



CITY OF MITCHELL

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BRAC Commission

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Received

July 29, 2005

Admiral (Ret.) Harold Gehman
Commissioner
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Admiral Gehman,

I would like to take the time to thank you for your attention to the delegation from Indiana during the recent BRAC hearing in St. Louis. I hope that the testimony helped you see the importance of Indiana Military Installations such as NSWC Crane and CAAA to our Nations' Defense and the Global War On Terrorism. As a U.S. Veteran, I support the work you are doing to make sure our Military operations remain as effective and affordable as possible. I also understand that you have a hard job in deciding which operations to re-align or close as part of the BRAC process.

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. Data available on the DOD website (www.defenselink.mil/brac) indicates that it is going to cost \$150M to move the 152 people working on the ALQ-99 depot from NSWC Crane to NAS Whidbey Island. That equals a cost of nearly \$1M per person for the move. In addition, information available at the Federation of American Scientists website (www.fas.org) seems to indicate that the platform for the ALQ-99, the EA-6B Prowler, will begin to be retired from service in the year 2010. I find it hard to believe that it is in the best interest of the DOD and the taxpayers to spend \$150M to move 152 people doing work on a system that is about to be retired.

I ask you to reconsider the recommendation to re-align the ALQ-99 work from NSWC Crane and take into account the costs involved in this re-alignment and the short remaining service life of the equipment.

Very Respectfully,

Mayor Morris "Butch" Chastain

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