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August 2, 2005

BRAC Commission

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

AUG 02 2005

Received

Dear Mr. Principi:

We are writing to express our support for retaining the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT) at Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio. AFIT has a long history of fostering growth and development in the graduate students who help ensure our military's technological supremacy. This educational success is a vital link to defending the precious freedom we enjoy in our country. Since its inception 1956, over 15,000 graduate and 300 doctors of philosophy degrees have been awarded. The graduates of the military and civilian institutions associated with AFIT are valued knowledge workers that bring immense value to our regional economy.

An educated workforce has become one of the most significant drivers of our region's economic engine. Our board realizes the importance of investing in the future for our military and our region. Our region's strategic Midwest location, favorable cost of living, and excellent educational institutions should make Wright Patterson an area of military expansion, not reduction or relocation.

For nearly 40 years, AFIT has created strategic partnerships and educational excellence that has benefited our nation and region. Today, as we face a global war on terrorism, our government should be expanding the education, research and technology fostered by the graduates of AFIT at Wright Patterson.

We urge the Base Realignment and Closure Commission to maintain AFIT at Wright-Patterson AFB and expand its strategic programs and mission. These institutions have become part of the fabric of our community. Our region's pride and commitment to Wright Patterson, AFIT and its mission is strong and will continue grow.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Ron Widener,
 President

John F. Evans,
 Vice President

D. Ann Baird
 Member

