

8 August 2005

Mr Anthony Principi, Chairman
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark St, Suite 600
Arlington, Va. 22202

BRAC Commission

AUG 11 2005

Receiver

Dear Mr Principi,

Recently, I had the opportunity to view on E-Span several of your Commission's State hearings. You and your fellow commissioners are to be commended for undertaking such a complex task wherein numerous "who, what, why, where, when and how" questions must be answered not only in depth on a strategic level but in minute detail for each and every base as it fits into the defense mosaic.

What was alarming was the lack of comparative analysis of each Base's contribution to the present joint Strategic Defense Plan for the continental U.S. versus the proposed DoD Strategic Defense Plans. This is more than just Military Readiness!

DoD has concentrated on military reorganization to meet an aggressive mission [Bush/Rumsfeld doctrine] to the detriment of their homeland security mission and natural catastrophic disaster role. Each Service has made a parochial base analysis without regard to the impact on other entities or the ripple effect. It has become increasingly evident that the Operation Research matrix data [Cobra] has been manufactured to justify previously made decisions. One wonders whether

DOD was playing that ancient military game of having some obvious delinquency available to be found so as to keep the inspectors from digging deep to justify his existence.

In the rush to cost reduction and efficiency:- Have the concentration lessons from Pearl Harbor been forgotten? Did DOD not learn anything from the Air Force fighter response time to intercept the 9/11 Kamikaze attacks? Why were the Type bases placed at their present locations? changes? It is ludicrous to say that an organization is inefficient because it does not have 12 planes when DOD controls the number of assigned aircraft. Reducing the number of persons authorized by Congress produces a lot of "funny money" savings. With DOD's skirting the statutes and bypassing the governor's approval to delete National Guard units, are the States to organize Home Guards of WWII or "Minute Men" organizations of 2005? DOD's actions look like a budget maneuver to pass costs to others.

Over 50 years ago, the Communists prophesied that the United States would be defeated from within. However, it turned out to be an ironic truth. But today, Al Qaida has shown their capability to exploit our internal weakness. The citizens look to your independent Commission to ferret out the weakness of DOD's Proposal for improvement.

From the presentations, which I viewed, the DOD BRAC Proposal contains many flaws. This presents your Commission with a dilemma. Do you return the Proposal for clarification and greater in-depth analyses or substitute your judgement or change?

David F. Edwards, Jr

114 Lakeside Drive

Laural, DE 19956

BRAC Commission

August 2005

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The Honorable Anthony J. Principi,
Commissioner
Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Received

Dear Chairman Principi,

I am deeply troubled by the Department of Defense's recommendation to realign the 130th Airlift Wing. This recommendation is a terrible mistake built on false information, and I thank each of the commissioners for every effort made in order to allow the 130th Airlift Wing to present the truth.

I believe the Department of Defense collected information that was biased against the Air National Guard and slanted to favor large, expensive military bases. The National Guard Headquarters indicated Charleston has a maximum capacity of 8 C-130s, disregarding the unit's master plan and current aircraft parking configuration of 12 C-130s, as well as the relatively inexpensive cost that would be incurred in expanding to a 16 C-130 configuration. The 130th AW was written off as an unreasonable expense!

The BRAC law states that the BRAC Commission may make changes in any of the recommendations made by Secretary Rumsfeld and the Department of Defense if the commission determines that the Secretary deviated substantially from the selection criteria in making these recommendations. I believe our unit's representatives successfully demonstrated a deviation from the criteria in their presentation at the BRAC hearing in Charlotte.

I understand that each commissioner must face difficult decisions – every decision and every vote affects families across the country. But, thus far, I have found the panel's questions and methods to be both fair and balanced, and for that, I thank you.

As the commission's voting date of August 22 fast approaches, I urge you to continue in your efforts to discover the truth about this wonderful unit and allow this unit to continue with the mission it has unselfishly devoted itself to for the last 58 years.

