

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

DCN: 2666

June 20, 2005

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



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Dear Commissioner Principi:

As you and the members of the BRAC Commission review the recommendations to close and realign facilities and installations, we ask that you reconsider the decision to realign Defense Finance Accounting Service (DFAS) – Cleveland.

The employees of DFAS – Cleveland take pride in serving the men and women who defend America. The Cleveland facility is the fourth largest federal employer in Greater Cleveland and has operated in the city since 1942. DFAS – Cleveland, employing more than 1,200 people in Northeast Ohio, has served as a leading model of operational efficiency and customer service for U.S. military pay operations around the world and has operated as the world center for Navy pay operations and personnel data management since the advent of DFAS. Further, due to the exceptional performance of this team, DFAS - Cleveland was named the Reserve Pay Center of Excellence. The highly experienced men and women who work in this facility are an integral part of the system that supports our armed forces.

DFAS - Cleveland belongs in the same tier with the other DFAS operations that were spared under BRAC, specifically the locations in Columbus, Denver, and Indianapolis. DFAS - Cleveland performs duties that no other DFAS performs and has been spared in previous consolidation efforts because of its unique qualifications and excellent performance record.

We understand that there are concerns about the current cost of operations at the Celebrezze Federal Building. To specifically address that issue and significantly reduce these costs, the Cuyahoga County Port Authority has provided a parcel of land, *at no cost*, for the construction of a new facility that would house DFAS. In addition, community and business leaders are working with a private developer, who has agreed to build the facility. This facility would have the capacity to accommodate contingency, mobilization, surge, and future total force pay and data management requirements. The new facility also could accommodate a 25% growth rate, per BRAC standards, and would significantly reduce overhead costs to the federal government by offering office space at a substantially lower rent.

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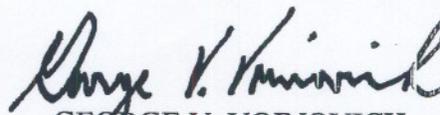
We ask that you also review more closely the economic impact that realignment of DFAS would have on Cleveland. The Department of Defense has recommended that 1,028 of the 1,200 positions be realigned to alternative DFAS facilities. An additional 847 indirect jobs also are identified as in jeopardy by this realignment. This will severely impact the greater Cleveland economy. DFAS - Cleveland contributes more than \$128 million annually to the surrounding area. We are concerned that there will be a severe, negative economic impact on the downtown Cleveland area that is much greater than the Defense Department assessment based on North East Ohio.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working with you to ensure that the BRAC recommendation is based on accurate data and incorporates an accurate analysis of the economic impact on all communities affected by the BRAC process.

Very respectfully yours,



MIKE DeWINE  
United States Senator



GEORGE V. VOINOVICH  
United States Senator