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Mr. Anthony J. Principi  
Chairman  
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
2521 South Clark St., Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mr. Principi:

I am an employee of the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA), one of the components of the Department of Defense affected by the Secretary of Defense's 2005 Base Realignment and Closure recommendations. I would like you to consider in effect switching two of the recommendations so that two agencies might be better aligned.

The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) recommendations propose to relocate the Maryland-based National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) to Ft. Belvoir, Virginia while it recommends that DISA, which is based in Virginia, relocate to Ft. Meade in Maryland. I propose that instead it makes more sense to relocate DISA to Ft. Belvoir and NGA to Ft. Meade.

1. NGA is an agency of the Intelligence Community. Relocation to Ft. Meade, Headquarters of the National Security Agency (NSA), would generate a better synergy than if NGA were located at Ft. Belvoir.
2. Although NGA's personnel numbers are classified, it appears from the 2005 BRAC narrative that the economic impact to DISA's and NGA's respective communities is similar. Relocation of NGA "could result in a maximum potential reduction of 5,260 jobs... ." Relocation of DISA and related elements "could result in a maximum potential reduction of 6,880 jobs... ." Relocation of NGA to Ft. Meade and DISA to Ft. Belvoir would minimize the impact on their respective communities, including lower impact on transportation and commuting infrastructures and less political impact.
3. Both NGA and DISA have expert, experienced, quality workforces. Relocation of NGA to Ft. Meade and DISA to Ft. Belvoir would at least minimize the loss of the workforce, minimize the sizeable retooling of a replacement workforce for each agency, and, most importantly, minimize disruption to mission.
4. The purported goal of realigning DISA activities to Ft. Meade is to create a "Joint C4ISR D&A Capability." This goal could be met more easily at Ft. Belvoir than at Ft. Meade with less disruption to mission. At Ft. Belvoir, DISA could experience the synergy from co-location with the Army Communications and Electronics Command (CECOM). This would also allow elements proposed to relocate from Ft. Monmouth to continue their working relationships with

other CECOM units. In addition, DISA could more closely work with the Army's Global Command and Control System (GCCS-A), the Information Software Center, the Army Tactical Command and Control Systems Office, and other C4I offices. Given DISA's role as the systems architect for the Defense Department, it would be important to co-locate DISA's sizable test and evaluation activities with the Defense Communications and Electronics Evaluation and Testing Activity at Ft. Belvoir. Given DISA's role as provider of telecommunications bandwidth, it would be helpful to co-locate DISA with the Defense Telecommunications Service-Washington (DTS-W) also at Ft. Belvoir.

Ft. Belvoir also houses much of the Defense Department's "Forth Estate" defense agencies such as the Defense Logistics Agency, the Defense Contract Audit Agency, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, and the Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC), formerly a DISA component.

5. The Joint Task Force for Computer Network Operations (JTF-GNO), a component of US Strategic Command (STRATCOM), is comprised of approximately 200 people. I recognize that STRATCOM has designated NSA-Ft. Meade as a joint-force component command for network warfare. However, JTF-GNO would also benefit from proximity to the Army Computer Emergency Response Team (ACERT) at Ft. Belvoir. It would be unfortunate if the 200 people at JTF-GNO dictate to realignment plans for DISA. DISA by contrast is comprised of over 1,200 people in Virginia alone, engaged a different mission.

6. Prior BRAC rounds tentatively concluded that DISA should be consolidated Ft. Belvoir. We have been told that DISA would be moving to Ft. Belvoir at this time *if the space had been available*. The proposal outlined above would essentially swap the re-location footprints between NGA and DISA. NGA and DISA would have similar infrastructure needs and would have to construct high-tech buildings. The exchange of the 2005 BRAC relocation proposals between NGA and DISA could be done with little to no disruption to personnel or infrastructure.

Since those prior BRAC rounds, we all recognize that circumstances have changed. We must respond to the dual imperatives of force protection and reduction of lease costs. I welcome the opportunity to house DISA's many functions in a single location. The more efficient and least disruptive use of the Department's agency personnel and physical infrastructure, however, argues in favor of realigning the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency to Ft. Meade and DISA to Ft. Belvoir. That is the solution that will provide the quickest and most logical consolidation of functions for these two agencies.

I truly appreciate your consideration of this suggestion.

Sincerely,



ROGER B. SABIN