Sincerely,

Sue Chase

(Concerned Citizen)

537 South Fork Drive
(Address)

Charleston, WV 25314
(City, State, Zip)

August 7, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi, Chairman
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Re: Portsmouth Naval Shipyard

Dear Chairman Principi,

I am pleased that your commission has had the opportunity to hear RADM Klem the former deputy commander for logistics, maintenance and industrial operations for Naval Sea Systems Command testify on the 19th of last month. RADM Klem was involved in developing the thought process that was refined by senior DoD personnel into the final BRAC recommendations. The contrast is interesting and instructive.

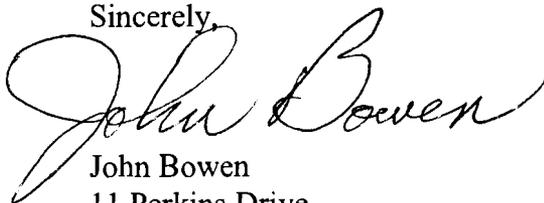
My long range concern on the recommendation to close Portsmouth Naval Shipyard is just outside of the BRAC regulation compliance issue and deals with the adequate number of SSNs in the future DoD inventory. The 30-year Shipbuilding Plan presented by the Navy to Congress on 23 March of this year has 37 to 45 SSNs in 2024 (depending on the end fleet size of 260 or 325 ships respectively) and continuing to decrease to 37 to 41 SSNs by 2035.

Over the past 10+ years most force level studies have indicated a need for 50-60 SSNs. As VADM Konetzni said in the BRAC Boston Regional Hearing the SSN has been the platform that has gathered several bits of information over recent years on China. Recently (6/13) the senior Submariner in the Navy VADM Munns testified to congress that today he has 50% more requests for services than the current stable of 54 SSNs can provide. The presumptions upon which the closure decision is based are bad for the country.

You have also seen indications in presentations at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and at the BRAC Regional Hearing in Boston of the poor compliance with the more direct BRAC requirements. I urge the Commission to vote to remove Portsmouth Naval Shipyard from the closure list. To do so early in the Commission's deliberations and with a unanimous vote would be appropriate.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



John Bowen
11 Perkins Drive
York, ME 03909

BRAC Commission

AUG 11 2005

Received

Dear BRAC Commission,

I am growing increasingly concerned that the DOD has not properly followed the selection criteria in making its re-alignment recommendations. One of the main criteria of the BRAC process seems to be the creation of joint centers of excellence in order to improve our efficiency while maintaining the quality of service provided to our war fighters. NSWC Crane is a joint activity providing products and services to all branches of the military. Another key criteria of the BRAC process centers on Military Value. The Military Value scores for NSWC Crane in the area of Sensors, Electronics and Electronic Warfare (S, E and EW) are higher than almost every other DOD activity.

One example of a recommendation that does not make sense is the re-alignment of Army S, E and EW work from Fort Monmouth to Aberdeen Proving Grounds. According to the Technical Joint Cross Service Group Analysis and Recommendations document dated 19 May 2005, which is available on the DOD BRAC website (www.defenselink.mil/brac), NSWC Crane has much higher Military Value scores than both Fort Monmouth and Aberdeen Proving Grounds. In addition, NSWC Crane already has a close working relationship with the Army since it is co-located with CAAA. If the BRAC criteria are followed properly, this workload should be re-located to NSWC Crane instead of Aberdeen Proving Grounds. Additionally, this same logic applies to the Army S, E and EW work being relocated from Fort Belvoir to Aberdeen Proving Grounds. The Fort Belvoir workload should be re-aligned to NSWC Crane since NSWC Crane has existing joint S, E and EW capability as well as higher Military Value scores.

Another example of a recommendation that does not make sense is the re-alignment of S, E and EW workload from Space and Naval Warfare sites at Charleston and San Diego to NSWC Dahlgren. NSWC Crane has higher Military Value scores than Charleston, San Diego and Dahlgren and should have been designated as the receiving site for this workload.

