smith, Ark. There are special circumstances at both facilities that warrant a more thorough review prior to the commission presenting its final recommendations.

The Red River Army Depot has been one of the most efficient military depots in the country for more than 60 years. It has the only road wheel and track repair capability in the country. Its work in the refurbishment of the up-armored HMMWV's has resulted in fewer casualties among our troops in Iraq. The depot's employees are experienced and dedicated to their jobs. They are a valuable asset to the Army.

The 188th Fighter Wing is one of the most efficient, cost-effective F-16 wings in the Air Force. A review of the Mission Capable Index scores for this unit will validate this assertion. The unit's proximity to its dedicated training area is an asset few bases in the country possess. The airspace used by the 188th Fighter Wing provides a unique joint training capability that is available nowhere else in the nation. The Federal Aviation Administration has conceptually approved a plan to expand the sparsely populated, geographically diverse training range over the Ouachita and Ozark National Forests.

I invite you and your commissioners to visit the Red River Army Depot and the 188th Fighter Wing. Such visits will give you and your staff the opportunity to witness the capabilities of these outstanding organizations.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Huckabee".

Mike Huckabee