



JUL 20 2005

Received

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

July 15, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

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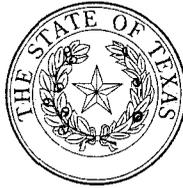
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Office of the
District Attorney of Mineral County
P.O. Box 1210
Hawthorne, Nevada 89415

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Cheri Emm-Smith
District Attorney

John W. Cripps
Deputy District Attorney

Courthouse Annex
166 E Street
Telephone: (775) 945-3636
Facsimile: (775) 945-0740

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BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Honorable Commissioners:

Thank you for this opportunity to address the Commission regarding the proposed closure of the Hawthorne Army Depot located in Hawthorne, Mineral County, Nevada. I urge the Commission to remove the Hawthorne Army Depot from the BRAC list due to the invaluable assets the base provides to the United States and the State of Nevada both for essential military services and homeland security.

The Hawthorne Army Depot is strategically located in the Great Basin Desert behind the Sierra Nevada Mountains. This location is invaluable as a defense for national security and compliments the Naval Air Station located in Fallon, Nevada, where Top Gun is stationed only 70 miles away. Mineral County has undeveloped geothermal energy located near Hawthorne that could be utilized as a secure resource by the Military and the United States to fight against terrorist and other security threats. The physical terrain provides priceless training opportunities for the Navy SEALs and Army RANGERS by offering deserts, mountains, and water within a secure area. Such natural resources and assets could not be easily replaced by the military, if they could be replaced at all. Further the existing facilities at the Hawthorne Army Depot are critical to national security and defense for the West Coast of our United States.

Mineral County is located directly between Reno and Las Vegas Nevada and presents a tactical location for Homeland Security. U.S. Highway 95 is often overlooked for national security purposes due to the distance and remoteness between major metropolitan areas. It is this remote location that provides the ideal location for the military and homeland security to focus upon terrorism and national security. A closure of the Depot would create a ripple effect that would result in closure or substantial reduction of services by the Mount Grant Hospital, emergency fire and ambulance services, and other essential governmental services. Such cuts would create safety issues for all of Southern Nevada as no other first responder services are available in this area.

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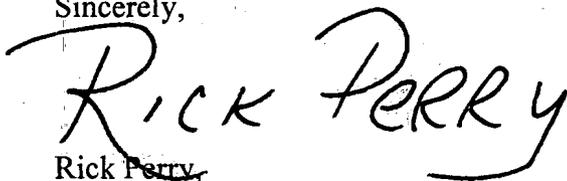
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General James T. Hill, USA, Ret.
General Lloyd W. Newton, USAF, Ret.
Brigadier General Sue E. Turner, USAF, Ret.
Ellington Field Task Force