I urge you to reconsider the recommendation to re-align S, E and EW workload to sites other than NSWC Crane by properly taking into account the joint capability of NSWC Crane and CAAA as well as the DODs own Military Value scoring analysis.

Very Respectfully,

Steven Koenig
Steven Koenig

BRAC Commission

AUG 11 2005

Received

4 Aug 05

Dear Mr Principi

Here's a copy of
some input on BRAC.
Hope it is of some
use.

BRAC Commission

AUG 11 2005

Received

Sincerely

Jim Schmitz

Copy

PO Box 126
Piedmont, SD 57769
3 Aug 05

President of the United States
Crawford, TX 76638

Dear President Bush,

We have major problems with BRAC. They are: (1) Disrupting arsenals, shipyards, and bases during a time of war; (2) Giving away important intelligence information to terrorists and enemies; (3) An inability to truly identify our threats; (4) Consolidating potential targets and losing competition between services by too much jointness; (5) Poorly considering specific data on military value and giving little attention to homeland security.

Here are a few examples:

1. War Material Interruption:
 - a. Moving a one-of-a-kind shell casing manufacturing operation creating an unknown gap in production. (Ref. C-SPAN California BRAC Commission meeting video)
 - b. Lack of TNT production. (Ref. Air Force Mag., July 05, pg. 50)
2. Intelligence:
 - a. Missouri Commission meeting where a single vulnerable lock on the Mississippi river was divulged along with the fact we have only one small arms Arsenal near Kansas City. (Ref. C-SPAN Commission video)
 - b. Oregon FBI agent speaking of I-5 bridges, dams on the Columbia river, etc.. (Ref. C-SPAN video)
 - c. Senator Biden explaining how to kill 100,000 people by blowing up a chlorine tanker. (Ref. Delaware C-SPAN Video)
 - d. A single location of white phosphorous and other production. (Ref. Army BRAC Report, pg. B-13)
3. Foreign Threats:
 - a. China is building more submarines and tested a sub-launched missile JL-2. (Ref. Washington Times weekly, 27 June 05)
 - b. China's GDP is now second in the world. (Ref. IEEE Spectrum Mag., June 05, pg. 27)
 - c. Iran, North Korea, and Syria remain potential trouble areas. (Ref. Wash. Times weekly, 20 June 05, pg.. 36,37)

BRAC Commission

AUG 11 2005

Received

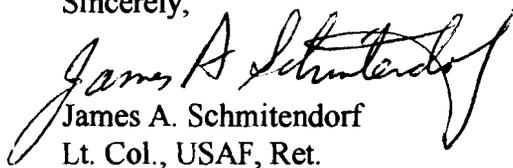
4. Consolidation and Jointness:
 - a. History tells us consolidation of military forces in one or a few locations is not a good idea. (Ref. Movie Torah, Torah, Torah)
 - b. Single location of a crucial technical asset is dangerous to national security. (Ref. Bombing of ball bearing factories in War II)
 - c. Jointness has disadvantages in decreasing competition between military services. (e.g. Army special forces vs. Marines)

5. Poor BRAC Input:
 - a. The National Guard and particularly the Air National Guard are upset about military value criteria being weighted in favor of active bases. (Ref. C-SPAN Commission videos)
 - b. Many of the realignments move bases to southern temperate climates making for a fair weather military. (Ref. Military BRAC Reports pdf files)
 - c. Most state governors are upset with the lack of consulting or coordination. (Ref. C-SPAN videos)
 - d. Many State delegations claim several DOD criterion were violated (Ref. C-SPAN videos)
 - e. Military BRAC studies were done primarily by installation personnel rather than operations people who were probably busy with the war. (Ref. Mil. BRAC reports organizational charts)
 - f. Homeland security was given little credence in the study and many of the delegations questioned the cost savings. (Ref. C-SPAN videos)

Conclusion: BRAC '05 should be canceled until the Iraqi war is effectively over and new and more specific criteria guidance can be provided. Intelligence type items should not be in the portion of the study made public and states reminded not to reveal specific target information.

