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BRAC Commission

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Received

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Janet M. Bly

August 2, 2005

Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman, 2005 Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 S. Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

I don't envy you the job of trying to determine which military institutions will be moved or closed. These decisions become very contested and emotional as communities struggle to keep jobs in these tough economic times. The Greater Dayton Region is no different.

I could tell you how losing AFIT would have an adverse effect on our community economically. I could tell you how the region has come to rely on the wealth of knowledge it gains from AFIT faculty and students. (In fact, we recently hired an AFIT graduate.)

I could tell you how AFIT is vital to the growth and stability of our region and how many people view AFIT as one of the crown jewels in what we call "The Gem City." I could underscore how this region already has taken its share of BRAC cuts, losing several thousand jobs at the Defense Electronics Supply Center in the early 1990s. But then this letter would be like so many you receive that appeal to emotion and not what's really important to the BRAC Commission and the U.S. Government – efficiency and the bottom line.

AFIT should remain at Wright Patterson Air Force Base for one very important reason – it's the best value to the government. The cost of living in the Midwest is far more cost-efficient than that of the West Coast. One research site indicates a \$50,000 salary in Dayton would require \$132,000 in Monterey, CA. And consider this: How much money could the BRAC Commission save taxpayers by moving other military schools to Wright Patterson Air Force Base?

As general manager of a political subdivision, my staff and I are charged with providing the best, most cost-efficient service to people and communities in the nine counties we serve. There is an expectation – and a demand – for fiscal responsibility and efficiency. I suspect the American people have the same expectation of the BRAC Commission. I know I do.

This region is clearly proud of AFIT and wants to keep it at Wright Patterson Air Force Base for a variety of reasons from economic vitality to community pride. But the BRAC Commission should want to keep AFIT at Wright Patterson Air Force Base – and move other military schools to Dayton – to successfully complete its mission of streamlining our military institutions in the most cost-efficient manner.

Sincerely,

Janet M. Bly

General Manager