



CITY OF MITCHELL

MORRIS "BUTCH" CHASTAIN, MAYOR

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BRAC Commission

AUG 01 2005

Received

July 29, 2005

The Honorable Samuel Knox Skinner
BRAC Commissioner
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Commissioner Skinner,

I would like to take the time to thank you for your recent visit to NSWC Crane, CAAA, and Southern Indiana. As a U.S. Veteran, I support the work that is being done by you to ensure that our Military operations remain as effective and affordable as possible. I know that you have a difficult job in deciding which operations to re-align or close as part of the BRAC process. I hope that your visit helped you to see the importance that the NSWC Crane and CAAA are to our Nation's Defense and the Global War on Terrorism.

As the Mayor, I have been following the BRAC process closely since the announcement of the list of possible closures or re-alignments. I am concerned. The DOD is supposed to take into account the return on investment resulting from its closure/re-alignment recommendations. Crane is a one-stop shop for specialized weapons for our Special Forces Warfighters. Crane did this by being responsive, innovative, technically superior and affordable for our American Heroes. NSWC Crane's reputation for delivering what the customer needs, when it is needed, and at a cost that was affordable, has brought them more work. The proposal to the commission to realign work to China Lake and Picatinny will now split the support to special forces to different locations. This will add cost, reduce efficiency, and cause a loss in specialized workers that could take years to replace.

I ask you to reconsider the recommendation to re-align work from NSWC Crane and consider the Return On Investment requirements of BRAC.

Very Respectfully,


Mayor Morris "Butch" Chastain

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