From a personal point of view it seems like we should be adding military machinery and duplicate some of the one-of-a-kind facilities. Previous BRAC's have already closed way too many bases. The federal government's main job is to provide security, not social services.

Sincerely,


James A. Schmitendorf
Lt. Col., USAF, Ret.

BRAC Commission

Mrs. Mary Jane Kendrick
4618 Nations Drive
Pasadena Texas 77505

AUG 11 2005

Received

2005 BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Arlington, VA. 22202

August 8, 2005

Greetings;

I wish to state my support for all the current BRAC recommendations.

I certainly do not feel that any frivolous or unnecessary recommendations have been made. I believe these changes are needed and will ultimately prove to increase this great nation's security.

Though many people seem to view these recommendations in only a negative way, I know that in reality they are a chance for growth and improvement.

Thank you very much for all your hard work. I know your job is certainly not an easy one.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Mary Jane Kendrick

AUG 11 2005

Received

Charles Stevens
750A Woodside Trails Dr
Ballwin, MO. 63021

To: BRAC Commission

I work at the U.S. Army Security Assistance Command (USASAC-SL) located at 4300 Goodfellow Blvd. We have two other offices located in Ft. Belvoir, Va. and New Cumberland, Pa. Our job in St. Louis is Financial Managers for the Army's Foreign Military Sales (FMS) Program which means that we are paid from Foreign Purchaser funds not Army appropriated funds. Since my office is co-located with the Defense Finance and Accounting office and they were put on the BRAC list we are now deemed a discretionary site. Our headquarters at Ft. Belvoir was also on the BRAC and is scheduled to move to Huntsville, Al. I just learned that the Army recommendation to the BRAC is to also move my office with our Headquarters to Huntsville, Al.

I respectfully request your assistance to remove our office from the BRAC and keep us in St. Louis. Listed below are some points I would like for you to take into consideration:

USASAC as a whole operates from Administrative Funds recouped from FMS sales which means that our operation does not cost the taxpayer any dollars. How would moving us from St. Louis save the taxpayer or DOD any dollars?

The Arms Export Control Act specifically states that appropriated funds will not be used to subsidize FMS; therefore, I believe that it is illegal to use taxpayer dollars to pay for our move.

Since the recommendation is to move USASAC in St. Louis and Ft. Belvoir to Huntsville but leave New Cumberland intact it appears that Senator Spector in Pa. has an inordinate amount of influence over the BRAC process. It seems to me that if you are going to move an organization it makes good business sense to consolidate everyone at the same location.

USASAC's mission is to support our GWOT (Global War on Terrorism) allies and partnerships. Subjecting our office to moving to Huntsville will create a loss of over 85% of the expertise that takes on average 4-5 years to attain. Army accounting and FMS accounting radically differ since ours is done at the Country Case and Line level (and soon to be at the requisition level), where as Army appropriations are not. To further support our cause the DFAS-FMS unit here went under a re-organization and requested USASAC-St. Louis train their people, since they have been unable to master what we do. In addition, our office in New Cumberland and Ft. Belvoir does not have the expertise to perform our functions.

Our POM planning over the next decade will show a 25% reduction in the workforce via retirements supporting Army budgeting as well as USASAC budgeting initiatives. How

can we support moving St. Louis to Huntsville and losing 85% of the expertise without any plan to recoup it within 5-7 years? How does that support our FMS customers who support our GWOT initiatives? Finally, in looking at our internal costs, our employees (30) average wage is that of a GS-9/11, whereas Ft. Belvoir is at a GS-13/14 and New Cumberland GS-11/12. By far we do the most work with the least amount of resources and scant funding. Moving us costs the taxpayers money and doesn't meet the following criterion set by the BRAC as follows:

Integrating Global Presence and Basing Strategies Further Transformation Maximizing Joint Utilization Converting Waste to Warfighting.

Thank you for your immediate consideration

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles Stevens".

Charles Stevens